

Harbro Auto Sales & Service: Family, faith, fifty years!

First of several articles leading up to Harbro Auto Sales' 50th anniversary celebration, in 2023.

BY ROD LEE

That his family was destined to make its mark in the automotive business was apparent early on, Paul T. "Tim" Hare of Harbro Auto Sales & Service said on August 26th.

"When I was eight or nine, my brother and I took an engine out of a 1955 Ford," Mr. Hare said, while seated at a picnic table at the waterfront cottage on Northwest Main St. in Douglas that he shares with his wife Jane as a seasonal retreat.

A friendly and engaging man, he spoke reflectively about the nearly half century Harbro has been in operation but also with the sunny disposition that he is known for. He even shared a printed historical timeline that dates from 1973 when Tim and Dave Hare rented space at 110 Linwood Ave.—where Crothers Tire is now located—to 1995 when Tim purchased "Harbro Auto Service" from Dave and noted, prophetically at it turned out, a desire then to buy "a new-car franchise if one becomes available in the Blackstone Valley or Webster area." Which is exactly what happened. The Webster facility on



The Hare family, another generation of which is now part of the Harbro Auto Sales & Service business. From the left, Leah, Abram, Mike, Jane, Tim, Jonah, Mark and Emmet. Harbro will celebrate a 50th anniversary in 2023.

Rt. 12 opened in 1985.

Much has happened in the thirty-seven years since, of course. The "history of business" will have to be updated.

From the outset, Harbro (named thus for obvious reasons) was a venture the two brothers split right down the middle in terms of their respective responsibilities.

The business was incorporated in 1976 with Tim owning fifty shares and Dave owning fifty

shares. In 1978, the company was divided into two divisions, Auto Sales and Auto Service, with Tim managing the Auto Sales and Dave managing the Auto Service. "Each division to be a separate profit center with (each manager) having full control and compensation of profits."

A bicycle division and Depend-A-Car Rental were added in 1981.

HARBRO

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Mike McDonald of Central New England Collectible Authority with his wife Robin, Kevin Palardy and Patrick Gannon.

'We are the Swiss Army knife of collecting'

BY ROD LEE

There is a story behind the picture of himself with Rick Warren of the TV show Pawn Stars that Mike McDonald has hanging on a wall in his office, but he would have preferred a different ending than the one he experienced a number of years ago.

Then again, that is the nature of the business Mr. McDonald is involved in, as the owner of Central New England Collectible Authority (CNECA).

Mr. McDonald probably knew that a conversation we had on the second floor of the

Baker Building in downtown Whitinsville on October 18th would inevitably turn toward the photo and the trip he made to Las Vegas to sell an Abraham Lincoln 1864 campaign token.

He had obtained the piece at a local flea market.

"I kept throwing coins into a coffee can, eight pounds of tokens. When I went through them, the A.L. 1864 campaign token was the very last," he said.

Mr. McDonald had already found out the token wasn't worth the \$1500 he was plan-

COLLECTIBLES

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HARBRO

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Auto-glass replacement was added in 1988, computerized accounting and office systems in 1989. Also in 1989, Harbro was granted variances from the town of Northbridge allowing for the placement of a sixty-square-foot sign on the property, and permission to place eighty-six unregistered vehicles on the lot.

In 1990, auto detailing was introduced; in 1991, state inspections.

The growth continued, as it does to the present day with younger members of the family now involved.

In 1991, Harbro began a wholesale operation “to buy and sell used cars and trucks on the wholesale market, and to dispose of

trade-ins which do not meet our quality standards.”

This emphasis on quality, and a conscientious, faith-based approach to providing outstanding customer service, has been a hallmark from the beginning—as evidenced by the contemplation of a then-revolutionary “30-day buyback program.” Under consideration, the history of business document notes, because “the biggest negative about buying a ‘used car’ is getting a lemon, and fear of warranties and ‘used-car dealers.’” Hence thought given to “[investigating] the feasibility of offering 30 day ‘satisfaction or we will buy it back’ guaranty.”

This was subsequently implemented. “We have never promoted it properly,” Tim says. “My hope when

I put it in place was that it would change the industry.”

Tim Hare recalls that by April of 1973, drawing on their mutual interest in automobiles, he and Dave Hare were doing “just gas and repairs” on Linwood Ave., at the address Crothers now occupies. Shortly thereafter, they relocated to Providence Road, which at that time was so quiet a stretch of highway that “you could play baseball in the middle of it,” Tim said with a smile and a twinkle in his eye.

“We started out as service only. I worked for J&S as a teenager, Dave worked at Farrar’s in Hopkinton, building fire trucks. I asked him if he wanted to go into business. Jane and I got married in 1974 and I wanted to sell cars. She had a 1972 Chevy Malibu

that was paid off. ‘If you let me sell your car’ I said to her...I sold it for \$2200 and I bought her a car for \$1000. I lost money on that first car.”

With mentoring help from Gordon Hathaway—“and he was my competitor,” Tim points out—the Hare brothers took a chance on the Providence Road site. “It was a cellar hole and a barroom,” Tim says. “We saved the original foundation. I had an inspiration in the early 80s that every town needed a car dealership like ours but I didn’t want to do it if work con-



Above, brothers Dave and Tim Hare, who started Harbro Auto Sales & Service in 1973. Left, the Harbro store on Providence Road in Whitinsville.



Jonah and Emmet and Abram and Mike’s nephew Jude (my wife’s sister’s son) all have roles.

“Other than mom and dad,” Mike Hare says; can’t forget Tim and Jane.

“I have thirty-two nieces and nephews and most of them have worked here,” Tim Hare says. “This is the next best thing to a family farm. I am very thankful about the way it’s worked out.”

Harbro’s golden anniversary will be observed with appropriate fanfare next spring.

Contact Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.

sumed me. I had a young family.”

This devotion to family has stayed strong down through the generations. “At one time, seventeen family members worked at Harbro. My sister June worked there for years,” Tim says.

Through the years, he said, “I’ve seen a lot of ups and downs.” One of these came right away, in 1973, when the OPEC oil crisis hit. “The EPA controlled your allocation...in a day we were out of the gas business.”

In 2008-2009 “there was a big shortage of used cars.”

More recently there was the Covid-19 pandemic.

Today, as Tim’s son Mike Hare notes, Harbro remains true to the business’s core principles. This explains why Mike and Mark Hare are carrying forward the tradition of brothers owning the business and shouldering the workload equally.

But they are not alone. Despite the loss of Dave Hare, who died earlier this year, family members are active in the dealership.

