

# The Yankee Xpress

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## Faith lives on at Webster's Congregation Sons of Israel

BY JANET STOICA

Since 1917 the Congregation Sons of Israel location in Webster has kept its sacred and reserved home in good standing. There are no weekly gatherings but there are beloved and humbling services a few times annually for the local Jewish community. Recently I had the opportunity to speak with a high school friend who attended services there for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and perhaps other important holy days. Deborah Stayman, originally from Webster and currently living in New York State, educated me on several aspects of the local congregation site.



Raised table for the Torah to be unrolled and read. A Shofar sits on the table.

"The local congregation was chartered in 1906," said Ms. Stayman. "Members met on the third floor of a Webster Main Street building. At one time there were fifty families who belonged including my family." Her parents were Bessie and Henry Stayman, former proprietors of Kulin's Specialty Shop located on Webster's Main Street when local shops

were bustling with foot traffic and eager customers. I remember my mom taking me into Kulin's when I was very young as she checked out lingerie and other delicate items offered by the shop. It was a quiet, orderly, and neat enterprise as I recall. The store

offered children's clothing, ladies lingerie, tablecloths, bedspreads, and blankets.

The local Jewish community

### CONGREGATION

continued on page 2



CHECK OUT OUR ANNUAL SUMMER GUIDE, INSIDE!

## A Nation of Immigrants: Elefteria Xega

BY JANET STOICA

This is the fourth in a series of articles about local immigrants and their lives in the United States, why they came, how they lived, and what their outlook is about this country.

Have you visited Lake Pizza & Restaurant in Webster? If you have then you've probably seen a spunky and customer-friendly wait staffer named Elefteria. She's one of the great staffers at Lake Pizza who is always at your side when you need a good hot meal or a nicely shaken martini. She gives you the best dining experience you



Elefteria came to America with her family, learned English and waitresses at Lake Pizza in Webster.

could ever have and always with a smile.

Born in Albania, a beautiful country tucked under the republic of Montenegro on southeastern Europe's Balkan Peninsula,

### IMMIGRANT

continued on page 4

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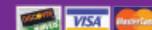
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## CONGREGATION

continued from page 1

bought its current building from an ethnic lodge group in 1917 and has remained at the same location for the past 106 years.

Deb's father, Henry, who was mechanically inclined, became the quiet caretaker of the congregation building, checking on it weekly to ensure the exterior and interior of the building were in good order. "My dad was the kind of person who stayed in the background," said Deb. "He wanted to keep an eye on things and didn't want any recognition. He'd repair what needed to be fixed or contact an officer for major repairs. For over forty years, my dad would stay on top of things. His priorities were family, Judaism/synagogue, and the family business. On Sundays, he would putter around the house."

Henry was born in Worcester, went to Boys Trade School with the intent of becoming a printer. Because he was mechanically inclined, he decided to take a job at a gas station, eventually buying the business. When relatives introduced him to Bessie, it turned out to be a good match as they were married in 1942. A month later, however, Henry was drafted into the U.S. Army and fought in the European theater including the Battle of the Bulge. As a sergeant in the infantry, he was injured by a hand grenade. When the war ended, he came home. The couple had two wonderful daughters, Susan and Deborah.

The local congregation was not really large enough to support a full-time Rabbi, so on the Jewish holidays, a Rabbi or a rabbinical student would be contacted to participate in the holiday services. "There were no strict rules for a Rabbi to lead the congregation,"

Deb stated. Deb and her husband, Jonathan, make it a point to attend services annually at the Webster congregation.

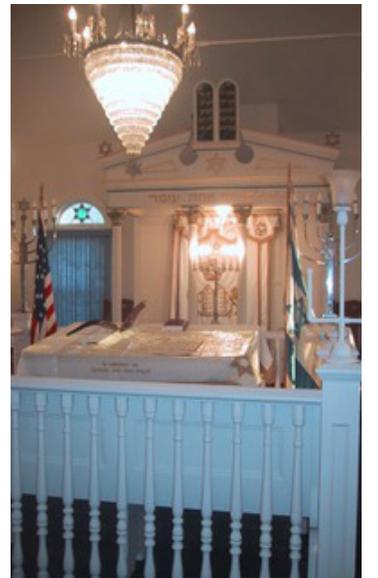
During the New Year celebration of Rosh Hashanah, this year celebrated in September, the person leading the service will blow a shofar, a ram's horn, signifying the beginning of the New Year.

"I remember most that there were pews at the congregation site," related Deb, "and at some point in history, people would buy their seats and have name plaques placed on the pews. My grandmother, Eva Kulin, had a family pew on one side of the room and my grandfather, Samuel Kulin, had one on the opposite side. My mom would sit with her mother and my dad would sit with her father. Services were in Hebrew so I wasn't aware of all the formalities. As a little girl, I remember playing with the fringes of my father's tallit, a men's prayer shawl, and then

going to sit with my mom in her pew. Men and women sat separately then but this isn't done anymore. Also, we had Hebrew school one to two afternoons weekly."

After graduating from college, Deb spent 1-1/2 years in Israel staying in a kibbutz, a community based on agriculture. She would learn Hebrew for a half-day and worked on the kibbutz to pay room and board. She worked in the kitchen and later in a large chicken incubator factory. "A driver would go out and get local eggs," said Deb. "Upon his return, the eggs would all be loaded into incubators. When the chicks hatched they had to be shipped to local communities quickly as there was only a 24-hour period for the hatchlings to be transported safely to their destinations."

"I'm happy that our congregation is still there," said Deb, "and I hope that it will continue for many years to come."



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--Marcia T

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## Correction

In our Summer Guide, we listed the Auburn Farmers and Cultural Market as taking place on Sundays in error. The Market occurs on Thursday afternoons from 4-7 pm with the concert at 6pm. at the Dr. Arthur and Dr. Martha Pappas Recreation Complex through August 31. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. Below is the line-up of concerts during the Market:  
**June 29 (Independence Day)** – Outriggers (Classic Rock)  
**July 6 – Aquanett Band** (80's Rock)

**July 13 – XS Band** (Motown to Top 40)  
**July 20 – Boom Box** (70's, 80's, and 90's)  
**July 27 – 4 EverFab** (Beatles Tribute)  
**August 3 – A Night of Zeppelin** (Led Zeppelin Tribute)  
**August 10 – Red Light** (Dance, Funk Rock)  
**August 17 – Below Deck** (Yacht Rock)  
**August 24 – Dock 10** (70's and 80's)  
**August 31 – Petty Larceny** (Tom Petty Tribute)

## EXCITING NEWS!

Starting in July, The YankeeXpress will run in the full towns of Charlton, Dudley and Webster on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday and in the towns of Auburn and Oxford on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month.

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# Xpressly Yours ... a letter from the editor

## No such thing as bad blood among local legislators

**G**reeting them just before a ceremony marking the naming of a bridge for local World War II hero Robert Conroy in Auburn on May 26th, I couldn't help but think that Paul Frost had won "The Battle of the Ties" over Michael Moore.



BY ROD LEE

Maybe it was the ensemble Mr. Frost had put together: blue jacket, blue tie checkered with white mark-

ings, blue shirt of a slightly softer shade, khaki slacks, black shoes.

Color coordinated and quite impressive.

Of course, there was no competition for the honor of Best Dressed involved—and Mr. Moore looked dapper in his own right for the start of the Memorial Day weekend.

Nor is there any friction or animosity between Mr. Frost, a Republican, and Mr. Moore, a Democrat. None of the backbit-



Rep. Paul Frost and Sen. Michael Moore speak at a ceremony signaling the naming of a bridge in Auburn in honor of World War II hero Robert Conroy.



ing and vitriol that can regularly be witnessed between members of opposite political parties in Washington, or at some state houses and town halls across the country.

That is the thing about the Central Massachusetts and Blackstone Valley legislative delegations. An unmistakable rapport and common sense of purpose exists within their ranks.

Rep. Frost and Sen. Moore are evidence of this. Paul Frost, who lives in Auburn, has served the 7th Worcester District since being elected at the age of twenty-six in 1996. Mike Moore, a lifelong resident of Millbury, won his seat in the 2nd Worcester District in 2008.

Those who disparage "career politicians" often overlook the large swath of territory these of-

ficials are responsible for, on Beacon Hill; areas that demand much of their time and effort—including after-hours' commitments. Rep. Frost's district includes all or parts of Auburn, Charlton, Leicester, Millbury and Oxford. Sen. Moore's district includes all or parts of Auburn, Grafton, Millbury, Shrewsbury, Westborough and Worcester.

When it was their turn to offer brief remarks, Mr. Frost had high praise for the assistance Mr. Moore provided in shepherding a bill Mr. Frost sponsored through to an affirmative vote, on Robert Conroy's family's behalf.

"It took some time, these bills

are not so simple and easy to do, to name bridges after people who in their lives and actions have earned it and that's what Robert Conroy did," Rep. Frost said.

For his part, Sen. Moore noted that Robert Conroy, who was killed in action in Italy along with his service dog, "made the sacrifice for others."

Sen. Moore might have been speaking for both Rep. Frost and himself when he said "having an opportunity like this is one of the best parts of the job."

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**IMMIGRANT**

*continued from page 1*

Elefteria always considered herself Greek as her grandparents were from Greece. Albania shares a southern border with Greece. As the “winner” in a lottery that would allow her to emigrate to the United States in 2004, she took

the opportunity with her husband, Dhimitraq Xega, and two children. Their oldest daughter, age 19, was attending college in Athens, Greece and was accepted at Clark University in Worcester where she finished her degree in accounting, has become a CPA and also obtained her teaching credentials. Their younger daughter was a high school sophomore

at the time of the emigration and transferred to a Worcester high school and then graduated from Holy Cross College with a biochemistry degree. She furthered her education by obtaining a master’s degree in science from Harvard and currently works in the lab of a pharmaceutical company. No doubt about it, Elefteria is a very proud mom as she describes what her daughters have accomplished.

