

## Free school lunches are likely to be on the way



On Aug. 1, the Massachusetts Legislature said 'yes' to a budget proposal that mandates all state public schools provide all K-12 students with free meals, extending a program that was both necessary and popular during the COVID - 19 pandemic.

Federal funding to continue

the free meals program ran out last year. Some states moved to put the program back in their own budgets, including Massachusetts which earmarked \$171.5 million to supply the free lunches.

If Governor Maura Healey signs the budget into law, parents will no longer have to worry

about paying cafeteria charges.

Rep. James McGovern (D-Worcester) said, "I'm extra proud to be from Massachusetts today. In our Commonwealth, under the

### FREE LUNCHES

*continued on page 2*



## History is in the details

Old Sturbridge Village will host its annual Textile Weekend event from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., on Saturday, Aug. 12, and Sunday, Aug. 13. Explore historical textiles and traditional crafts associated with them all weekend long. Included with standard daytime admission or membership to the Village, the event will focus on the theme of "Behind the Scenes & Seams", highlighting the original clothing and textile-related objects

from the museum's permanent collections.

As a follow-up to last year's popular demonstration, special activities during this year's event will include sewing two dresses in real time over the course of the weekend - this time for a mother and daughter! Skilled sewists will assemble for two days to complete all the stitches needed to create two dresses, while periodically trying the dresses on the wearers to test the fit and showcase progress.

"We're thrilled to expand upon last year's successful dressmaking project with double the dresses for 2023," said Carrie Midura, Coordinator of Historical Clothing and Households. "In addition to having the help of our skilled dressmaking staff and long-term volunteers, it is especially exciting to be able to include five talented college students during the final weekend of their summer internship at Old Sturbridge Village. They've been studying the fashions and sewing techniques of the 1830s and we can't wait to see them put their newly gained skills and knowledge to use during Textile Weekend."

Additional demonstrations will take place each day (subject to change), including:

- Wool dyeing demonstrations at the Herb Garden
- Reproducing a tin sewing box, based on an original example
- Tailoring men's fashionable 19th-century garments
- Discussion of 1830s knitting and weaving patterns with skilled

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## FREE LUNCHES

continued from page 1

leadership of the Healey-Driscoll administration, we recognize that our kids are 100% of our future. They should be learning, growing, and thriving—not worrying about where their next meal will come from or how to pay their lunch debt.”

“If signed into law, free universal school meals will literally change lives, full stop. No child in Massachusetts will ever have to wonder how to get through the school day on an empty stomach.



Thank you to Speaker Mariano, Senate President Spilka, Senator Sal DiDomenico, Representative Andy Vargas, and all the amazing advocates who made this happen—including Project Bread and the Feed Kids Coalition,” he said. “Now we keep pushing to take this policy nationwide and continue building on the momentum of last year’s White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health. The promise of this country ought to be that no child ever goes hungry in any school.”

“The promise of this country ought to be that no child ever goes hungry in any school.”

U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Mass.), one of the most outspoken anti-hunger advocates in Congress, applauded the Massachusetts Legislature for making

free school meals permanent and said the move «will literally change lives, full stop.»

“No child in Massachusetts will ever have to wonder how to get through the school day on an empty stomach,” said McGovern. “The promise of this country ought to be that no child ever goes hungry in any school.”

“We would not be where we are today without the voices and activism of thousands of advocates and organizations, who made it clear that feeding our kids must be a statewide priority,” Erin McAleer, president and CEO of the Massachusetts anti-hunger group Project Bread, said in a statement Monday. «We are grateful to all of our partners across the state and in the Legislature who enabled this victory.

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## OSV

continued from page 1

needleworkers

- Working with a variety of plants and tools to create braid for making straw bonnets and hats

Be sure to also see Old Sturbridge Village’s “Needle & Thread: The Art and Skill of Clothing, an Early 19th Century Family” exhibit. The exhibit explores the complex story of where materials came from, fashion and practical clothing advice, and the emergence of the readymade clothing industry. Clothing featured in the exhibit changes periodically for the different seasons, so even if you have been to the exhibit before, there is always something new to be seen.