“My Uncle Dan, my mom’s brother, still works with us,” Mike Hare said. Mark’s daughter Leah, Mike’s sons

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ning to ask for it, but “I had gotten offers of \$1000,” he said. In Las Vegas, “they brought [Rick Warren] in in the middle of the night. They let me into the store and brought him in. He offered me

McDonald’s request for the photo of the two of them, as a keepsake of his visit. There was the word too that Mike McDonald got from his friend Brian Snay—“let’s do a party”—at the restaurant Mr. Snay owned in Linwood at the time.

Although coins are a big part of CNECA’s business,

One day it could be Babe Ruth’s baseball bat and the next George Washington’s suit. As Rhode Islanders,” he said, of his place of residence, “if it’s more than half an hour away it’s too far!”

Mr. McDonald says “I couldn’t do this without Patrick. He has turned this company from good

Of the inventory that CNECA takes in, “if we don’t know what something is worth we can find out,” Mr. Gannon says.

“Our secret is we don’t hold onto stuff,” Mr. McDonald points out.

Mr. McDonald does “twelve monthly shows in Uxbridge, every third Wednesday at the VFW,” and two a year in Woonsocket, spring and fall.

He credits the late Dave Williams of Charlton for “getting me into coins” and his dad for sparking his initial interest. “He

left me a pile of coins, half dollars and wheat pennies,” Mr. McDonald said of his father.

A former chef, Mike McDonald owned a restaurant in Holden with his wife and his sister until forced to give it up because of knee issues that required multiple surgeries, he said. After addressing financial difficulties, “I started collecting little by little, with nothing.”

Today, Central New England Collectible Authority is a force in the industry; as Mr. McDonald

puts it, “we are the Swiss army knife of collecting.”

Nor is he deterred by the disappointment of that first visit to Pawn Stars; “we have a rare Disney dollar” that he is eager to show off, he said.

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During a visit to Las Vegas to see if he could sell an Abraham Lincoln 1864 campaign token, Mr. McDonald had his picture taken with Rick Warren of Pawn Stars.

\$300, said he could sell it for \$400.”

On the plus side, Mr. McDonald was told his appearance on Pawn Stars would appear as “a season-ending episode;” it did, and has been re-run “over two hundred times,” he said. Also, Mr. Warren agreed to Mr.

“we do a lot of collectibles too,” Patrick Gannon, Mr. McDonald’s twenty-three year-old right-hand man, said. “Comic books, baseball cards, we have five rooms, we are always acquiring.

“People call us,” Mr. Gannon said. “They come to us or we go to them.

to great. He worked for a big paper dealer and is a master of the Internet.”

Mr. McDonald’s wife Robin is indispensable to the business, he said, as is Kevin Palardy, who works one day a week. Mr. Palardy “is very into eBay and Lincoln cents,” he said.



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Xpressly Yours ... a letter from the editor

Women's Success Network delivers a boatload of fun



An invitation from Pat Hurton to join members of the Women's Success Network (WSN) for an evening "charter cruise" of Webster Lake on the Indian Princess gave me momentary pause. There was an initial hesitation, governed by the feeling that I would be "a duck out of water"—so to speak.

Not to worry. There was not only the warm welcome extended by Ms. Hurton, Jeannie Hebert, Alise Breton and others in attendance, there was the chance to experience Chris Robert's paddleboat for the second time in the past several years.

Doing so, the thought that inevitably came to mind—as I'm sure it did for the WSNers—was "what

was all the fuss about? Why was there such an uproar and so much consternation, so much opposition, when Mr. Robert first proposed the idea of putting such a craft on "Lake Chaubunagungamaug"?

Many of residents of the lake who resisted Mr. Robert's plan "have been on the boat" themselves since the tumult settled down, David Balessandro told me. We were standing on the lower deck just outside an enclosed area that features a bar, the galley, two "heads" and a full-screen TV.

The 59-ton vessel, propelled by two stern wheels, was moving smoothly and quietly through the water.

A mid-October night that had started with temperatures near 70 degrees was still perfectly comfortable and when a breeze with a chill in it kicked up people topside were advised by "Mary," a deck hand, to move to a spot behind the control room "and you'll be nice and warm."

Ms. Hebert of the host Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce was one of the first to climb the stairs

to the upper deck from the lower floor, where drinks and hors d'oeuvres were served. "Come on up," she said over the loudspeaker. "It's a great view!"

Mr. Balessandro is known as "Diver Dave" for his scuba-diving expertise. "I also hold a captain's license," he said. He was enjoying filling members of the Women's Success Network in on the nuances of the lake, which is dotted with homes all around. Passing these, he returned waves and whistles from people hailing the Indian Princess from their front porch, some of them tending steaks on the grill. "That's Waterfront Mary's," he noted, pointing to a popular restaurant and its bright lights. "We're in Vodka Cove right now, also known as The Dugout."

Carol Archambault of Green Compass, a USDA organic leader in the hemp wellness industry, was impressed by the boat and the reception she got from WSN leadership. Ms. Archambault sees membership in the Women's Success Network as an exciting new



Representing Karl Storz Endovision Inc. at the Women's Success Network tour of Webster Lake on the Indian Princess were Michelle Cristo, Bobbie Gavin, Natalia Martinez, Janet Simpkins and Miranda Grendell.

thread in her life.

"Membership in WSN will help me step out of my comfort zone, personally as well as professionally," Ms. Archambault said. "Connecting with other women, making new friendships and sharing ideas on how we can help one another is what I am most looking forward to."

"I believe that Green Compass can impact people's lives for the better and I love sharing the message of how women can start their own business to help contribute financially to the family. Whether they are a stay-at-home mom, work full-time or part-time, or are recently retired, this business is for everyone, at any age."

"I started with Green Compass because I saw how its products really make

a difference in someone's quality of life. I love helping people feel better!"

Green Compass's operation is "vertically integrated," she said. In other words, the company controls the entire process, from when the seeds are put in the ground on the farm it owns "to the product that arrives at your doorstep."

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"We're moving!" Carol Dauphinais of the Grafton Country Store said, as the Indian Princess left port.

"What a fun evening!" Heather McGuire of Sundance Newbridge Publish-

ing wrote Ms. Hurton in an email after the event. "Thank you for being so kind to me, and taking time to introduce me to some new people. I am really enjoying being part of this network."

Ms. McGuire told me on the boat that Sundance, which is based in Marlborough, publishes educational and children's books. She is a sales consultant. "It's a good industry," she said. "Teachers are a caring group of people."

For more information about the Women's Success Network and upcoming WSN events like "Commerce on the Common" in Grafton, go to blackstonevalley.org.