“My husband and I came here for a better life for our children,” she said, “I am very glad we came. We worked hard and found ourselves.” Leteri was an accountant in her native Albania and her husband was a professor of veterinary science. “We couldn’t practice what we had been educated in when we came here so I worked at a Dunkin Donuts on Park Avenue in Worcester for

2.5 years. I made donuts, bagels and other baked goods. My day started very early as we began selling our products at 4 a.m. It was a bit scary being in the bakery with a small staff at that hour but it all worked out. At first, working the night shift was very hard. I didn’t speak English. The language barrier was very hard. I briefly thought about returning to Albania but my husband didn’t want to return. I went to Clark University for a year to learn English. My husband worked at a Worcester gun factory 60+ hours weekly and then worked for a friend’s cleaning business for extra money. We really didn’t have time to further our education here. We focused on supporting our family. In 2007, we moved to Webster as my husband’s friend worked at Lake Pizza and the employment opportunity presented itself.”

Leteri can speak four languages: Greek, Albanian, Romanian, and English. Absolutely amazing but not uncommon in Europe. Seems like the Foreign Service certainly might’ve been a great opportunity for her in her younger years before her family came along. When the Albanian lottery brought her and her family good fortune to make the trip to America they came with trepidation and certainly fear of the unknown. Her husband, Dhimitraq, truly seemed to be the real catalyst for the family’s moving decision. Dhimitraq had to promise his daughters that if they didn’t like America, he would let them return to their home country. Obviously, everything worked out as their daughters’ successes were absolutely wonderful. “My husband’s sister was here in America already,” said Leteri, “we stayed with her for one week and then found a rental house for our fam-

ily. We always wanted to buy our own place but then my husband passed away from illness in 2015 and that never happened.”

Leteri described her oldest daughter’s experience while attending orientation at Clark University. She said her daughter came home in tears because of her limited English skills and seriously considered returning to Athens but her husband convinced his daughter that she should try one semester and then make a decision. It worked and all was well. The interesting facet of the education system in Greece is that if you are a dean’s list student, the government will pay for your tuition and you take care of the cost of books. Her daughters did very well in the U.S. Because of their good grades, they were able to obtain several scholarships but the Xega parents’ share of the remaining tuition was still quite expensive. They managed it all however.

The Xega family studied hard and long for their U.S. citizenship tests. They all passed successfully in 2009. “We knew the United States was the best place in the world to be,” said Leteri, “I love the U.S. If my husband were still with me I’d be so much happier though. We’ve been blessed with two grandchildren ages 10 and 8 from our oldest daughter, Eleni, who is married to John Sgouritsas, owner of Lake Pizza & Restaurant; and with two more grandchildren from our youngest daughter, Kristina, aged 2 and a newborn. Last summer when I visited Albania, a restaurant owner approached me and asked my opinion about coming to the U.S. Without hesitation, I told him to make his plans.”

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# Nichols College tees up new life for Dudley Hill Golf Club

BY ROD LEE

Nichols College President Glenn Sulmasy telephoned recently with the exciting word that the school has resumed full management of Dudley Hill Golf Club, which is situated almost within a five iron of its Center Road campus.

“This will further solidify our longstanding relationship with the golf course,” Mr. Sulmasy said. It also strengthens Nichols’ ties with the town of Dudley.

“The histories are inextricably linked between the town and the school,” he said.

Last year, the school provided fireworks to honor the contribu-



*Clockwise from above: Nichols College’s strong student connection to the Dudley Hill Golf Club—now under new management—is reflected by the presence of Colin Wallace, Brian Kallajian and Will Kleinheiz, pictured here in the pro shop; The redesigned “Bison Den” at Dudley Hill Golf Club at Nichols College; Bruce Gagnon, Tony George and Ron Schonborg wait to tee off at Dudley Hill Golf Club at Nichols College on May 31st. All are members of the club.*



tions of the town’s selectmen. This year, it is doing the same for first responders.

Nichols currently utilizes Dudley Hill for its men’s golf team practices and will be starting a women’s golf team this year. Both programs will be led by Head Coach Tim Howard, who came on board in 2015.

Dramatic change is already apparent at the newly named “Dudley Hill Golf Club at Nichols College,” Mr. Sulmasy said. As evidence of this, a partnership has been established with Pennsylvania-based BrightView Golf Maintenance, which will oversee maintenance of the 3,241-yard, nine-hole layout.

This is only part of Dudley Hill’s new lease on life. The clubhouse has been redesigned by Glenn Sulmasy’s wife Marla to give golfers and the public a restaurant and bar “where folks can relax with a steak, a cheeseburger, hot dog, and a beer”—an ingredient that was sorely missing, to the extent it is now being provided. There is now “a nice menu, in a great spot,” he said.

“My wife redesigned the whole thing,” Mr. Sulmasy said, of what is

called “the Bison Den.”

A homey atmosphere prevails.

The news of a fresh start for the club could not come at a better time, as Dudley Hill approaches its 100th anniversary in 2026. The Devereaux Emmett-designed course features rolling hills, is in tiptop shape, and offers a challenge to golfers of all abilities.

Adding to the buzz Nichols College’s takeover of the club is generating around town is the prospect of Nichols students from the Sports Management, Hospitality Management and other Business concentrations overseeing day-to-day operations while also acquiring practical work experience.

“Marla is running things now, cooking, cleaning, and it’s student-driven,” Mr. Sulmasy said. “We have sixteen interns working at the club this spring.”

The relationship with BrightView is a crucial connection, he said.

“The Nichols College community is delighted to partner with BrightView at our wonderful golf course and Bison Den clubhouse,” Mr. Sulmasy said. “Their professionalism, expertise and dedication

to the customer experience is well-known and highly regarded. Robert LaVigne, vice president for operations, and I have been nothing but impressed with BrightView’s expertise. Our club managers who will oversee the student experiential learning opportunities, Dr. Tim Liptrap and Marla Sulmasy, MBA, MSAT, are excited to have the BrightView Golf Maintenance team joining both our golf and Nichols community.”

Vince Gilmartin, vice president of BrightView Golf Maintenance, said the company is thrilled to be teaming up with Nichols College to ensure that “Dudley Hill lives up to its classic Devereaux Emmett design.”

BrightView boasts forty years in the industry, and more than eighty partner courses. BrightView notes with pride its refinement of the art, science and op-

erations of golf course maintenance to bring BrightView clients better playing conditions, reductions in cost and improved crew training.

BrightView will be responsible for all aspects of course maintenance at Dudley Hill, including turf, irrigation and equipment, with a main focus on always providing the finest golf course conditions.

“BrightView is extremely well-known for landscaping, they’ve been terrific,” Mr. Sulmasy said.

“Marla Sulmasy did an incredible job” reformatting the restaurant and bar area, Tim Liptrap said on May 31st.

Scorecards in the pro shop now read “Dudley Hill Golf Club at Nichols College.”

With between 150 and 170 members, leagues throughout the week and a golf camp coming up, the future is rosy for the revitalized club.

Contact Rod Lee at [rodlee.1963@gmail.com](mailto:rodlee.1963@gmail.com) or 774-232-2999.



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# Robert Conroy Memorial Bridge salutes an American hero

BY ROD LEE

With placement of a beautiful monument at Southbridge and Water streets in Auburn last year, Gary Conroy and his loved ones “didn’t want to forget” members of the family who had served their country.

Notable among them is Robert Conroy, who is now being further honored by the naming of the I-290 eastbound bridge over Water Street as the “Robert Conroy Memorial Bridge.”

This new development can be credited to legislation filed by State Rep. Paul Frost, R-Auburn, with an assist from Michael Moore, D-Millbury; passed recently, on Beacon Hill.

As Gary Conroy pointed out during a brief ceremony at the site of the Conroy monument at the start of the Memorial Day weekend on May 26th, and with his sister Sheila among those looking on, Robert Conroy’s brief life was one of exemplary achievement.

Robert grew up “on this very land and this was the home of our construction business and we had a family farm with horses,” Mr. Conroy said.

Early on, Robert “developed his love of God and country from his experience at All Saints (Episcopal) Church” in Worcester, where he was a member of the choir and a soloist.

In an aside, Mr. Conroy mentioned that All Saints is referenced in the book “Episodes of a Real Life” by Raymond



Gary Conroy reflects on the life and heroic actions of Robert Conroy in World War II during a ceremony at the Conroy family monument in Auburn on May 26th. The “Robert Conroy Memorial Bridge” will further recognize Mr. Conroy’s relative’s sacrifice on behalf of “God and country.”



Robert Conroy with his war dog Kosky

of the Purple Heart, posthumously, for his heroic actions.

Rep. Frost and Sen. Moore both said the Robert Conroy Memorial Bridge is a fitting tribute to a man whose family’s roots in the town of Auburn are firmly entrenched.

“I want to find a way to honor” Robert Conroy’s service dog, as well,” Rep. Frost said, in thanking Sen. Moore for his help getting the bill passed, and “the Massachusetts DOT for their cooperation.”

The Massachusetts DOT will place and maintain a marker on the bridge.

In his remarks, Sen. Moore said “in seventh grade I was told by my history teacher that if we don’t honor history we repeat it. We don’t want to see another war again. Robert made the sacrifice for others.”

Contact Rod Lee at [rodlee.1963@gmail.com](mailto:rodlee.1963@gmail.com) or 774-232-2999.