“Our newest textile exhibit, Needle & Thread, has been on view for a year and has been the perfect opportunity to focus on the extraordinary breadth of Old Sturbridge Village’s textile collection and contextualize the intersection between domestic sewing and skilled needle trades,” says Rebecca Beall, Collections Manager and Curator of Textiles. “A recent partial reinstallation highlights the nexus between the Village’s textile collection and the creation of historical reproduction garments, particularly the meticulous work of recent Ddora Foundation Costume Fellows in an exhibition of reproduction historical clothing and the extant garments.”

For more details on the event or to purchase tickets, visit: <https://www.osv.org/event/textile-week-end-2023/>.

## BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

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**4th Friday:** The YankeeXpress North: Auburn, Oxford

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## Local residents makes Dean's List at Wentworth Institute of Technology

The following local students have made the dean's list at Wentworth Institute of Technology for the Spring 2023 semester.

- Sophia Aquilino of Douglas, Mass.
- Kyle Fleming of Douglas, Mass.
- Aidan Gordon of Douglas, Mass.
- Joseph LaBonne of Douglas, Mass.
- Derek Lemberger of Dudley, Mass.
- Olivia Valentine of Oxford, Mass.
- Emily Devine of Sutton, Mass.
- Conner Pattison of Sutton, Mass.
- Matthew Brook of Uxbridge, Mass.
- Samantha Kauzens of Uxbridge, Mass.
- Robert Whiton of Uxbridge, Mass.

## Gaming event set for August

Open Sky Community Services will co-host a gaming event in collaboration with ES Gaming, EasterSeals MA Assistive Technology, Impruvon Health, and Seven Hills at the Alternatives Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville.

This free and exciting event will be held on Sunday, Aug. 20 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. There will be a gaming truck, lawn games, a DJ and Anzio's pizza. All ages and ability levels welcome.

Registration is now open at <https://bit.ly/FSC-Gaming-Event>. This is a free event, but pre-registration is required. Please contact Jennifer MacNeill with any questions at 508-318-7566 or [jennifer](mailto:jennifer@openskycs.org).

[macneill@openskycs.org](mailto:macneill@openskycs.org).

### About the Family Support Center

The Family Support Center is a program of Open Sky Community Services, funded by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) that supports children and adults with developmental/intellectual challenges and Autism who live with their families in the communities of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Franklin, Grafton, Hopdale, Medway, Mendon, Milford, Millville, Millbury, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton and Uxbridge. The Center is available to support the entire family.

### About Open Sky Community Services

Open Sky Community Services, Inc. offers a wide range of services for adults, adolescents, and children with mental health challenges, developmental and intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other complex challenges throughout Central Massachusetts. Open Sky, which was formed through the affiliation of Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. and The Bridge of Central Massachusetts, has over 1,300 dedicated employees and an annual budget of \$90M with more than 100 programs throughout the region. For more information, please visit [www.openskycs.org](http://www.openskycs.org).

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## Thank You

On behalf of the Wings of Song choral group, we would like to thank all those who helped make our Blue Boat Home concerts such a success. We would also like to thank Melissa Hoffer, MA Climate Chief for attending our concert at Shepherd Hill Regional High School and speaking about climate change. With the generous support of all our attendees, friends and contributors, we were able to donate \$300 to the Environmental Defense Fund which was tripled by a special fundraising program they were involved in at the time our donation was made.

Wings of Song will resume rehearsals in the fall on Sept 11 at 7PM at St Anne's Church, Fiskdale with our next program, Celtic Noels. We are also resuming our annual auction on Nov 4 at the Federated Church of Sturbridge/Fiskdale. Our concerts as always will be admission free and we strive to keep our membership dues as low as possible. We continue to rely on audience contributions and WoS Friends donations to continue offering high-quality concerts to our community. If you would like additional information on the chorus or our auction, please visit our facebook page, [www.facebook.com/wingsof-song](http://www.facebook.com/wingsof-song) or our website, [www.wingsofsong.us](http://www.wingsofsong.us). You may also email any questions or a request to be added to our new newsletter announcing anything "Wings of Song" at [wingsofsongchorus@gmail.com](mailto:wingsofsongchorus@gmail.com).