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Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recyclables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as



involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the backend while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 17 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It

Business spotlight

allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Sutton, Millbury and Grafton in particular, Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area. The Schadlers' Resellables store also donates items to the Grafton Flea Market, where Jason has been a lifelong patron.



Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the

chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

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A Medusa gained, a beloved leopard lost, at Southwick's

The good news from Southwick's Zoo is that "Medusa" from Greek mythology is being offered as a featured attraction during this year's Festival of Illumination, which is well underway with a "Once Upon a Time" theme involving forgotten stories, myths, legends and fairytales from around the globe—presented by the Zigong Lantern Group.

Also, a Harvest Festival on October 23rd added to the highlights of the fall season at the zoo.

Beginning November 12th, the zoo's annual Winter Wonderland holiday lights' display and the Festival of Illumination will come together for a show-stopping experience for visitors to the zoo—through December 31st.

Galliford's Restaurant & Tavern will be open as will the Purple Peacock gift

shop.

Unfortunately, Southwick's has also been hit with some sad news. Mowgli, the zoo's beloved nineteen-year-old African leopard, passed away peacefully on October 18th.

"Mowgli was a favorite among visitors at Southwick's Zoo and holds a special place in the hearts of all, including our zookeepers and staff," Southwick's announced.

While Mowgli was not born at Southwick's, he sent almost his entire life in Mendon. At birth, he was weak and needed intensive care and so was brought to Southwick's to be hand-raised by Betsey Brewer Bethel and the facility's zookeepers. "He grew into one of the mellowest, yet regal cats [we] have had the pleasure of caring for," Ms. Brewer Bethel said. "Right until the end of his life he

had a close bond with his keepers, who used a specially designed tool regularly to provide the ear, back and belly scratches that he so enjoyed."

With the arrival of Mowgli, a new suitable habitat needed to be built. The zoo and EARTH Ltd., its nonprofit affiliate, used this opportunity to design a STEM education initiative for women. They partnered with middle school girls, female college science students and a number of women architects, engineers and exhibit designers in a kind of "designer's challenge" competition to craft an exhibit for the zoo's new African leopard.

Students from all over the area participated by helping to raise money. Ms. Brewer Bethel remembers a time when Medway elementary students were stopping cars at traffic lights to collect



Mowgli, the African leopard, was a favorite of visitors to Southwick's Zoo.

coins to build Mowgli's home. "It was one of the most heartwarming gestures I have ever seen," she said. "However, I did tell the students that I would help them in other ways because that wasn't the safest way to raise money."

In addition to being a fun project for all involved, the girls who took part scored better on a standardized test of science and engineering concepts than did a control group of their peers. These girls also showed improved attitudes towards math and science. When the project was presented at the International Zoo Educators 2010 conference, several attendees asked if the zoo

knew where the students were now. "We found our participants through social media platforms. Of the girls who had originally participated we were able to connect with half of them. Of those who responded, a little over half were now studying in a math, science, technology or engineering field. All of them stated that the project had a long-term impact on their confidence and on their ability to work both as members of a team and as team leaders. Still others explained that their participation in the project led them to their career goals in science."

African leopards like Mowgli are the most widespread cat species, living throughout most of

the continent. "In the wild, leopards can live eleven to twelve years, but as few as 35% of the cubs survive the first year," Ms. Brewer Bethel said. "They have adapted to a wide variety of habitats and can be found from the desert to the rainforest. They use stealth to capture their prey and then climb up a tree to hide from other predators, such as lions and hyenas."

Southwick's Festival of Illumination, in full swing, exhibits such luminous characters as Medusa, one of three monstrous Gorgons—winged human females with venomous snakes for hair—who could turn those who looked into their eyes into stone.

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Octoberfest in Douglas

What started as a small street fair on the grounds of the Second Congregational Church in Douglas years ago has grown into the area's premier Octoberfest celebration. This was true again on October 1st, as hundreds of patrons crowded into downtown—which was closed to motor vehicle traffic—to enjoy live music, craft brews and cider tastings, bouncy rides, a “choo choo” train for children, food, vendors, crafts, games and more. Susan Martinson certainly approved; a member of the Board of Directors of the Douglas Historical Society, she is pictured on the porch of the E.N. Jenckes general store and museum—always worth a visit and open to the public most Saturdays.



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Healey strikes the right notes in remarks to BV Chamber

BY ROD LEE

If Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey is successful in her bid to win the contest for governor next month, she will probably look back at an appearance at a Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting on September 29th as a significant step along the way.

Petite, personable, polite, engaging and on-message from the start to the finish of her talk as guest speaker for the Chamber's first get-together of the fall, Ms. Healey, who was looking sharp in an autumn-colored blazer and black slacks, appeared to make a good impression on those in attendance at the Charles F. Minney VFW Post 3329 in Millbury.

This, after arriving late. "Is she here?" Chamber President and CEO Jeannie Hebert asked, shortly after 8:00 a.m.

"Yes, but give her two minutes," came the reply.

Ms. Healey more than made up for the tardiness, which didn't amount to anything anyway, with an informative talk and by patiently answering a number of questions afterward. She also spent time with several members of the media before departing with her trusty press secretary, Karissa Hand, by her side.

An overriding concern of Ms. Hebert's, as expressed to this publication a few weeks ago, was whether Ms. Healey will be as attentive to the Blackstone Valley as Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito have

been. The perception is that Ms. Healey isn't as familiar with Central Massachusetts and the Blackstone Valley as they are.

Ms. Healey addressed this very subject more than once, however, effectively putting the matter to rest with her oft-repeated assertion that she wants to be "governor for all the people."

Ms. Healey even commended her host on a comment Ms. Hebert made at the outset of the meeting even though she wasn't in the room to hear it at the time; namely, that the Chamber is the only organization of its kind in the U.S. "to build our own education training center."

"I know this Chamber is a force to be reckoned with and punches above its weight," Ms. Healey said, in acknowledgement of its achievements under Ms. Hebert's direction—a principal example of which is the education hub on Linwood Ave. in Whitinsville.

Ms. Healey likewise punches above her weight.

"The basketball thing throws people, because I only stand five-feet-four," she said, with a smile.

The eldest of five children, she was born in



Above, Attorney General Maura Healey addresses the September 29th breakfast meeting of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce. Below, Bob Minarik, lead economic development official in Douglas, uses a hand-held microphone to ask Maura Healey a question about the lack of infrastructure to support "pad-ready sites" in the community.