Wentworth, and that Kevin Neel, current director of the choir at All Saints, was in attendance at the ceremony.

In high school, Robert Conroy played football and baseball, was on the track team, and participated in such extracurricular activities as Glee Club.

Upon graduation in 1943, he immediately enlisted and joined the Army’s “Dog Platoon.”

Robert “was the only member of his platoon allowed to go to the war front in Italy,” in 1945. “He and his dog saved his entire patrol from ambush the night before he died. He was killed the next morning when hit by an artillery. Robert and his dog both died.”

Robert Conroy was a recipient



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# SSE program tackles subject of child labor

BY ROD LEE

During the brief time it has been in existence, the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster has quickly gained stature as a museum that puts the cultural and historical life of the region in perspective.

Another example of the contribution the SSE is making in this regard occurred on June 10th with a presentation by Linda Hixon on “Women and Children on the Time Clock”—a captivating look at how boys and girls as young as ten, and adult females, were employed in mills in Lowell, Hopedale and elsewhere around the Commonwealth in the 1800s and the first part of the 20th Century.

Ms. Hixon’s program follows ones recently offered on “Ice Harvesting” and “Early Transportation.” Coming up at the SSE is an introductory course on “Rigid Heddle Weaving.” A three-day workshop scheduled for July 15, 22 and 29, the course will show participants how to use their own rigid heddle loom. Call 508-461-2955 to register.

Ms. Hixon’s talk on child labor was a featured element of “Samuel Slater’s Birthday Weekend” at the museum, June 9-11. It was in every sense of the word an eye opener on the liberties manufacturers took in utilizing kids in the production of wool and cotton and other goods; “for every reason and for no reason at all,” as Ms. Hixon put it.

The Draper Company in Hopedale, where Ms. Hixon grew up, “was part of all of this, but later on,” she said. “We wouldn’t even contemplate that now.”

The initial portion of Ms. Hixon’s remarks, accompanied by pictures, focused on providing an answer to the question “what is childhood?” At what age does an individual go from adolescence to adulthood? For a friend of hers, she said, it was “fighting in World War II at the age of sixteen.” He is now in his 90s and apparently still alive, although she has lost contact with him.

“Is this a soldier?” she asked as well, of Charles Everett. He was “a drummer boy” in the horrific “Battle of the Wilderness” and died at fourteen in 1854. An only child

and standing just 5 feet 4 inches tall, he joined the Army in January and was killed in May.

“The Army knew better,” she said.

Ms. Hixon made a point of championing the work of Lewis Hine, whose remarkable photographs of children working in “the



A Lewis Hine photo, calling attention to child labor in the nation’s mills in the 1800s.

mills, the mines and as chimney sweeps” were meant to put an end to America’s horrific practice of depending on child labor.

An historian who has taught at Worcester State, she was introduced to a large and attentive gathering by the museum’s Barbara Van Reed, who said “a big part of our story here is the children.”

The stories Ms. Hixon told hammered home the message that utilizing children in mills for up to sixteen hours a day with the windows closed was just plain wrong.

“These places were death traps in a lot of instances,” she said, citing several examples.

Located at 31 Ray St. in Webster and dedicated to the life of Samuel Slater, “Father of the American Industrial Revolution” and a founder of the town of Webster, Samuel Slater Experience is open Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 4:00. The museum with its array of interactive exhibits is available for field trips, parties and private functions, and to tour groups.

Call 508-461-2955 or go to <https://samuel SlaterExperience.org> for more information or to make a donation.

Samuel Slater Experience principal sponsors are the Janet Masler Humanities Trust and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Contact Rod Lee at [rodlee.1963@gmail.com](mailto:rodlee.1963@gmail.com) or 774-232-2999.



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# The Wilds of the Brazilian Amazon and Rio Negro

BY JANET STOICA

Little did my cousin Mary (Nadolny) Wendell know that years after presenting an orchid floral gift to her future husband it would culminate with a trip to Brazil and the wilds of the Amazon Rainforest. A few years ago following Mary's graduation from Anna Maria College, she received an invitation from her sister, Adria (Nadolny) Barton Olson, to visit her home in Hawaii. A roundtrip plane ticket was dispatched to Mary and soon she was jetting her way across North America and the Pacific Ocean to Hawaiian paradise. As Mary's visit ended but before flying back to New England, she saw a beautiful orchid arrangement at a local retailer and thought it would make a nice gift for her future husband, Mark. Mary and the orchid made it home safe and sound and she was able to make her presentation.

After receiving his orchid gift, Mark developed a keen interest in

all things orchid. His interest grew into a relaxing hobby that included many types of orchids being grown in his own backyard greenhouse.

From there came a membership with an orchid-interest group which then developed into travel to international orchid conventions around the world. Friends and contacts were made eventually leading to this year's invitation for Mary and Mark to join associates on a trip to the Amazon Rainforest in search of wild orchids. The trip would include a riverboat cruise down the Amazon River and Rio Negro. The Rio Negro is the largest left tributary to the Amazon River in Central South America. Its name is derived from its deep color like that of strong tea. The coloring is due to the vegetation and other organic materials it wends its way through making it very high in humic acid.

Their two-week excursion consisted of living/sleeping accommodations on a vessel where shore visits were made to experience the

staff's skills for outdoor barbecuing of tasty native fish and vegetable dinners along with treks into the rainforest to view natural orchid habitats. Canoe riding was also a big part of their tour. "We actually were floating along at tree-top level really," said Mary, "this was the rainy season and some orchids do tend to grow near tree-canopy level. The Amazon Rainforest is such a vast area. There are hundreds of thousands of acres there of flora and fauna."

The Amazon Rainforest is 1.656 billion acres and as large as half of the USA. It's the world's largest rainforest. One in ten known species in the world live there including the black caiman (an alligator-like species that can grow to 20 feet long), electric eels, piranha, poison dart frogs, anaconda (a snake averaging 17 feet in length), cougars, and jaguars. It's quite a range of wildness including 1,100 tree species.

"On some of our group's hikes down paths, a guide would yell out ANTS! and we would have to rush as quickly as possible to distance ourselves from the little creatures," stated Mary "we never saw any other wildlife except for occasional monkeys up in the tree canopy. One of the biggest surprises for me was how quiet it was. No bird calls, no animal sounds. I began to reflect on some of the TV nature shows I'd seen and how this experience wasn't really like that. The crews making those documentaries probably filmed for months at a time to capture the video and audio that we see and hear on TV. It was also very hot and humid and we learned that the climate basically stays like that year round as we were only 10 degrees from the equator."

Mary and her husband also experienced the sight of pink dolphins which are a native species. They are unlike the bottlenose dolphins seen in aquarium shows but have a long slender snout and



heavens must've truly been the greatest visions of the universe's artwork.

Their boat captain, Gilberto, has been escorting tours for 17 years and very much enjoys sharing the Amazon experience with his travelers. "If you think too much about where you are though and the lack of civilization," said Mary, "it can be a little unnerving. Before our trip we were advised that medivac insurance was required so that made me think more about where we were going. We did take malaria medication. The water that came out of our sink and faucets was the river water so it had the tannins in it and every day we experienced tropical showers that lasted for about a half hour but it was the end of the rainy season after all."

One of the good points about their trip was that the time zone was the same as New England. Their flights were direct to Manaus in the Brazilian state of Amazonas and took about 5-1/2 hours of travel time. Manaus used to be an area of great wealth for the former rubber plantations. Hotel accommodations in the city were very nice and across the avenue from the opera house and a former U.S. Consulate building which has been converted to a hotel. "There appeared to be no middle class group of population," Mary believed, "you could see the very well-dressed clientele in the restaurants and hotels. You could observe many large yachts moored in the area as well. You just didn't get a sense of any middle class."

When asked if she would take a similar trip to the Amazon again in search of wild orchids, Mary stated that she and her husband were glad that they were able to go on such an adventure and were glad to see orchids in the wild but they would most likely prefer orchid shows where many varieties would be on display for their viewing pleasure.

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# LPN Kalie Hernandez is speaker for Bay Path PNA's graduation

Nurse, mother, community service award recipient and alumna Kalie Hernandez, LPN, will be the principal speaker at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy's Graduation and Pinning Ceremony on June 30th.

"A prudent nurse, Kalie has given back to the Bay Path nursing community," said Academy Director Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN. "Since her graduation in 2017, she has helped, enlightened, and befriended us. She has shown tremendous growth as a nurse, as an adult. In addition to her brilliance, Kalie has demonstrated an innate empathy and a deep understanding of the human condition, and the healthcare situation. I very much look forward to her address in June."

Hernandez, LPN of Southbridge, was recently named Case Management LPN with Venture Community Services in Sturbridge. She plays a key role in MAPS audits around the state of Massachusetts, administrative/case management, and day habilitation. Hernandez is an alumna of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy,

PN Class of 2017. In 2021, she received the Community Service Award at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. The award was



Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy alum Kalie Hernandez.

granted in recognition of Hernandez's volunteer work creating critical partnerships between the Academy, the Bay Path community and the Worcester County. The Community Service Award was developed to honor a person who is making significant contributions to the Bay Path Practical Nurs-

ing community through their time, actions, talents and dedication through any volunteer work done. Hernandez serves as a role model for compassion, service, giving back, and striving to make the world a better place. Hernandez's passion is in helping others. She has made important contributions to the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. She remains connected with Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy serving as an active member of the Advisory Committee, volunteering as a mentor, speaking at information sessions & workshops, and participating in the Mock Code Team preparation day.

While a student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Hernandez was voted as a student representative. She was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society and was a member of the UNICEF Club. Hernandez participated in the admissions panel interviews and competed in SkillsUSA earning a Silver Medal in both District and State level for the Practical Nursing category.

About Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy: Bay Path Practical

Nursing is a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed

in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam.



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## Hiring headache real at restaurants, including Bentley Pub

BY ROD LEE

Life for restaurateurs like Steve Bingham of Bentley Pub in Auburn is about to get even more difficult in the days ahead, Stephen Clark, president and CEO of the Massachusetts Restaurant Association says.

Recently, Mr. Clark told a gathering of business leaders at the University of Massachusetts Club, as reported by the State House News Service, that profitability for restaurants is down in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the biggest impacts stemming from inflation and labor costs.

Now, there is a move afoot to raise the Commonwealth's minimum wage still again, by another

dollar, from \$15 per hour. This would translate into a \$1000 increase per employee, which would have a "cascading effect" for all workers in the industry.

"I don't have any minimum wage issues," Mr. Bingham told The Feisty Fork on June 1st. "I have no employees working at minimum wage. I do have servers working at \$6.75 per hour."

Bentley Pub's more pressing challenge is on the hiring front.



A turkey burger plate at Bentley Pub in Auburn.

"Very difficult," Mr. Bingham said, of finding people to work. And it's across the board at Bentley Pub, wait staff, line cooks and so on.

The MRA's Mr. Clark does not believe the minimum wage fight will resurface this year, but it could in 2024.

The Raise Up Massachusetts coalition—a meshing of organized labor and community groups that influenced passage in 2018 of the "grand bargain" law, setting Massachusetts on the path to a \$15 minimum wage—now has its sights set on another hike. The coalition is backing legislation that would gradually increase the minimum wage to \$20 by 2027 and nearly double the minimum wage for tipped workers to \$12 an hour. The latter move would definitely impact Bentley Pub.

In the interim, Steve Bingham says the minimum wage issue is undoubtedly of more concern to "consumers" in Central Massachu-

setts. "It doesn't affect me as much as the person who pays \$30 for a meal at McDonald's," he says.

The Raise Up people filed paperwork in March exploring an initiative petition, the goal of which, they say, is "building shared prosperity in the Commonwealth through higher minimum wages and fair and adequate taxation."

Small businesses should be forewarned, if this were to advance to become a ballot question in 2024, Steve Clark says.

Ballot questions are "very expensive to defend," he said.

Hiring challenges, inflation, labor costs and steep health-insurance costs are battering small businesses; on top of this, nearly 60% of Bay Staters support a minimum wage increase to \$20 per hour.

Contact Rod Lee at [rodlee.1963@gmail.com](mailto:rodlee.1963@gmail.com) or 774-232-2999.



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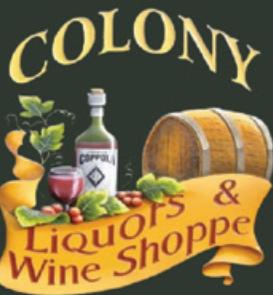
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**NOTE:** Community bulletin board-type items are welcome for inclusion in the *Happenings!* section of the Xpress newspapers. Please allow enough lead time for publication. Email your calendar or event notice to [rodlee.1963@gmail.com](mailto:rodlee.1963@gmail.com).



Judith Ferrara, author of "A Feast of Losses," about Yetta Dine and her son the celebrated poet Stanley Kunitz, will make an appearance at Booklovers' Gourmet in Webster on Saturday, June 24th.

**THROUGH JUNE 30**

• "Views from a Palace," paintings and drawings by Jim Palace, will be on display and for sale throughout the month at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster. A meet-the-artist reception will take place on Saturday, June 10 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Inspired by landscapes across the eastern coast, Mr. Palace's watercolors and colored pencil drawings capture views from the past several years involving travels he has made throughout Cape Cod, New Hampshire and North Carolina. Primarily self-taught, he has refined his craft under the tutelage of Ed Turner. Mr. Palace's skilled application of scumbling, crosshatching and burnishing can be seen in such works as "Taylor's Crossing" and "Times in the Orchard."

**SATURDAY, JUNE 24**

• "Make Your Own Junk Journal" at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, 12:30-2:00 p.m. Join in for a fun mini junk journal class. Learn how to use bits and pieces to make our journal. Junk journals are typically made with junk mail, leftover crafting supplies and miscellaneous ephemera. Each journal will have ten pages to work on. Learn how to add pockets, fold outs, journal cards and more. Class will be led by Arteria's Arts Owner Annette Provost. Cost is \$25 per person, all materials included.  
 • "A Feast of Losses" by Judith Ferrara Book Release and Signing will be held at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Join us for this free event. Signed books will be available for purchase. A Feast of Losses documents and celebrates the life of Yetta Dine, the poet Stanley Kunitz's mother, a fierce, loving, magnificent woman. Perhaps the most enduring poet of his generation, Stanley Kunitz once observed that "poetry is for the sake of the life." Based on his mother's recently recovered memoir, diary and letters, A Feast of Losses offers fresh and intimate insights into both her own and her son's lives.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 25**

• The New England Country Music Club hosts the Rhode Island Rednecks for entertainment and dancing at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:15 p.m. with live music from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. [www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub](http://www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub).

**MONDAY, JUNE 26**

• Zoo Neighbors Day will be celebrated at Southwick's Zoo, 2 Southwick St., Mendon, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 27**

• Ed the Wizard's "Reading is Magic" performance will appear at the Whitinsville Social Library starting at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy this family friendly interactive magic performance full of comedy and suspense as Ed the Wizard weaves together the importance of building and maintaining one's reading skills. Registration is required, register online at [www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL](http://www.tinyurl.com/EventsAtWSL). This program is supported in part by a grant from the Northbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 29**

• Dan Fontaine, an Elvis tribute artist, will return to Plummer Place (the Northbridge Senior Center), 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, for a performance from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. Lunch is a Memphis-themed barbecue. Tickets are \$10 each with a limit of two tickets per person.  
 • The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Robert Black at the Asa Waters Mansion. Start time is 6:00 p.m.  
 • 2023 Family Fishing Clinic: 6-8 p.m., Silver Lake Beach, Grafton. Learn how to fish with the MassWildlife Angler Education Program. Free. For ages 6 and up. Register at [grafftonrec.com](http://grafftonrec.com)

**FRIDAY, JUNE 30**

• Please join us in celebrating Senior Library Associate Marilyn Wilcox, who will be retiring on June 30 after nearly 19 years of service in the Children's Room at the Grafton Public Library. We will be honoring her with a reception on Friday June 30 from 10am-12noon at the Grafton Public Library, 35 Grafton Common and the community is invited to attend. Please RSVP via the event on our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/GraftonPublicLibraryMA> or directly to Beth Schreiber at 508-839-4649 x1836 or by email at [schreiberb@grafftonlibrary.org](mailto:schreiberb@grafftonlibrary.org).

**SATURDAY, JULY 1**

• The Rockdale Congregational Church, 42 Fowler Road, Northbridge, will hold its Annual Yard Sale from 8:00 a.m. to noon with a rain date of Saturday, July 8th. Proceeds will go to the Northbridge Association of Churches Backpack and School Supply Program.  
 • Chase Rice performs at Indian Ranch, 200 Gore Road, Webster, 1:00 p.m. [www.indianranch.com](http://www.indianranch.com).  
 • Old Sturbridge Village - Kids Free All Weekend! Up to three kids ages 17 and under are admitted for FREE per adult paying full price (\$30) From July 1 to July 4, 2023. Additional

**HAPPENINGS!**  
*continued on page 12*

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**HAPPENINGS!**

*continued from page 11*

youth are admitted at the standard rate of \$15. Pre-registration is recommended. To purchase tickets go to [osv.org/event/independence-celebration/](http://osv.org/event/independence-celebration/)

**SUNDAY, JULY 2**

• Daniels Farmstead, 286 Mendon St., Blackstone, hosts Fourth on the Farm, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
 • Honor Teachers Day will occur at Southwick's Zoo, 2 Southwick's St., Mendon, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JULY 4**

• A 4TH of July Special will be held at Southwick's Zoo, 2 Southwick St., Mendon, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



**THURSDAY, JULY 6**

• "Architects and Anarchists: who has the power to make big decisions in your community" a program sponsored by the Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor, will be presented at 6:30 p.m. at 12 Hopedale St. in Hopedale. This is a walkabout and will include a long history of habitation in the area and continue through the construction of large Draper workers' houses in the late 1800s.

**JULY 2-OCTOBER 1**

• Daniels Farmstead in Blackstone is open for its 13th season of Farmers' Markets, every Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Email [info@danielsfarmstead.org](mailto:info@danielsfarmstead.org) for further details or visit the Daniels Farmstead Foundation website at [www.danielsfarmstead.org](http://www.danielsfarmstead.org).

**SATURDAY, JULY 8**

• North Smithfield Heritage Day will be held, 83 Green St., North Smithfield, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JULY 9**

• Rumours: The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show, takes the stage at Indian Ranch, 200 Gore Road, 1:00 p.m. [www.indianranch.com](http://www.indianranch.com).

**THURSDAY, JULY 13**

• The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by the Eddie

Foreman Polka Band at the Millbury Senior Center. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JULY 20**

• The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Turtlehead at the Town Common. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JULY 27**

• The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Far from Eden at the Asa Waters Mansion. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 3**

have played in the evolution of industry in New England. The program is being presented in collaboration with Waters Farm Preservation Inc.