With much thanks and appreciation for all our followers

Carol Curtin  
President, Wings of Song

# Failure to plan: Is it planning to fail?



Mark Freeman

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Benjamin Franklin once said, “If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail.” But as you chart your financial course, what steps should you take to help you keep moving forward to where you want to go?

Consider these suggestions:

- **Establish and quantify your goals.** Throughout your life, you’ll have short-term goals, such as an

overseas vacation or a home renovation, and long-term goals, the most important of which may be a comfortable retirement. You’ll want to identify all your goals and put a “price tag” on them. Of course, it’s not always possible to know exactly how much it will cost to achieve each goal, but you can develop reasonably good estimates, revising them as needed.

- **Create an investment strategy to achieve your goals.** Once you know how much your goals will cost, you can create the appropriate savings and investment strategies to potentially help you reach the needed amounts. For your retirement goal, you will likely need to contribute regularly to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. But for shorter-term goals,

you may need to explore other types of investments. For all your investment moves, though, you’ll need to consider your risk tolerance. You won’t want your portfolio to have such a high-risk level that you’re constantly uncomfortable with the inevitable fluctuations of the financial markets. On the other hand, you won’t want to invest so conservatively that you jeopardize your chances of achieving the growth you need to reach your goals.

- **Control your debts.** We live in an expensive world, so it’s not easy to live debt-free. And some debts, such as your mortgage, obviously have value. But if you can control other debts, especially those that carry high interest rates, you can possibly free up money you can use to boost your savings and investments.

- **Prepare for obstacles.** No matter how carefully you follow the strategies you’ve created to achieve your goals, you will, sooner or later, run into obstacles, or at least temporary challenges. What if you incur a large, unexpected expense, such as the sudden need for a new car or a major home repair? If you aren’t prepared for these costs, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments – and every time you do that, you might slow your progress toward achieving your goals. To help prevent this, you should build an emergency fund containing several months’ worth of living expenses.

- **Review your strategy.** When you first created your financial strategy, you might have planned to retire at a certain age. But what if you eventually decide to retire earlier or later? Such a

choice can have a big impact on what you need from your investment portfolio — and when. And your circumstances may change in other ways, too. That’s why it’s a good idea to review your strategy periodically to make sure it still aligns with your up-to-date objectives.

None of us can guarantee that our carefully laid plans will always yield the results we want. But by taking the right steps at the right times, you can greatly improve your chances.

If you would like to discuss your personal situation with a financial advisor contact: Mark Freeman  
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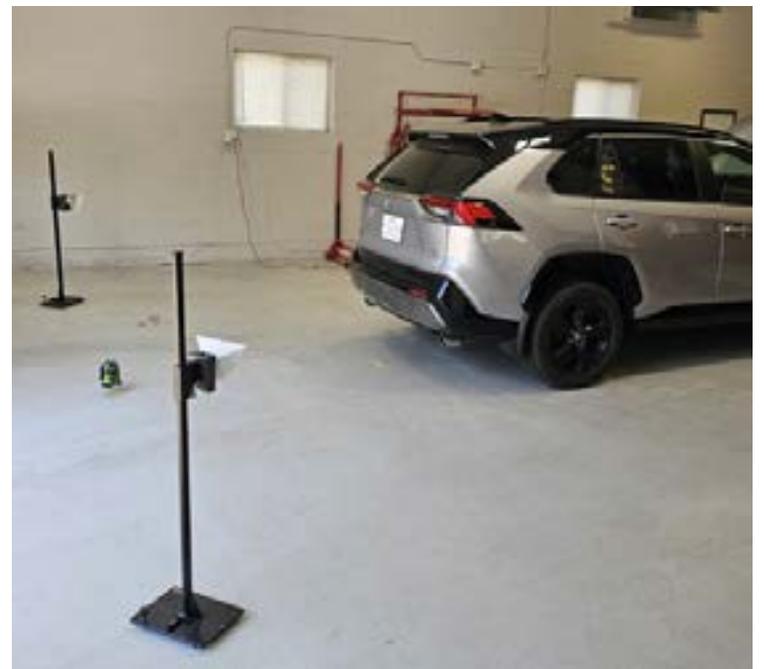
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The explanation goes that the sensors are sort of like Christmas tree lights. If one goes, they all go; it doesn't matter if everything looks alright from the outside of the vehicle.