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Massachusetts but grew up in Hampton Falls, N.H., a community still claiming a population of "only about two thousand people," she said. "I was raised mostly by my mom. My mother sold her wedding ring in order to build a basketball court for us. I worked at the Hampton Beach Casino... and learned more there than at Harvard."

Getting to the heart of her speech, she said "I think Massachusetts is the best state in the country. The No. 1 concern I have is afford-

ability. The average price for a home in this area is over \$500,000. We have a housing issue across all sectors, which is why I have called for a secretary of housing with a dedicated focus."

Tax relief, affordable and safe public transit, maintaining sustained investments with Chapter 90 monies and responding to the needs of her constituents if elected governor are all top-of-mind, she said.

"I said to the mayors yesterday, 'I want your wish lists.'"

Ms. Healey comes over as something of a charmer. But she also has a reputation as being a woman of steel, as evidenced by having taken on "big banks and prosperous for-profit colleges" as AG.

She realizes that the city of Boston commands much attention.

"I think too much of the economic focus has been in Boston. Let's spread the wealth!" she said.

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New participants bolster lineup for Shop Small 01588

All is in a state of readiness for Shop Small 01588, a week-long event that has become a holiday tradition in downtown Whitinsville and environs.

Organizers Christine Guanipa of Little Man Handbags, Jessie Schotanus of Schotanus Design and Heather Glode of LuLu's Jewelry & Gifts say the ninth annual version of Shop Small 01588 will give shoppers a chance to "travel local this holiday season and discover hidden treasures in your own backyard."

To join the fun, pick up a Shop Small 01588 Passport at any of businesses listed below and get it stamped to enjoy in-store specials, giveaways and holiday promotions.

"We have twenty-one businesses, new, old and returning favorites this year for Shop Small 01588," they said. "New additions to Shop Small 01588 include the Neighborhood Kitchen, which will be serving hot chocolate and cookies along with their menu, Koopman's with their pop-up in the Crafty Nest, and Blue Zone Integrated

Fitness to calm your busy life with yoga. Also Carr Funeral Home is hosting a toy drive-through drop off on Saturday, November 26. Be sure to check out our Facebook Page: Shop Small 01588 and Instagram@shopsmall01588 for any updates."

Shop Small 01588 runs from Saturday, November 26 through Saturday, December 3.

Participating businesses are as follows.

- Barbara Connors Art Glass Studio
- Blue Zone Integrated Fitness
- Carr Funeral Home
- Daily Grind Barbershop
- Driven Self Defense
- Family Karate Center
- Furiends Gourmet Pet Treats
- Green Plate
- Harbro Auto Sales
- Katalina's Boutique
- Koopman Lumber
- Little Man Handbags

- LuLuRoe Kathy Bartlett
- LuLu's Jewelry & Gifts
- Neighborhood Kitchen
- Schotanus Design Center
- The Crafty Nest
- The Flower Shop
- UniBank
- Whitin Community Center
- Woodshop@933

new enrollment," Mandy Wilson, manager of Family Karate, said. Family Karate Center, now located at 96 Church St., has served the Blackstone Valley since 1982.

On Saturday of Shop Small, the Whitin Community Center will be giving away a water bottle and a

25% off membership coupon to anyone who comes in to get their passports stamped, according to Alyssa Grybowski, member engagement manager for the WCC.

Merchants are eager to welcome shoppers with bargains. "We are offering 50% off

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BY ROD LEE

The buzz in the neighborhood began soon after the banner was strung across the front of what was Jube's, announcing the arrival before long of a new restaurant—Reunion Tap & Table.

Residents of the town of Northbridge and surrounding communities are hungry for just such an establishment, Sargon Hanna, an owner of Reunion Tap & Table, said on October 19th.

They may have to wait a little while longer, however. But hiring is underway.

"We are looking to open in December or January," Mr. Hanna said. The premises previously occupied by Jube's, in the Whitinsville Plaza on Providence

Make way for Reunion Tap & Table, in Whitinsville

Road, are undergoing an extensive renovation. The rebuild, which is being done by Paul Apkrian Architects of Westborough, involves ripping out the tables, floors and ceilings that were in place and will include the addition of a bar.

This will be a second location for Reunion Tap & Table, a companion to the storefront the restaurant has occupied on Worcester St. in North Grafton for about four years and that is doing well.

"We are looking to expand and this is an underserved market," Mr. Hanna said. "People have been clamoring for a new restaurant, as they were in Grafton and we have killed it here. The space we are moving into in Whitinsville made sense. It's the 2.0 version of Reunion Tap & Table, a smaller footprint."

Mr. Hanna described the menu as being high-



The storefront in the Whitinsville Plaza formerly occupied by Jube's will be home to Reunion Tap & Table.

lighted by "pizza, burgers and wings" but if North Grafton is any indication, it will be much more extensive than that—and a welcome addition to the dining scene in the lower Blackstone Valley.

Reunion Table & Tap's mantra is "familiar food favorites and craft beers"

and cocktails.

The countdown is on to the day the doors open.

Send your restaurant/food news to Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or call 774-232-2999.



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Happenings!

NOTE: Community bulletin board-type items are welcome for inclusion in the Happenings! section of the Xpress newspapers. Please allow enough lead time for publication. Email your calendar or event notice to rodlee.1963@gmail.com.

Whitin Community Center, 60 Main St., Whitinsville. For pickup and delivery options email administrator@blackstonevalley.org.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4
• "A Night at the Museum: Silent



Heather Glode is owner of LuLu's, a gifts and jewelry store at 68 Church St., Whitinsville. LuLu's is always a popular stop during Shop Small 01588, which starts the Saturday after Thanksgiving and runs through December 3rd.

THROUGH NOVEMBER 15
• The Women's Success Network of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's Senior Collection Drive is accepting donations of all of the following for elders in need: toiletries, paper goods, cleaning supplies, activity items (large-print books, puzzles, game books, adult coloring books, colored pencil), boxes of holiday and greeting cards, and gas, grocery and pharmacy gift cards (drop off or mail to the Whitin Community Center, 60 Main St., Whitinsville MA 01588). Drop-off locations are: UniBank-BV branches, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Whitinsville Main Office, Whitinsville Plaza, Sutton North, Upton, Uxbridge; all Millbury Federal Credit Union branches; all Homefield Credit Union branches; Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, 670 Linwood Ave., Suite 5, Whitinsville;

Movies," with Pianist and Historian Richard Hughes, will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Samuel Slater Experience, 31 Ray St., Webster. Two films will be featured at this free event: Charlie Chaplin's The Immigrant, and Sherlock Jr. starring Buster Keaton. Attendees will be transported back to Main St. in Webster, circa 1916, when black-and-white movies accompanied by piano music were popular. Reservations are encouraged; samuelslaterexperience.org.