• The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by DJ and the Preachers at the Town Common. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 13**

• Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park and ValleyCAST Host Annual World War II Program. Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park and ValleyCAST will present an informative and interactive afternoon of



*Rumours, the Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band, takes the stage at Indian Ranch in Webster on Sunday, July 9th.*

• The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by 4EverFab at the Millbury Senior Center. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 10**

• "Of Farms and Factories:" Tour a history farm and homestead in beautiful Sutton at Waters Farm, 53 Waters Road, at 6:30 p.m. Presented by the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, this walkabout will show the important role local farmers

history at the Whitin Mill, 30-710 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, MA, from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Explore exhibits on manufacturing, see uniforms from the 1940s, and listen to The Company Bees (2:00 PM – 3:00 PM) a duo who will perform music from the era. Rangers and partners will offer short lectures at 11:30 AM and 1:00 PM inside the

**HAPPENINGS!**

*continued on page 13*

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**HAPPENINGS!**

*continued from page 12*

Singh Theater. Free, drop-in activities will be available for kids throughout the day, offered by Battleship Cove. Program will be presented in partnership with Open Sky Community Services. Free and open to all.



The Blackstone Valley River National Heritage Corridor is host a program on "Farms and Factories" at Waters Farm in Sutton on Thursday, August 10th. Pictured is a scenic view of Lake Manchaug from Waters Farm.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**

• The 2nd Annual Parking Lot Craft Fair sponsored by the Auburn Historical Society & Museum will be held at 41 South St., Auburn, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., rain or shine. Vendors are welcome. Contact Helen at auburnmuseum@verizon.net to reserve a space for \$15.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 17**

• "Adaptive Reuse in Manchaug:" This program is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at Manchaug Mills, 9 Main St., Sutton, and it will show how the creative adaptation of an old industrial complex can take shape. Attendees will meet local historian Christine Watkins who will discuss the opportunities and challenges of working in a restored mill space. The program is being presented by the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in partnership with Deb Dunleavy of Manchaug Mills Inc.  
• The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Dan Gable & the Abletones at the Asa Waters Mansion. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19**

• The Whitin Community Center will host "Cars in the Park," 60 Main St., Whitinsville.

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 24**

• The Silver Club of the Uxbridge Senior Center is planning a trip to The Theatre by the Sea to see the show "Jersey Boys." There will be a sit-down lunch at Bravo by the Sea with meal choices of haddock, chicken or pasta. Bus pickups will be at the Millbury Park and Ride in Millbury and at the Dollar General in Whitinsville. The cost including driver gratuity is \$150. Call Sue at 508-476-5820 for more details about this trip and a five-day trip in September to Penn Dutch to see the brand new show "Daniel" at Sight and Sound Theatre.  
• The Millbury Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Belit at the Town Common. Showtime is 6:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**

• The Sutton Historical Society welcomes Andrew Noone, author of "Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy," at the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Road, Sutton, at 7:00 p.m. Go to www.suttonhistoricalsociety.org for further info.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

• Bethel Lutheran Church/Grace Ministries will host a Community Yard Sale from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 90 Bryn Mawr Ave., Auburn. Rent a table for just \$25. Contact Jackie Walsh at 508-769-0879 for jackmae@charter.net to register for this event.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

• The Greenway Challenge takes place in the Blackstone Valley and around the region.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20**

• The Whitin Community Center will host a Halloween Haunted Swim & Costume Roller Skating Party. Go to www.whitincommunitycenter.com for full details.  
• The Whitin Community Center will host "Nightmare on Main St., 60 Main St., Whitinsville. Visit www.whitincommunitycenter.com for more info.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

• The Sutton Historical Society welcomes Mark Savoio of the Thompson Historical Society for the presentation "The Mass 15th of the Civil War and Wilder Holbrook, Sutton," at the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Road, at 7:00 p.m. Go to www.suttonhistoricalsociety.org for further info.



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- MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE / JULY 6 / 6:30PM
- SUNSET LAKE TOUR / JULY 7 / 7:15PM
- LAKE TOUR / JULY 9 / 10AM
- SUNSET LAKE TOUR / JULY 14 / 7:15PM
- LAKE TOUR / JULY 15 / 10AM
- 100 FM THE PIKE BOAT SCOOTIN BOOGIE CRUISE HOSTED BY CHUCK PERKS / JULY 15 / 6:30PM
- SUNSET LAKE TOUR / JULY 21 / 7:15PM
- LAKE TOUR / JULY 22 / 10AM
- LAKE TOUR / JULY 23 / 10AM
- SUNSET LAKE TOUR / JULY 28 / 7:15PM
- MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE / AUGUST 3 / 6:30PM
- LAKE TOUR / AUGUST 4 / 4PM
- SUNSET LAKE TOUR / AUGUST 11 / 7:15PM
- 100 FM THE PIKE 80'S CRUISE HOSTED BY CHUCK PERKS / AUGUST 19 / 6:30PM

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## Southwick's Zoo to Host Boston 25 News Zip Trip

Southwick's Zoo is thrilled to announce its partnership with Boston 25 News to host a Zip Trip on July 14, 2023. The Zip Trip will take place at the event pavilion located across from the Southwick's Zoo main entrance, overlooking the beautiful African Plains.

Southwick's Zoo, family owned and operated, is one of the region's premier wildlife destinations and has captivated visitors for almost 60 years with its diverse collection of animals from around the world. Southwick's Zoo provides a unique experience for families, allowing them to connect with nature, enjoy interactive exhibits and rides, learn about wildlife conservation and create lasting memories.

Boston 25 News Zip Trips have been a beloved summer tradition for two decades, bringing communities together and showcasing the unique businesses and local attractions of different towns and cities throughout the region. Southwick's Zoo, a treasured destination known for its commitment to conservation and education, is honored to be chosen as one of the venues for Boston 25 News 20th Anniversary of Zip Trips. The event will stream live on television beginning at 6:00 a.m. and will include inter-



views with Mendon newsmakers, special guests, hometown teams, and local heroes. Residents of all ages are encouraged to come out and be part of the audience and share what makes their hometown a great place to live.

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## Bike Nights at Ice Cream Pharm in Dudley

BY JANET STOICA

Okay, it's time to put your kickstands down and enjoy some cool refreshing original ice cream flavors at the Ice Cream Pharm located at Tynsley Square in Dudley. Every Tuesday from 5 - 8 p.m. bikers can truck on down and order up some frosty treats for their evening desserts. There will be weekly drawings for a gift card to the Ice Cream Pharm and how can you possibly pass that up?

Some of their new small-batch flavors include salted caramel; red, white, and blue vanilla; butter crunch; Boston blackout with brownie bits in a fudge and chocolate base; moose tracks; Oreo chocolate chip; blueberry crumble; and toasted coconut. There are alcohol-laced ice cream drinks too like Orange Creamsicle made with vanilla ice cream, orange soda, and vanilla vodka; Pink Dream mixed



with vanilla ice cream, pink lemonade, and peach vodka; a special Harley-Davidson drink; a Mai Tai sorbet; and even an especially tasty raspberry chardonnay sorbet!

Plenty of sundaes are calling your name along with homemade ice cream pies and cakes made to your specs. Adult cakes and pies can be ordered with alcohol infusions as well. And, you just have to try their Ice Cream Nachos made with dipped wafer cookies. It's a hit! Indulge yourself on a hot summer night, c'mon. Sundae toppings include strawberry, caramel, butterscotch, Reese's peanut butter cups and even Kit Kats with whipped cream and a cherry on top. More no-bake desserts will be popping onto the menu soon. Come one, come all, Tuesday Nights are Bike Nights! See you there.

Ice Cream Pharm, 185 West Main Street, Dudley MA 01571. Phone: (774) 696-0193.

Hours: Tuesday (Bike Night!) 5-8 p.m.; Wed-Sat 3-8 p.m.; Sun 3-7 p.m.; closed Monday.

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# Dudley Voter Turnout 31% - Overrides Defeated

BY JANET STOICA

With a total of 8,678 registered voters in Dudley, 2,680 citizens came out to vote on Monday, June 12. Official voting results for the town of Dudley's recent Annual Town Election and Ballot Questions are as follows:

For a three-year term as Selectman, Kerry Cyganiewicz, Sr. kept his seat with 1,409 votes. Challenger David Durgin received 894 votes. For a three-year term on the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District Committee: Maureen Chickering won with 1,097 votes. Jaimie L. Pablico received 736 votes followed by write-in candidates Nicole Leblanc with 351 votes and Jarrod Manzi with 16. A three-year term on the Board of Health had Heather Ruth Arnold winning with 1,255 votes and Anna Chojnacki-Durgin securing 829 votes.

Voting for two Library Trustees for three-year terms had two write-in candidates securing seats: Adriana Nica-Buda with 73 votes and Kathleen Horne with 43 votes. A "Failure to Elect" notation was placed on the one-year unexpired term for a Library Trustee as there

were no formal candidates nor were there any write-in candidates for the position. The three-year term for the Water/Sewer Commissioner position had no formal candidate printed on the ballot but there were three write-ins with Justin Dolan securing the most votes with 70, Thomas Chojnacki 12 votes, and David Baxter 5 votes.

Daniel Edmiston won a two-year unexpired term on the Planning Board with 1,713 votes followed by write-in candidate Gary Bond with 10 votes.

Non-contested elected positions include Moderator Christopher Starczewski; Assessor Conrad M. Allen; SWCRV School District Alfred C. Reich, Jr.; Planning Board for three years Richard P. Clark; and Dudley Housing Authority five-year term Donald J. Cristina.

Question 1 on the ballot asking residents to assess an additional \$2,668,797.00 in real estate and personal property taxes for the town's operational expenses in the amount of \$1,674,514.00 and for the purposes of operational expenses for the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District in the amount of \$994,283.00 for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/2023 was



defeated with votes of 1,791 no to 880 yes.