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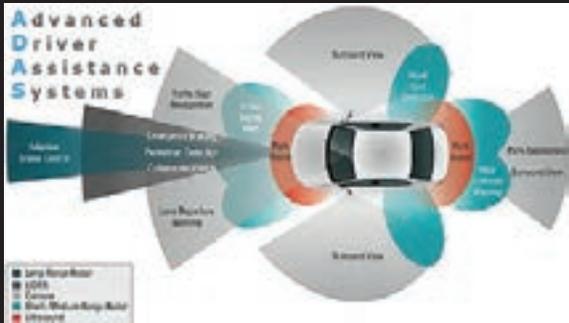
Solutions has been working with local repair shops to provide the calibration tools and knowledge needed for the relatively new sensors and systems. We have created a process that uses a combination of original equipment manufacturers and aftermarket scan tools and diagnostic equipment, minimizes cycle time, eliminates inconsistent scheduling and communication, and most of all maximizes productivity in getting cars back to pre-accident condition.

While operating primarily as a business to business referral, it's fine to ask your collision repair expert to have your car checked by ADAS Diagnostic Solutions or even bring it in yourself, according to their service team. For information, email [infor@adscalibrate.com](mailto:infor@adscalibrate.com) or call 774-772-8403.

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## Business spotlight

Touchstone Community School, on the Upton/Grafton town line, has openings for this September! The school is open to Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade students. It is an independent school accredited by the Association of Independent Schools In New England. Touchstone is committed to nature-based education, anti-bias curriculum, stewardship, and joyful and meaningful work.

From mud kitchens to Socratic Seminars to woodwork to watershed mapping, the 2.9- to 14-year-old students are exchanging ideas, listening to other perspectives, thinking critically, advocating for themselves, justifying their choices, and taking risks as they take part in project-based learning in mixed-age classrooms. The students demonstrate a true sense of purpose, a deep involvement, and great pride in their endeavors as they engage in authentic work. Faculty are committed to maintaining an integrated program where learning is hands-on and new information is accessed through in-depth investigations. Touchstone believes in following student interests and provid-



*"I love how Touchstone leverages students' curiosity and interests. It helps them stay engaged in the learning process and helps them to think about the world around them and think about things in different ways."*

– Elyse R.  
parent of two current students

ing each individual with voice, choice, and a strong sense of feeling known.

The program provides students with robust literacy and mathematical skills so that they become strong readers and writers. The students' needs are met with challenging curriculum and support from literacy and math specialists. Additionally, all faculty are trained in the Orton Gilligham approach, which is a structured, multisensory, sequential, and prescriptive way to teach literacy.

Through many hours of outdoor exploration, including caring for the school's chickens and goats, hikes in the White Mountains, and kayaking at our 5-acre Island at Lake Wildwood, students build interdependent relationships with the natural world and understand their positions of environmental



Elementary students engage in stewardship as they care for the on-campus animals.



Hands on investigative lab science is standard curriculum for middle school students.



stewardship. The Ecoliteracy curriculum allows students to build the communication skills to advocate and innovate for sustainability.

Touchstone students build caring relationships as they engage in authentic discussions. Social studies and social emotional curriculum supports them as they learn to identify bias and value diversity in all of its forms. The students become both independent and collaborative learners as they recognize their

own abilities, the capabilities of others, and how they support each other's growth.