NOVEMBER 4-5
• The Gladys E. Kelly Library in Webster will host "Mini-Golf in the Stacks," featuring a putting course set up between the bookshelves. On Friday from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. the event will be for adults only with a minimum donation of \$10 per person. Beer, wine and soda will be offered for a small

fee Snacks will be free. Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. is for families with a \$5 donation for adults and no admission charge for children. All donations will go directly to the library to fund future events.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5
• The Uxbridge Lions Club's Shred Event returns from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the VFW parking lot at Rt. 16 and Cross Rd. Bring documents, files, old checks and mail to be securely shredded and recycled. For a donation of \$5.00 for a copy paper-sized box or for each electronic device, Pellegrino Trucking will shred and send for recycling the paper products while OnSite Computers will handle the secure destruction of electronic devices including computers, phones, electrical cords, DVDs, cameras, USB cables, flat-screen monitors, keyboards, radios and stereos.

St. Peter's Parish in Northbridge will host its Annual Holiday Bazaar from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall, 39 Church Ave. There will be a White Elephant Table, a Baked Goods Table, and Craft Tables with handmade items including quilts.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6
• The New England Country Music Club presents live music by Al Carter at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. with entertainment from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9
• A Lunch and Learn program featuring a visit by Blackstone Valley Physical Therapy Associates will be held at the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Instruction will be provided on safely using assistive devices that

are often recommended after falls or setbacks. Sign up at the front desk.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10
• The Douglas Historical Society is hosting a night to thank veterans for their service and to view "A Touch of Home," about the "Donut Dollies" who supported our troops in Vietnam at 7:00 p.m. at the E.N.

Jenckes Store Museum on Main St.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11
• A Fundraiser for Friends of Northbridge Elders (FINE) featuring "A Night of Spirit Messages" with Dr. Cathy Ripley Greene, psychic medium, will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 77 Prescott St., Whitinsville. Tickets are \$50.

There will be a cash bar and snacks will be provided. Tickets may be purchased at the Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12
• St. Denis Church's Holiday Fair will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00

HAPPENINGS!
continued on page 13

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Finally, an official grand opening for Mickey's Car Wash

BY ROD LEE

Tammy Bourakis hasn't forgotten the hard early days she and her son Kyle Nigosian experienced with their startup venture Mickey's Car Wash on Galaxy Pass in the Pleasant

Valley Crossing in Sutton. "We applied for our building permit in February of 2020 and then full-blown Covid hit," she says. "So we were shut down."

Despite this setback, Mickey's Car Wash & Detail Shop has done "really great"

since. A celebration of how far Mickey's has come will occur with an official Grand Opening of the retail, detailing and pet wash components of the business on Saturday, November 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00



p.m. The event will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce at 10:00 a.m., food trucks, holiday gifts, demonstrations, promotions, and live entertainment.

"It's been awesome," Ms. Bourakis said. "It's great, it doesn't even feel like work. I get to work with my son every day and my other son, Jason Richard, is in the band that will be playing. He's a drummer."

Now, the first time, she said, "we will have four businesses in one."

Contact Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.

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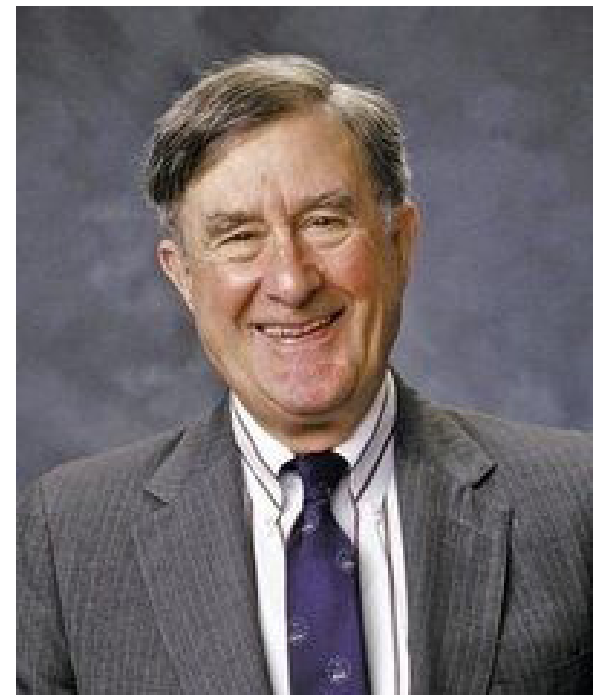
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Corridor seeks nomination for John H. Chafee Heritage Awards

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (BHC) is seeking nominations for John H. Chafee Heritage Awards. This award honors individuals or groups who have worked on projects, programs, and institutions that promote the cultural heritage and the preservation of natural areas and strive to enrich the quality of life in the Blackstone

River Valley. BHC established the award to honor the late Senator John H. Chafee

their accomplishments. There is a separate category for students. Find the form at BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org



and recognize citizens and organizations whose work in the Blackstone Valley embodies Chafee's vision and ideas. Recipients have included community leaders, preservation heroes, business partners, environmental advocates, or students whose achievements resulted in public benefit.

To nominate someone for the award, submit a nomination form citing

BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org/john-h-chafee-heritage-awards. Nominations must be received by November 30, 2022, and can be mailed to John H. Chafee Award, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, 670 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, MA, 01588, or emailed to DevonKurtz@blackstoneheritagecorridor.org.

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HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 11

p.m. at 23 Manchaug Rd., Douglas, featuring crafts, raffles, baked goods and a kids table. Luncheon will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Vendor spaces are



"A Night at the Museum: Silent Movies," with musical accompaniment, will be presented on the evening of Friday, November 4th, at the Samuel Slater Experience, 31 Ray St., Webster.

available. Go to SaintDenisChurch.com for more info and updates.

Online! ... coming soon ... baskets in our holiday raffle; tickets are \$3 each or ten for \$15. Drawing is on November 12, no need to be present to win and tickets will be available at the Fair on the 12th.

• Mickey's Car Wash in Pleasant Valley Crossing in Sutton will host a Grand Opening for its Detail Shop, Retail Shop and Pet Wash from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with live music, food trucks, demonstrations, promotions and holiday gifts.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18

• Millbury First Congregational Church's 30th annual Turkey Raffle will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Charles F. Minney VFW Post, 16 South Main St. Grand Prize is \$500 cash; 2nd Prize is a Bose Sound Touch 20 Wireless Music System; 3rd Prize is a 32" Samsung Smart TV; 4th Prize is a Case of Assorted Wine. Refreshments including

hot dogs and surprises will be available for purchase. Raffle tickets can be bought at Goretta's on November 15th.