Additionally, Question 2 requesting an additional assessment of \$463,000.00 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of funding the town's share of the costs of a high school feasibility study by the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District, as required under the Massachusetts School Building Authority School Building Grant Program as recommended by the Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee for the fiscal year beginning 7/1/2023 was also defeated by votes of 1,735 no to 931 yes.

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# 4 Tips to Play a Better Golf Game!

BY DR. SEAN T. LORDAN DPT

**W**ith golf season back in full swing, it's time to make sure your backswing generates enough power to bring you just before the first snowfall!

Here are 4 tips to play a better golf game this season.

1. Practice 10 minutes a day. Whether it's an at home putting mat, using your favorite swing tool

(I like the swing proplus), or just mimicking the golf swing for 3 sets of 10. Ten minutes of practice daily, will help you become better each day.

2. Do these stretches: Open books, cross arm stretch, piriformis stretch

**Open Books:** Lay on your side. With your bottom leg lying straight, put your top leg at 90 degrees. Place your bottom arm, straight out in front of you, keeping your shoulder straight. Place your palm up. Place your other arm on top of the arm that is on the ground, palm down. Next open your top arm, opening your body to 180 degrees and return to your starting position.

**Cross- Arm Stretch:** Standing with your legs shoulder width apart, take one arm across your body. With your other arm pull

your arm close to your body to feel a deep stretch. Hold the stretch for 15 to 30 seconds. Repeat with your other arm.

**Piriformis Stretch:** Lie on your back with your legs straight. Lift your one leg and bend your knee.

With your opposite hand, reach across your body, and then gently pull your knee toward your opposite shoulder. Hold the stretch for 15 to 30 seconds. Repeat with your other leg.

3. Do this for strength: Pallof Press, Chops lo to hi and hi to lo, and planks. Core strength is important in golf to protect your spine and to deliver maximal efficiency when striking the golf ball.

**Pallof Press:** Anchor a resistance band to a doorway. Hold the resistance band or cable in front of your torso while pressing it out and back.

**Chops hi to lo and lo to hi:** Anchor a resistance band to the top of a doorway. With both hands, grip the band. Step away, and stand sideways to the band's anchor point. With near straight arms, make a sweeping, chopping-like movement diagonally downward. Return to a starting position in a controlled manner.

**Planks:** Begin in the plank position, face down with your

forearms and toes on the floor. Your elbows are directly under your shoulders and your forearms are facing forward. Your head is relaxed and you should be looking at the floor. Hold this for 20-30 seconds and then rest. Repeat 3 times.

4. Develop a relationship with your local Physical Therapist (PT). A PT will evaluate you to see where your specific deficiencies and efficiencies are. They will help you move and feel better to get the most out of your golf game. You do not need to be in pain or to see your PCP in order to make an appointment with your local PT.

Thank you for checking out this month's edition of "Tips From Your Neighborhood Physical Therapist". As always, if you have any questions for me personally, I can be reached at 508-861-1010 or drlordan@conciiergephysicaltherapy.com.

*Dr. Sean T. Lordan is a doctor of physical therapy and the author of "11 Winning Secrets To Stop Aging In Its Tracks." He is the owner of Concierge Physical Therapy with locations in Sutton, Shrewsbury and now Hopkinton!*

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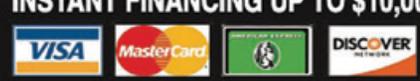
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# Dudley's library faces decertification because of budget cuts

BY JANET STOICA

**“W**hatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.” Walter Cronkite.

“Civilized nations build libraries; lands that have lost their soul close them down.” Toby Forward. “A library is a place to learn what teachers were afraid to teach you.” Alan Dershowitz

Will it be quality of life or your tax bill? On June 12th, Dudley voters will be deciding their town's future funding of not only the Pearl L. Crawford Memorial

**PLEASE REFER TO "DUDLEY VOTER TURNOUT 31%, OVERRIDES DEFEATED" ON PAGE 15 FOR VOTING RESULTS**

ing doors of knowledge in Dudley. What a shame. There are over 100 patrons daily using the library's educational displays of excellence.

Yes, there will always be Google and our smartphones and tablets but there will never be a substitute for educational gatherings of young and old at a central location that does not discriminate by any category. There is no substitute for asking a library staff member

other libraries in the regional system too. No book borrowing, no material borrowing, no nothing. “I know these are tough decisions to make,” said Director Carter, “but we wish it wasn't our library that will suffer. Because of the way the state regulations are set up, even if we fund-raised or accepted donations, the town of Dudley would not meet its state requirements for library funding obligations.” There are 369 town libraries in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Dudley will no longer be a state-certified library. There are requirements for basic services and hours open to the public.

Ms. Carter has drafted her library budget and her staff thus far will not see their hours slashed. Utility costs have risen dramatically. Many of their materials and supplies will be severely affected. Building maintenance will be cut including simple but very important things like plumbing and/or electrical repairs, IT costs for computer maintenance and upkeep that so many local citizens depend on, staff professional development courses will be deleted, simple office supplies like paper, staples, rubber bands, everyday items, will be eliminated. “We'll still be here to help people,” said Ms. Carter, “but we'll have fewer resources is what it boils down to. Our Friends of the Library will be called on for even greater assistance and they do so much for us currently. Their volunteerism is so valuable. Our endowment from the Crawford family limits our usage of those funds as they cover programs only. This all depends on our local citizenry. Many patrons are greatly upset by the upcoming budget cuts.” Drusilla Carter is certainly correct. The impact of these cuts

how to find, how to search, how to locate a subject of your choice. None! As a child, I spent my summers at my local library. I would borrow three to four books weekly. Mystery novels, adventure tales, you name it. My parents encouraged me to take advantage of our exceptional town resource and my bike and I knew the way to our library blindfolded. My grades in school were excellent, spelling bees were my forte where I competed with a few others for the championship title. All this, including my love of writing, I attribute to my library visits and the adventures my books and imagination took me on from one end of the world to the other.

Because of the impending decertification, Dudley library patrons are looking at loss of use for their library privileges at all

will be felt for years to come. The lack of services and library decertification will surely be a black eye for Dudley.

The fact is that the town of Dudley has one of the lowest tax rates in Worcester County. In fact, besides Royalston (population: 1,276) with a tax rate of 9.79 mill, Dudley (population: 11,802) has the second lowest tax rate in the county at 10.16 mill vs. an average Worcester County tax rate of 14.42 mill. An interesting statistic indeed. Will citizens, young and

old alike, unite to save their local library and town budget or does the usual apathy reign as it does for so many of us today? Please get involved Dudley citizens, show your true colors, and fund your local library and police and fire and highway departments. Don't sit back and wait for someone else to do it. YOU are the factor! Monday, June 12, is your day to make a difference. The Municipal Center polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com



Children's Story Time at the library in Dudley.

Library but also for that of many other town departments including their regional school system.

“All town departments have been directed to cut 10% of their current budgets,” said Drusilla Carter, director of the Crawford Library. “Our town administrator has advised each department to prepare for 10% cuts. For us, that means a \$39,000 cut combined with an additional loss of \$25,000 from state funding bringing the total to \$64,000. The \$25,000 funding reduction from the state is due to Massachusetts' library funding mandates.” These current mandates refer to a 2.5% annual increase that every town's budget must include for local libraries. The library will now automatically lose \$25,000 of state funding and become decertified. A huge hit for those who come through the shin-



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SPORTS

# SH boys tennis team heads into tournament on a winning streak

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Last spring the Shepherd Hill boys tennis team was only able to secure four or five wins, but this year Coach Michael Rapoza had some newcomers join the team and the Rams were able to punch their ticket to the Division 2 State Tournament. Shepherd Hill posted a 13-4 regular season record, including an 11-game winning streak as they head into the post-season.

“We had a talented group of athletes that came together this year,” Rapoza said. “We only had three returners and the rest were newcomers, a lot of them being multiple sport athletes that competed every day.”

Shepherd Hill will square off against Somerville in a preliminary round match with the winner going to number two seed Westborough.

Senior Ryan Brooks, who played first singles for the Rams, was the biggest reason behind Shepherd Hill’s success. The senior went 14-2 overall (8-1 in the Midwatch

League) and according to Rapoza, he set the tone for the team all year long.

“He makes us better in practice. Last year he was an All-Star, this year he was the league MVP,” the Shepherd Hill coach said. “By winning at first singles he allows the other players to go out and play their game, knowing they only need to go 2-2 the rest of the way to be victorious. We’ve had a lot of close matches so that was important.”

The Rams have another senior playing second singles, but while he has played for the high school he did not play last season. Nick Veronis took last spring off but decided to return to the team this year. He was very competitive going up against some of the talented players in the league and was able to hold his own.

Rounding out the singles circuit was junior Adrian Roach, a soccer player who decided to give tennis a shot this season. Coming from a tennis family, he was right at home on the court where he was named a league All-Star by going 11-2 (6-1

in the league) at the third singles position.

Playing on the doubles courts, Rapoza has two tandems that are pretty much opposites. First doubles junior Luke Poirier is not only a returning athlete from last year’s team, but he is the only constant. Rapoza has three other tennis players in sophomore Reid Szela, senior Alek Poirier and junior Nick Dameli who will have rotated into first doubles as the teammate of the younger Poirier.

“All three bring something different to the table each time they take to the court,” Rapoza said. “I rotated them in and out all year depending on the situation and how they were playing.”

While Poirier never knows who is playing with on a regular basis, the second doubles team has gotten consistent play all year long. Freshman Tyler Heath and junior Zach Wennerberg (his first year playing tennis) went an impressive 9-5 this spring. The duo both also play basketball and worked extremely hard this season.