Touchstone's progressive education is made possible with a community and a social fabric where children feel known and safe to make mistakes. The faculty is continually looking for ways to thoughtfully pursue new ideas, new possibilities and new approaches to engage, empower and inspire our students and partner with families. Adaptation and innovation are what

a progressive education is all about. Embracing diversity and inclusiveness makes us a stronger and wiser community.

To learn more about this community of joyful learners or to schedule a tour contact Juliana Fuchs, Admissions Coordinator, at julianaf@touchstoneschool.com or 508-839-0038. The school is located at 54 Leland Street in Grafton and is online at www.touchstoneschool.com.

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**Bikeway Ambassadors-** Welcome visitors to the bikeway and share information about its history, significance, and physical features. Many of our members have bike repair knowledge and can assist those who might be in a jam along the bikeway.

**Birding Ambassadors-** Welcome visitors to birding locations, share information about the birds that have been seen, describe the physical features of the birds, as well as their distinctive bird calls, and share info about flora and fauna.

**Cemetery Conservation Ambassador-** Work to preserve the historic cemeteries through the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. These volunteers have been trained in the proper techniques for repairing headstones, photographing

headstones, and leading cemetery tours. Cemetery Conservation Ambassadors are working in Burrillville, North Smithfield, Glocester, Woonsocket, Rhode Island, and Sutton, MA.

**Community Engagement Ambassadors-** Represent Blackstone Heritage Corridor at tabling events and welcome visitors to Corridor-sponsored events and is a great opportunity to get out in the Valley and tell people about the events and volunteer opportunities in their own backyards!

**Event Volunteers-** Volunteer for cleanups, special events, and partner events. These volunteers range from people who participate once or twice a year to those who attend every event. The quality of your volunteering is more important than the quantity!

**Park Ambassadors-** Assist Park rangers by providing accurate information on site resources, providing directions to orient visitors, and utilizing the visitor's passion for history, outdoors, and public service. These volunteers serve as front-line representatives at Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park and/or Roger Williams National Memorial.

**Photography Ambassadors-** Photograph events and historical places in the Blackstone Valley. Assignments vary and can include volunteers in action leading a bike ride, a birding program, a walking tour, paddling in the Blackstone River Watershed, hiking, and so much more!

**Trail Ambassadors-** Welcome visitors to trailheads, share information about the history, significance, and physical features of the trail being explored, and identify flora and fauna. The Trail Ambassadors also lead hikes around the Blackstone Heritage Corridor.

Volunteers also may participate in workshops and training opportunities aimed at enriching their knowledge of various topics and the ability to share that knowledge with others. Most volunteer skills-building workshops are held over the winter months, and recent topics included CPR, First Aid, using an EnviroScape, and spring bike maintenance. In addition, skills training programs may help volunteers learn a new skill, sharpen skills, and open new doors for future opportunities.

Contact information for the VIP program: (508) 234-4242 or volunteer@BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org

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# UniBank has number one mortgage originator

UniBank, the largest Mutual Community Bank in Central Massachusetts, recently announced that David Sampson achieved the number one ranking as the top Loan Originator by Volume for banks in Central Massachusetts, as recently listed in the Banker and Tradesman Report.

Michael Welch, CEO of UniBank said, "The bank's commitment for assisting people achieve their home ownership dreams, our technological advancements, our reputation in the community and David's experience in making the mortgage process seamless have all contributed to his top ranking in Central Massachusetts. Through all economic trends within the



Dave Sampson has been named the number one mortgage originator for UNIBANK, headquartered in Whitinsville. Submitted photo.

housing market, our team works tirelessly to reach people where they are personally

and financially to keep our Central Massachusetts region thriving with prosperity."

UniBank is rooted in the Blackstone Valley with assets of \$2.6 billion as of June 30, 2023. A full-service, mutually owned community bank, UniBank has branches in Central Massachusetts and the MetroWest region of Massachusetts. UniBank is dedicated to contributing to the overall quality of life and economic health of the communities it serves, while maintaining a high level of financial soundness and integrity. UniBank is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC. UniBank NMLS #583135. The company website is www.unibank.com.