NOVEMBER 18 & 19

• The Uxbridge High School Drama Club will present "The Play That

Goes Wrong" by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer and Henry Shields in the UHS Auditorium at 7:00 p.m. The play is presented with permission from Dramatists Play Service Inc. In 2015 The Play That Goes Wrong won Best Comedy at the 2015 Laurence Olivier Awards. It has been running since 2012 in London. Forty-four UHS students are involved in this production. Tickets will be available at the door; \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

• The Blackstone Valley Wine & Chocolate Tasting with a live auction, raffles, prizes and vendors will be held at Blissful Meadows Golf Club, 801 Chocolog Road, Uxbridge, at 7:00 p.m. This event is offered in collaboration with Marty's Fine Wines, The Candy Shoppe and The Afterglow Boutique. Tickets are \$40, \$50 at the door and may be purchased at Uni-Bank in Whitinsville or Uxbridge or online at www.facebook.com/BVWinetasting. Proceeds benefit the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter and the Blackstone Valley Rotary Scholarship Fund.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

• The New England Country Music Club presents live music by Kerrie Evers at the Progressive Club, 18

Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:30 with entertainment from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub.

NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 3

• Shop Small 01588 will be held in downtown Whitinsville, with dozens of businesses taking part in the passport-style event for an entire week, starting on Small Business Saturday.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

• The 25th anniversary of the Uxbridge First Holiday Night Celebration and Parade, a family tradition, will be held. Volunteers are welcome for the event. Stop by the Mendon Street Kitchen for more information.

• The Sutton Chain of Lights will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., featuring family fun with free trolleys, boutique shops, local products, handmade gifts, specialty items and services for all the people on your Christmas list.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

• The New England Country Music Club presents the Rhode Island Rednecks at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors

open at 12:30 p.m. with live entertainment from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

• The Webster Dudley Business Alliance's Holiday Party will take place from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at

Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

• The Auburn Chamber of Commerce's annual Holiday Party will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Realtor Association of Central Massachusetts, 492 Washington

St., Auburn. Bring an unwrapped toy and a door prize. All donations will benefit Auburn Youth & Family Services.

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LIVING WITH LUKE

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Luke visits Butler Farm Bark Park of Millbury

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

Luke is one of the more social puppies I've had, especially when it comes to playing with other dogs. Luckily, my neighborhood is full of interesting dogs for Luke to bump shoulders with. He's learned to bark back in the face of aggression, romp with rambunctious rescues, and chase after sleek dogs built like greyhounds. When it comes to Dog Play, Luke never gives up. For this reason, we have called him a Scrappier. He's even

invented a signature move, ramming his shoulder and one side of his body against a bigger dog, as would a defensive back.

He'll sit on the front steps, ears lifted in curiosity, to watch leashed dogs walk by. Often times, a friend will prance onto my front lawn to invite spontaneous play. "Hi Luke. Let's play!" Rosie, an exuberant Goldendoodle, flounces onto the front steps. "No more resting. Let's get this party started!" Luke responds as he always does. He sits with a quiet aloofness, as though needing to make an independent choice. He lifts his big puppy head to sniff the air, twitches his nose and thinks over the idea. Then—"Game on!" Just like that, Luke has convinced himself that he's in. The two

dogs dash around my house like running fools.

Despite Luke's social nature, I still felt apprehensive about a trip (his first) to Butler Farm Bark Park, a dog park located in Millbury and "funded through the generosity of the Stanton Foundation and donations from local business, non-profit organizations and individual dog lovers." The park boasts charming bridges to climb upon, a water station for dirty paws, a leash hitch, and spacious area for running. The park is everything a Dog Mom could hope for. Still, I found myself worrying about little Luke. What if a Pit-bull with low self-esteem attacked him? What if the adult dogs don't like the color of his coat? Questions passed through

my mind while I parked.

We arrive and make our way to the gate. A pack of dogs stiffen their necks from high ground in the park ground. "A newcomer!!" They rush towards the gate entrance to greet a pup named Luke Valentino. A few dogs poke their noses through the bars of the gate. One barks and this dog creates a domino effect until we're greeted by a crescendo of yelping. The sunny Friday weather has definitely let the dogs out of the house, I think to myself. There are about five dogs waiting for Luke to enter. I begin to stereotype them. In my mind, they are villains



he's used to the comment. "He's not a Pitbull. He's only seven months, still a puppy."

"Luke is a puppy as well!" I croon, hoping to redeem myself with a clever dog connection. Luke tugs at me. "I want to play with the non-pit pup!!"

The owner opens the door of the time-out section. Maybe I was distracted. Maybe I let my guard down upon learning that another puppy is here to join us. In any event, I didn't expect Luke to break free but he does just that, and finds the gate opening to the jungle of big dogs. I feel small and helpless. I watch my pup enter the park and pray that everyone will play nice. Four dogs rush towards Luke and sniff his body at all sides, an initial frisk, a rite of passage it seems. Luke lowers his head. His ears are pinned back like a bunny's while the dogs encircle him like vultures. "What have I done? Will the dogs play nice?" I feel my heart skip a beat.

"Bring it on!" Luke isn't concerned about playing nice. Instead, he chases the tail of a Shetland Sheepdog,

LUKE

continued on page 15

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TALES FROM BEYOND

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Vermont's Dorset Inn, home of 'The General'

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

Dorset is your quintessential Vermont village, complete with a green, shops, and a few inns where travelers can stay a night or two and relish in the atmosphere of the little hamlet.

The Dorset Inn is such a place. Since 1796, the Dorset Inn has welcomed travelers on their journey to areas such as Boston, Massachusetts and Albany, New York. The inn became a popular stop for many to partake in some food, beverages, and fresh beds. Many stayed for weeks or even months as the region provided many outdoor activities and exploration.

There are thirty-five beautifully decorated guest rooms, and several are part of the original structure where guests can enjoy the views of Vermont's picturesque countryside. The Dorset is also renowned for its fabulous cuisine. The Wine Spectator voted the estab-

lishment as one of America's best restaurants in 2008. Diners can enjoy fine fare in the historic red dining room or tavern. They may have the opportunity to meet the oldest guest of the inn, a ghost the staff affectionately calls "The General."

The general has been seen by staff and guests alike. He is dressed in a dark military uniform with gold braid, much like that of the Civil War. According to members of the Dorset staff, he is often seen in the taproom. One employee claimed to have seen him on the third floor, but his appearance there is rare. He has also been accompanied on occasion by a woman in an old-fashioned long skirt and a child. No one knows when he will make his appearance, and his exact identity is lost to antiquity, but he still likes to make an appearance now and then.