The Shepherd Hill boys tennis team, on a tournament track. Photo courtesy of Casson Foster Photography

“They had some rough stretches with their shots, but their athletic ability allowed them to get to balls and keep plays alive,” the Rams Coach said.

Prior to the season the coach knew that his team would come out fighting, but he never expected what his team was able to accomplish on the courts this spring.

“Coming in I thought that we’d be competitive, not necessarily to the extent that we’d finish second in the league, one game behind Nashoba (who we split with during the regular season) and getting a home match in the tournament,” Rapoza said. “We were able to knock off

some pretty talented teams along the way, including teams that we have not had too much success against in the past. It was an impressive season.”

As the team heads into the Division 2 Tournament, the coach noted that they are not going to change anything and just go out and play the way that they’ve played all season long.

“We are going to do what we’ve done to get here, play solid matches and see how far it takes us,” the coach said. “If we do get through that first round we’re going to have to go up against a powerhouse, where we’ll need to play at our best.”



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TALES FROM BEYOND

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# Troubled history haunts Smith's Castle in Rhode Island

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

The history of Smith's Castle in North Kingstown, Rhode Island goes as far back as 1637 when Roger Williams and Richard Smith established a trading post on the land for local tribes and colonists to swap goods.

Williams, the founder of the Rhode Island colony, felt it important to build a trading post in the area in order to make friends with the local tribes. Richard Smith migrated to present day North Kingstown to build a home there. It was at the time called Smith's Blockhouse, located in what is still known as Cocumcussoc. Being on the water, it seemed perfect for trade until the outbreak of King Philip's War in 1675. There had already been Indian attacks upon the land and fearing for his family, he built tunnels that ran under the house and out to Rabbit Island very close by.

After the Great Swamp skirmish, the English militia hiked through the cold and snow to Smith's home where many were nursed back to health but some, unfortunately, succumbed to their wounds and

rigors of the brutal ordeal. Forty in all were buried in a single grave on the site. The area is well marked and easy to get to.

Another tragedy took place at the home after the fight. Joshua Teft was tried and found guilty of treason for helping the Narragansetts during the confrontation. He was duly hanged, drawn and quartered. Seventy men were ordered to remain behind after the Great Swamp fight, using the blockhouse as a temporary garrison. The day after they left, the Indians burned the house down in retaliation for the Great Swamp massacre. It was rebuilt in 1678 and thrived throughout the ages. In the 18th Century, it became a thriving plantation and is now labeled as the oldest in the nation. The property is also part of the Rhode Island Slave History Medallion program which promotes public awareness in regard to the awareness of former slavery in Rhode Island.

During the Revolutionary War, soldiers stayed at the secluded territory and according to historians of the manor, a few skirmishes on the land resulted in the



Image: www.smithscastle.org/

untimely demise of some soldiers during the war.

Combining the events from King Philip's War, the hanging of Joshua Teft, casualties of the Revolutionary War and the families of the property who died of more natural causes, it is inevitable that there would be ghosts lingering on the property. The ghosts of the castle seem to be trapped in an

eternal struggle to right the negative energy that holds them to the homestead. Phantoms of people in colonial attire are occasionally seen wandering through various rooms. Some appear out of nowhere then vanish into thin air. Various witnesses have seen a soldier in a revolutionary uniform walking along the grounds near the water. Perhaps he was one who met a sad

fate at the house or he is looking out to sea for something. His aeriform presence is semi-transparent. Noises from inside the house give the curators and other guests a start, as many times the origin of the din is in the room they are in.

Voices and sounds of items falling are also heard by the docents who wear period clothing during tours to capture the mood and perhaps attract a few of the long deceased tenants of the house. There are reports of phantom slaves who died while hiding in the escape tunnels below the house. The tunnels have long been closed due to their dangerously frail condition yet the moans of the past and the apparitions of those who once tenanted there still permeate the walls and air of the ancient building.

Smith's Castle is a very great place to visit even if you don't see the four centuries of the "other" living history.

The house is located at 55 Richard Smith Drive off Route 1. Follow same directions for places above. The house is closed from Mid-December to Mid-April.

Call (401) 294-3521 for more details.

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## LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

# Luke becomes a dirt digger, and teaches a lesson

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

Spring 2023 has brought forth new growth in Luke's personality. More specifically, he's become a dirt digger. I've watched him swipe dirt with the speed of



a texting teen. My lawn, verdant with fresh grass and deep holes, reflects life with a grown pup. "I need to get to the bottom of this." Head down, tail stiff, his focus is manic. Fresh dirt falls like powdered sugar around new holes. He looks up at me every so often like a lion who's found chocolate pudding in the garbage. "I like to dig."

Dogs, Google tells me, dig because they are bored or to bury prey. Luke Valentino, a current unneutered male, exposes a third reason.

"Luke. Please." I caught him peeing on a worm after sniffing (and digging) him out. "I don't know who you think you are Mr. Slime, but I'm the boss of this yard." Dirty deeds aside, I can't help but appreciate my pup's natural tendency to play in the earth. I've watched him zoom around

is difficult with a sixteen-month-old digger. He grabs Luke by the collar to (literally) rub his nose in the dirt. "Nooooo."

Luke smiles down at one of numerous holes. "That bitch was my best work yet."

Never a fan of shame and blame, I've found that applying "natural consequences" works better for my adolescent pup. Imagine scolding a child for building a sandcastle in the sand. "How dare you make that hole in the earth!" The process of digging is natural and playful, an act of innocence and an expression of a dog's personality. Luke is a big kid wearing a fur coat. Besides, Luke Valentino, quite admirably, has not chewed on a single piece of furniture, as many pups do. Granted, he's torn the guts out of a stuffed elephant, but that's about it. "It's just a phase," I tell my

the yard like a fool falling in love. I've watched him rub his back in the grass as though scratching an itch. I've watched him sniff new blooms.

Spring has sprung. My pup wants a taste of it.

"We need to do something about Luke's digging. He's wrecking the whole yard." My husband is unimpressed by Luke's spring cheer. Keeping up with the Jones's

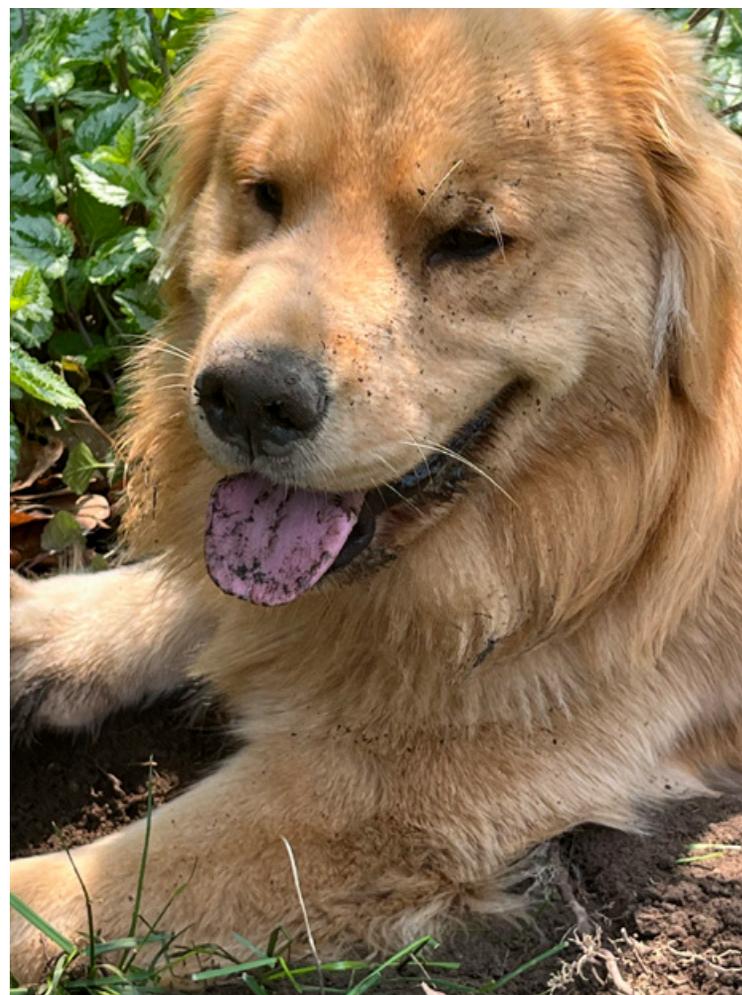
husband. "Leave Luke alone. He's just being a dog." My dog-friendly rationale has led to a rather ironic outcome. I've respected my pup's needs to be a dog and, in turn, he's understood my human side.

"You do yard work, Momma?" Luke watches me use a pitchfork to make final touches to one more dirt-filled hole. He stares up at me with a champion smile. His body is finally catching up to his head. He's a beautiful, curious dog. I read his mind. "My Momma is so good at everything she sets her mind to. She types and dances and does yard work, too. Look at her go!" Dogs love us unconditionally. They have no agenda or expectations for us. They love every part of us.

"Luke, want to go for a walk?" My cheek is smeared with dirt, but Luke doesn't notice.

He translates the offer. I watch his smile close then open again as he thinks about it. "I was thinking the same thing!! I love going for walks!"

"You created a lot of work for Mummy, Luke. You'll have to wait." I emphasize the word wait. He inspects the covered hole and smiles again. I can tell he's thinking about



expansive. He could have dug in so many other areas but, instead, he chose this one. My mind draws up the memory. A few weeks back he sat and watched me plant flowers there.

He lifts his chin while I pet him. "I was thinking you could plant more flowers here, and that way you'll always remember me—Luke Valentino—your favorite Golden Retriever."