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# Cars in the Park and more, courtesy of the Whitin CC

The Whitin Community Center's popular Cars in the Park, a benefit golf tournament and the Greenway Challenge will add more sizzle to a red-hot summer in the Blackstone Valley, starting August 19th.

The 9th annual version of Cars in the Park will take place on Saturday, August 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in 7.5-acre Whitin Park, 60 Main St., Whitinsville. The car, truck and motorcycle show will feature Best in Show, twenty-five trophies, door prizes, Show Dash Plaques and Goodie Bags for the first fifty pre-registered vehicles, food trucks, event vendors, a 50/50 raffle, entertainment and more.

Admission is free for spectators.

Money raised for this year's event will support the Whitin Community Center, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that is committed to the health and well-being of individuals and families and to building a strong community in the Blackstone Valley. "The Gym" has been serving the Blackstone Valley for one hundred years and offers social, recreational, educational and outreach programs that bring residents of all ages and backgrounds together.

Persons who volunteer to help with the event receive free refreshments and a free T-shirt. Volunteer tasks include volunteer coordinator, ballot input (must be experienced in Excel), park cleanup,

setup, take down, collecting vehicle fees, collecting donations, handing out programs and fliers, running the 50/50 raffle and park maintenance.

To sign up as a volunteer, go to <https://app.racereach.com/event/cars-in-the-park/volunteer>.

Tammy Bodwell is Committee Chair for Cars in the Park, according to Emily Day, a communications intern with the WCC.

## BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT IS BACK AUGUST 28TH

The Whitin Community Center's Benefit Golf Tournament returns on Monday, August 28th at Whitinsville Golf Club on Fletcher Street. Registration starts at 10:45 a.m. with lunch served from 10:45 to noon. Tee off is at 12:00 p.m. and dinner will be served immediately following the event.

The tournament will also feature a Hole-in-One contest, shootout contest, putting contest, and gifts.

Register online at [www.WhitinCommunityCenter.org](http://www.WhitinCommunityCenter.org) (programs>Golf) or in person at the WCC Member Services Desk. Cost is \$800 per foursome or \$200 per golfer and includes lunch, eighteen-hole play and "loads of



fun."

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Contact [Events@OurGym.org](mailto:Events@OurGym.org) for more information.

The Whitin Community Center is the Blackstone Valley's most complete family and recreation center with two swimming pools, a gym, fitness center, early learning programs, summer camps and a seven and a half acre park.

## GREENWAY CHALLENGE COMING IN SEPTEMBER

The Whitin Community Center announces that registration is now open for the 2023 UniBank Greenway Challenge, New England's premier adventure race to promote the recreational quality of life in the Blackstone River Valley.

The first Greenway Challenge was run in 2001 as an offshoot of "Expedition 2000" sponsored by the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. Expedition 2000 was comprised of a group of men and women who by canoeing the entire length of the Blackstone River put a spotlight on the emerging recreational opportunities in the region.

The purpose of the UniBank Greenway Challenge is to further

this initiative.

This year's event will be held on Saturday, September 30th and will feature fun and exciting run, bike and paddle segments, which will take athletes from Diamond Hill Park in Cumberland, Rhode Island up through the Blackstone Valley to the finish line at the Whitin Community Center—approximately fifty-one miles later.

Street running, trail running, paddling, street bike and mountain bike components are all part of the event.

Teams will be comprised of one to eight individuals with team members doing just one or two portions each, up to persons conquering all segments themselves! Athletes can compete in any of the following categories: Individual Participant (Male or Female); 2-4 Person Team (Male, Female and Co-Ed); and 5-8 Person Team (Male, Female, Co-Ed and Corporate).

Anyone seeking a team can register as such at [www.greenwaychallenge.org/register](http://www.greenwaychallenge.org/register).

The Greenway Challenge is looking for volunteers to staff the start and finish lines, transition sites, and for photographers to take pictures on the course. Go to [www.greenwaychallenge.org/volunteer](http://www.greenwaychallenge.org/volunteer) or contact Monique Boucher-Adams at 508-234-8184 Ext. 121 or visit [volunteer@OurGym.org](mailto:volunteer@OurGym.org).