Our friends and fellow paranormal investigators, Robert Hughes and Victoria Julian-Hughes, once stayed

at the Dorset Inn during one of their many tours of Vermont. As avid paranormal enthusiasts and investigators, it was natural for them to want to explore the premises during their visit. Owners Steve and Lauren Bryant allowed them to do a vigil or two around the building and even showed them the cellar, which was reported to be a part of the Underground Railroad.

During their investigations, they collected a few interesting pieces of paranormal evidence. One is what appears to be a bluish orb moving across the basement, and the others are EVPs (Electronic Voice Phenomenon). The EVP session took place in Room 35, where The General is reported to visit from time to time. Among the several questions asked during a particular EVP session, Vickie politely inquired, "How old are you?" The answer was very audible and sounded like "Ten." Simulta-



The Dorset Inn in Vermont, where guests and staff alike have seen "The General."

neously, the lights on a piece of a spirit communication device lit up and stayed lit. She then asked, "Where did you come from?" A faint, one-word answer came through, "Here."

The rest of the investigation was quiet, but it appears they may have contacted the

child's spirit that sometimes accompanies the ghost of The General, or perhaps it is altogether another spirit. With a place that is over 225 years old, it can be assured there is a lot of energy lingering within. But, do not worry, all of it is friendly and positive. That is

why the Dorset Inn is such a wonderful place to visit and stay; it has the endorsement of some permanent guests. If they are not in a hurry to leave, then it must be a nice place to relax, at least for an evening or two, while basking in the history and hospitality the inn offers.

LUKE

continued from page 14

then snaps back around to growl at the Black Lab sniffing his butt. "I'm playing with the Shetland!" He stands his ground, even growling to fend off two dogs at once. I can barely believe my eyes. My puppy, whose name contains the letters L, O, V, E, has figured out how to handle multiple personalities at the dog park.

I perch on a wooden

bridge in the center of the park that reminds me of the fairytale, The Three Billy Goat's Gruff. Other dogs, sensing that I'm a Dog Person more than I am a troll, wander over to sit beside me. Beneath a sunny, autumn sky, I hang out with them while my own plays freely below. The dogs lick my face and hand me their paws. They nestle close and love me unconditionally. I realize, then, that I have not given these dogs enough credit. They look into my

eyes with acceptance and a gentle understanding, as though to say, "Your puppy is safe with us." Something tells me they're right. Dogs always know the truth.

Butler Farm Bark Park is located on 44 Singletary Road, Millbury and is available to Millbury and Sutton residents for a \$20 annual fee (which includes a dog tag, special instruction on rules, and an open invitation to enjoy off-leash social interaction for your dog!

Find them: www.butlerfarmdogpark.com

Follow Luke Valentino: [instagram.com/living-withlukevalentino](https://www.instagram.com/living-withlukevalentino)

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REAL ESTATE



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

Should you still buy a home with the latest news about inflation?

cost of goods and services climb. The squeeze it has on your wallet and the looming economic uncertainty may leave you wondering: "should I still buy a home right now?" If that question is top of mind for you, here's what you need to know.

Homeownership is historically a great hedge against inflation as I have stated in previous columns. In an inflationary economy, prices rise across the board. Historically, homeownership is a great hedge against those rising costs because you can lock in what's likely your largest monthly payment (your mortgage) for the duration of your loan. That helps stabilize some of your monthly expenses.

A fixed-rate mortgage allows you to maintain the biggest portion of housing expenses at the same

payment. Sure, property taxes will rise and other expenses may creep up, but your monthly housing payment remains the same. If you

prices rose by 8.2%. Rents rose by 7.2%, the highest pace in 40 years.

When you rent, your monthly payment is determined by your lease, which typi-



wait and the interest rate continues to climb, (which is likely to happen) you will be further behind by locking in at yet a higher rate later on. And with rents being as high as they are, the ability to stabilize your monthly payments and protect yourself from future rent hikes may be even more important.

Inflation refuses to budge. In September, consumer

usually renews on an annual basis. With inflation high, your landlord may be more likely to increase your payments to offset the impact of inflation. That may be part of the reason why a survey from realtor.com shows 72% of landlords said they plan to raise the rent on one or more of their properties in the next year.

Becoming a homeowner, if you're ready and able to do so, can provide lasting stability and a reliable shelter in times of economic uncertainty.

The best hedge against inflation is a fixed housing cost. If you're ready to learn more and start your journey to homeownership, connect with Marzeotti at marzeotti@marzeottigroup.net/617-519-1871 or another real estate professional today.

While the Federal Reserve is working hard to bring down inflation, the latest data shows the inflation rate is still high, remaining around 8%. This news impacted the stock market and added fuel to the fire for conversations about a recession.

You're likely feeling the impact in your day-to-day life as you watch the

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- C & K Green, sellers in Whitinsville

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Are steering shafts on Chevy El Caminos interchangeable?



BY JOHN PAUL

Q. I'm trying to replace a damaged steering column in a 1987 Chevy El Camino. I got one from a 1986 Chevy El Camino but where the transmission linkage hooks up to the column is in a different position on the 1986 than the one from the 1987. Would you know if they are compatible with each other?

A. Although both parts are discontinued, looking at the exploded view and parts numbers on GM-partsdirect.com, both years use the same internal shafts. So based on this, the steering columns should have some level of interchangeability. The other option is to go with an aftermarket which is available through several specialty GM parts sites. Going aftermarket gives you the ability to go with a shorter or longer column that may make the car more comfortable to drive.

Q. How can I avoid my 2018 Mercedes Benz E-400 from draining the battery because I do not use it

frequently?
A. The best thing you can do is to drive the car for 30 minutes once a week or so. If that isn't possible and you park in a garage with an electrical outlet and battery maintainer (float charger), that is a ideal method to keep the batter fully charged. Once installed it is simply a quick disconnect plug under the hood or through the grill. Deltran Battery Tender and CTEK are quality brands. If you are parking outside, a solar charger may keep the battery charged depending on how much sunlight the car gets.

Q. Recently I'm experiencing what I believe is a tire balance problem. It occurs between 60-70 miles per hour. Below or above that speed I have no problem. It feels like I am running over a rough roadway with a rumbling sensation. I tried to have a high-speed re-balancing of tires, (not the Road Force Balancer that you have recommended). The tires have 45,000 miles on them and I'm thinking of having all four tires replaced. Is there a service device that would duplicate the tire imbalance sensation at that speed of 60-70mph? What are your thoughts?