I cover the hole, but not completely. I think about all the dogs I've had; good dogs I've loved, missed, and cried for. Someday, I'll wish for one more day to watch Luke Valentino dig one more hole. Dog owners understand the empty holes in our hearts when we lose our pets. What I wouldn't give to have one more day with Lincoln!

"I love you, Luke." I massage the ears of my young dog's big head.

I've since planted marigolds in this garden for my favorite golden, Luke Valentino. There's no need to wait for his passing to remember him.

He's with me now and, together, we're filling the holes.

Write to Amy at amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Find Luke Valentino on Instagram @livingwithlukevalentino

his actions. "Let's go for a walk!" But not for long. Luke is a dog. His guilt is short-lived. He's moved on three seconds ago. We move away from the hole (pun intended) incident. Boredom strikes a few days later. A young dog's energy is boundless. There aren't enough hours in the day, it seems, to take Luke on the walks, runs, playdates, and dog-friendly adventures which he requires. I gaze down at my

yard to see the latest surprise, one that takes my breath away.

"What are you doing, Luke?"

Luke is digging another hole, but this one is different. This one is created at the border of my Mother's Day Garden, in a spot naturally "prepped" for a new flower. "What do you think, Momma?" I can barely believe my eyes. He shows me his work with a nose smeared in dirt. My yard is

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REAL ESTATE

# Why homebuyers need an expert agent by their side

The process of buying a home can feel a bit intimidating, even under normal circumstances. And today's market is not normal.



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

There continues to be a very limited number of homes for sale, and that's creating bidding wars and driving home prices back up as buyers compete over the available homes.

Navigating all of this can be difficult if you're trying to do it alone. That's why having a skilled expert to guide you through the home buying process is super important, especially today. Advice and guidance from a professional real estate agent can be invaluable, especially during a hot or unpredictable housing market.

Here are just a few of the ways a REALTOR, or real estate expert, makes a big difference:

**Experience.** We know the ins and outs of what's happening today, how it impacts buyers, and how to manage any hurdles that may pop up.

**Education.** Knowledge is power when it comes to buying a home. We will simply and effectively explain market conditions and translate what they mean for you so you can feel confident in your decision.

**Negotiations.** We advocate for your best interests. Having an expert on your side provides assistance with the written offer and purchase agreement. We also help you negotiate potential seller concessions if the inspection reveals issues with the home.

**Contracts.** We guide you through the disclosures and contracts necessary in today's heavily regulated environment.

**Pricing.** Making an offer and negotiating with a seller can be one of the most difficult and stressful parts of the home-buying process. We will help you understand what similar homes are selling for so you have the full picture of what you may want to offer.

All of these reasons combined may be why 86% of recent buyers used an agent according to the latest Home Buyers and Sellers Generational Trends Report from the National Association of Realtors (NAR). NAR also has this to say about why an agent is so essential today:

"A great real estate agent will

guide you through the home search with an unbiased eye, helping you meet your buying objectives while staying within your budget. Agents are also a great source when you have questions about local amenities, utilities, zoning rules, contractors, and more."

What's the key to choosing the right expert? It starts with trust. You'll want to know you can trust the advice they're giving you, so you need to make sure you're connected with a true professional. No one can provide perfect advice because it's impossible to know exactly what's going to happen at every turn, especially in today's market. But a true professional like the Marzeotti Group can give you the best possible advice based on the information and situation at hand.

We will help advocate for you throughout the process and coach you on the essential knowledge you need to make confident decisions. That's exactly what you want and deserve. It's critical to have an expert on your side who is skilled in navigating today's housing market. If you're planning to buy a home this year, connect with a member of The Marzeotti Group or another trusted real estate advisor who will give you the best advice and guide you along the way.

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**TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING** *dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com*

# ETFs can spell opportunity

**M**utual funds offer investors a chance to own shares in dozens of companies, as well as bonds, government securities and other investments. But you might be able to broaden your portfolio further by owning another



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

type of fund — an exchange-traded fund (ETF).

An ETF, like a mutual fund, can own an array of investments, including stocks, bonds and other securities. Many ETFs are passively managed in that they track the performance of a specific index, such as the S&P 500. In this respect, they differ from most mutual funds, which tend to be actively managed — that is, the fund managers

are free to buy and sell individual securities within the fund.

Another difference between ETFs and mutual funds is that ETFs are traded like stocks, so shares are bought and sold throughout the day based on the current market price, whereas mutual funds are traded just once a day, at a price calculated at the end of the trading day. Whether this ability to make intra-day trades is meaningful to you will likely depend on how active you are in managing your own investments.

For some people, the main attraction of ETFs is their tax advantages. Because many ETFs are index funds, they generally do much less buying and selling than actively managed funds — and fewer sales mean fewer taxable capital gains. These ETFs are somewhat similar to index mutual funds, which are also considered to be tax-efficient, as opposed to actively managed funds, which constantly buy and sell investments, passing on taxable capital gains to you throughout the life of the fund. (Keep in mind, though, that mutual funds that trade frequently may still be appropriate for your financial strategy. While taxes are one element to consider when evaluating mutual funds, or any investment, other factors, such as growth potential and ability to diversify your portfolio, are also important.)

ETFs typically also have lower operating costs than mutual funds, resulting in lower overall fees. Part of the reason for these lower costs is that actively managed mutual funds, by definition, usually have larger management teams devoted to researching, buying and selling

securities. By contrast, passively managed ETFs may have leaner, less-costly management structures.

But while most ETFs may share the same basic operating model, many types are available. You can invest in equity ETFs, which may track stocks in a particular industry or an index of equities (S&P 500, Dow Jones Industrial Average, and so on), or you can purchase fixed-income ETFs, which invest in bonds. ETFs are also available for currencies and commodities.

Of course, as with all investments, ETF investing does involve risk. Your principal and investment return will fluctuate in value, so when you redeem your ETF, it may be worth more or less than the original investment. Also, liquidity may be an issue. Some ETFs may be more difficult to sell than other investments, which could be a problem if you need the money quickly. And because it's so easy to move in and out of ETFs, you might be tempted to "overtrade" rather than following an appropriate long-term investment strategy.

A financial professional can evaluate your situation and help you determine whether ETFs are suitable for your needs. At a minimum, they represent another investment opportunity that may prove useful as you work toward your financial goals.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert Street, Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or [dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com](mailto:dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com). Edward Jones Member SIPC*

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Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (intention), Amen.

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**

THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

# Why does older Honda's tire pressure light stay on?

**Q.** I have a 13-year-old Honda with 120,000 miles on it. The issue is the TPMS (tire pressure light) comes on. This is not the light I see when the outside temperature is very cold, but the actual letters TPMS. The car is garaged throughout the winter, only coming out for family, "we need another car" emergencies from November to late April. Because of the sensor being on I am always checking the tire pressure- which remains at a constant approximately 32 psi. So- my question, why is this sensor on all the time?

**A.** There are two types of TPMS systems direct and indirect. The indirect system measures wheel/tire rotation using the anti-lock brake system. A low tire will roll at a different speed than a fully inflated tire. The other system is a direct system which uses battery powered radio transmitter at each wheel and will give an actual pressure reading for each tire (most cars). When the transmitter stops functioning, the TPMS system light will come on to tell you there is an issue with the system. The typical life of these battery powered systems is seven to ten years. Until you decide to replace the sensors, continue what you are doing and check the tire pressure once per month.

**Q.** My 2005 Honda Accord with 150,000 miles recently had a few quick power drops while cruising at 60 miles per hour as well as frequent stalling while idling. I suspect the cause was bad gasoline. I flushed the system with Techron fuel system cleaner and high-test gas at various times. Everything ran fine until four weeks later when the car again had two quick power drops while cruising at 55 miles per hour and

one stall while idling. The check engine light came on but went off after 10 minutes. The car did not save the codes. My mechanic says the fuel filter and pump may need to be replaced, which would be expensive, and he is not sure if that is the problem. Any thoughts?

**A.** More testing will be needed to make an accurate diagnosis, but I suspect your mechanic may be correct. The best testing method would be to monitor the fuel system while driving and record fuel pressure when the engine acts up.

**Q.** What do you think of the new Ford Maverick truck and how does it compare to the Hyundai Santa Cruz?

**A.** If I were to buy a Maverick truck I would buy the front wheel drive hybrid, to me it is the best value of just about any vehicle today. As you move up to the all-wheel-drive version with the larger engine, then the Hyundai starts to look like then better vehicle. Both are particularly good vehicles and, in my opinion, sorely missed the category of small useful trucks that are not outrageously expensive.

**Q.** I have my dad's 1985 Ford Crown Victoria and it has not run in at least 10 years and has been sitting in a carport. I want to see about getting it back on the road and thought it would be a good project with my kids. I was on YouTube and was watching Vice Grip garage and the host gets old car running all the time. My question is where to start?

**A.** You will have a fair amount of work ahead of you. The fuel in the tank has certainly gone bad, the fuel pump probably frozen up and won't pump fuel and of course it will need a new battery. The cooling system, belts, hoses, thermostat and perhaps even the radiator may need replacement. Then once the engine is running (you may need

to replace the spark plugs) you need to evaluate the brake system. More than likely the brakes are rusted and even brake lines could be leaking or in need of replacement. The first place to start is to see if the engine will even turn over, sitting for 10 plus years the engine could be locked up. And of course, you will not know the condition of the transmission until you get the engine running. If you have the time and budget, and consider this a labor of love, then give it a go. If this were just a car you were going to fix up and drive, I would probably look for something else. Also keep in mind that Derek the host of VGG is a character but also is a skilled technician with years of experience.

*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 questions to jpaul@aanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on Facebook at mrjohnfpaul.*

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