A. From you description it sounds like a tire balance issue. It could be a tire, rim or combination of both. Years back we had on-car high speed balancers that could spin the tires and you were

balancing the hub, wheel and tire, these machines are generally long gone. Although high-speed balancing machines allow for easy and quick balancing, I see mistakes being made with technicians not paying attention to balance weight placement, the wheels themselves or rust buildup on the wheels/hubs. At 45,000 miles and with the Farmer's Almanac (if you put any belief in this publication) predicting a snowy cold winter replacing the tires with an all-weather tire would be money well spent.

Q. Any opinion on Volvo's long-term reliability? We own three in our family and purchased them for their overall safety records. We are a little worried about cost of maintenance and repairs. Lastly any suggestions on aftermarket brake rotors? The rotors on two of the cars have been replaced under warranty twice because they warp slightly and cause brake chatter.

A. Typically, Volvos are about average or slightly above when it comes to maintenance and reliability not quite to the level of an Acura or Lexus but generally a little better than some other luxury and near luxury brands. Regarding rotors, generally there is nothing better than factory parts, but Bendix, Raybestos, Centric, Brembo are generally a good choice for Volvo and one that is recommended on Volvo forums is DuraGo-which I'm just

starting to see more of. You could try to move up to a drilled rotor which can offer better cooling which may help. Stay away from high-performance slotted rotors which are good for track cars not great for general use. Also, when the wheels are

removed for tire rotation or any other work, they should be reinstalled using a torque wrench.

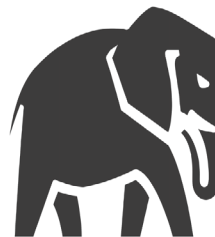
John Paul is AAA Northeast's Car Doctor. He has over forty years' experience and is an ASE-certified

master technician. He will answer readers' questions each week. Email your car questions to jpaul@aaanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on Facebook, mrjohnfpaul.

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SPORTS

Finally, a successful year for Uxbridge golf

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY
STAFF SPORT WRITER

The Uxbridge golf team hasn't had any success for over a decade, but last fall the Spartans were finally able to qualify for the post-season by recording an 11-5 record. Without losing anyone from that squad, Uxbridge was able to improve upon last year's performance.

"I've been the coach here for nine years and last year

was the first time in at least 10 years that Uxbridge was able to qualify for the District Tournament," Spartan Coach Dave Lyman said. "The kids got to practice over the summer having access to the courses. During Covid golf was the only thing that you could really do, and a lot of kids started playing and found that they liked it."

According to the Uxbridge coach, golf is a tough sport to access and

expensive; however, with Blissful Meadows Golf Club (Uxbridge's home course) only being a few miles away from the high school kids are able to get to it rather easily. The golf club also has a practice facility where the kids can hone their golf skills. Lyman noted that kids are getting jobs there, so they get free golf time while others have been getting memberships.

During the past seasons golf at Uxbridge High

School was not pretty, but recently the program has made a turn for the better.

"Uxbridge has been one of the lowest if not the lowest team in the Southern Worcester County League (SWCL) where we would only win one or two matches a year and that was fairly recently," the Spartan coach said. "About three years momentum started to take place on the golf course here and that included the Covid year

where we had a bunch of football players come out for the team because the season was broken up into Fall I and II."

Last fall Uxbridge barely qualified for the District Tournament earning the 13th and final spot in the post-season, but Lyman noted that "at least they qualified." This year after finishing second in the SWCL Championships Uxbridge moved onto the Districts where they took

home fifth place moving up eight spots while shaving 70 strokes off their previous year's score. The Spartan golfers were a mere six strokes away from moving into the State Tournament.

Leading the team on the scorecard will be junior Cameron Caso and senior tri-captain Katie Cullen, who are respectively Uxbridge's 1A and 1B, respec-

GOLF

continued on page 19

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Prayer



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If you pray three times a day, three consecutive days, you will receive your intention, no matter how impossible it may seem. Praise and Thanksgiving please the Heart of God. **Believer**

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**AUTO
DETAIL**

GOLF

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tively. Caso originally ran cross country in support of his older brother during the fall, but when his brother went to college he switched to golf. While he still runs track, golf is his main sport and over the last three years he has decreased his average from 50 to 42 to 38 this year.

“Cameron has improved each year with the time spent on the course had a purpose,” Lyman said. “Last year he struggled with his putting, so he worked a lot on that during the off season and it has shown.”

Caso, who was named to be next year’s captain, shot a 73 to capture the SWCL Championship.

Cullen, who has been on the team since the seventh grade, is a 4 time All-Star and a role model to her teammates. The senior has run the gamut with the team’s success; she’s been on the team who only had one win and the team then had success over the last two seasons.

Cullen has verbally committed to play golf at Randolph Macon College in Virginia, a Division 3 school, but her coach

believes that she could play Division 1 golf.

“In the seventh grade she was new to the sport and got involved because there was nothing else that interested her,” he said. “This year she averaged a 41 and over the last few years she has taken off a stroke a year.”

Following Caso and Cullen in the three spot is freshman Brady Esposito, who although he is teeing off for his second season, it’s his first season that he is taking it seriously and it shows. Last year he shot a 126 at the District Tournament, this fall he dropped his score to 85.

“He has the potential down the road with a chance to contend for a State Title if he stays focused,” Lyman said.

Another senior tri-captain, Sophie Compston is a four-year player who averaged 45 this fall. She is a good communicator on the course and keeps her teammates in line while helping to analyze their play. Her coach says she is a smart player, and you’ll never see her hit a shot deep into the woods when she is focusing.

Other Spartan golfers are freshmen Cameron Bartlett (45 average) and

Lola Grube (49 average) and senior tri-captain Evan Grube (48 average).

Coming into the year Lyman knew that the team was going to continue to build the program but had the potential to contend with the teams that they have not been able to beat in the past. According to the coach, the team was lucky to be playing those

tough teams (Grafton and Tantasqua) on their home course. One of the team’s losses came at the first match of the season against Auburn, who went on to win the SWCL this year.

While Uxbridge does not have enough females coming out for the girl’s team in the spring, Cullen will be eligible to play in the championship and could

win it all.

Although the Spartans will be graduating five seniors from the team Lyman still believes that the team will once again be able to contend, and they expect to go undefeated.

“That’s our goal every year, but now it’s finally obtainable,” Lyman joked.

If the team continues to work on their skills during

the off-season the way they have been doing, there should be no reason why the Spartan golfers wouldn’t be able to accomplish that perfect season.

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