The WCC thanks these sponsors for supporting the event:

UniBank; Koopman Lumber & Hardware; The Osterman Family Foundation; NEDT Inc.; Gaudette Insurance Agency; Ski With Charlie; Massachusetts DCR; Rhode Island D.E.M. and BV New England Mountain Bike.

Contact Tammy Bodwell at 508-234-8184 Ext. 118 or [TammyBodwell@OurGym.org](mailto:TammyBodwell@OurGym.org) for more information about sponsorship opportunities.

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# August is a time for adventure at Southwick's Zoo

August brings three major happenings to Southwick's Zoo in Mendon, starting with EARTH Awareness Day on Saturday, August 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and continuing

20th.

On Earth Awareness Day, learn about a variety of topics relating to animals and conservation. The zoo's interns will be presenting their research projects, and visiting

tors a chance to experience modern and traditional African music, drumming and dancing in the zoo, a dynamic event.

Summer Safari Scavenger Hunt will give visitors a chance to show

off their zoo knowledge, with scavenger hunts available for all ages! You may even win a prize!

**Giraffe Encounters** are back! The Giraffe Habitat is open daily during the season. Giraffe Encounters include a short presentation followed by the chance to get up and close and personal and feed these beautiful creatures.

Rhino Encounters, Sloth Encounters are also regular features at Southwick's Zoo.



with Sounds of Africa on Sunday, August 13th and Summer Safari Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, August

exhibitors and vendors will be set up around the zoo. Sounds of Africa will give visi-



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## Get ready for a river cruise

The Douglas Sunshine Club is planning to travel along the Danube River in Europe in October 2024. Join us for an informative visual presentation with the AmaWaterWays representative on Monday, Aug. 21 at 6:30 pm in the Douglas Adult Social Center. He will share the seven day itinerary of this river cruise, excursions along the way, a description of the ship and other included amenities and he will gladly answer any



questions you have about the trip. There are also pre- and post cruise tour extension options. This trip is being arranged through our

local AAA agency in conjunction with AmaWaterWays. Cabins on these river cruises are limited so we will be taking reservations after this presentation for people ready to cruise the beautiful blue Danube. Literature about this cruise will be available at the meeting. The center is located at 331 Main St, Douglas, MA. Light refreshments will be served. For more information about this event call Pam at 508-476-4474 or email pkschwartz@charter.net

## Officer promoted

The Douglas Police Department offers Officer Scott Taylor congratulations on his promotion to full time Police Officer. Officer Taylor graduated from the Lynnfield Police Academy in July and started his field training. He has worked for the Douglas Police Department since 2015, starting as a dispatcher and becoming a reserve officer in 2016. He recently retired from the United States Air Force after over 27 years of service and holds a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice. Officer Taylor is pictured with Lt, Travis Gould and Chief Nick Miglionico.



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# Athletic Hall of Fame

The Uxbridge High School Athletic Hall of Fame will induct its Class of 2023 in a ceremony scheduled for November 11. This year's class features nine standout student-athletes, one coach, and, for the first time, an entire team. While connecting the storied athletic past of UHS to its present, the Hall of Fame strives to recognize and honor deserving athletes, coaches, teams, and contributors for their impact and accomplishments.

The induction of the Class of 2023 will take place at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 11 at Blissful Meadows Country Club, 801 Chocolog Road in Uxbridge. Individual tickets, priced at \$50 each, will go on sale in September for the event. Inquiries regarding the event can be directed via email to [uhshalloffame@uxbridge.k12.ma.us](mailto:uhshalloffame@uxbridge.k12.ma.us), or to the Secretary of the Committee, Chuck Paszkewicz, at [cpuhsoshf@gmail.com](mailto:cpuhsoshf@gmail.com).

This year's induction class includes:

## 1981-82 Boys Basketball Team

The team credited with inspiring a new tradition of excellence at Uxbridge High School, the 1981-82 boys basketball team won the first district championship in school history. They finished with a record of 18-5. Coached by Mark Donahue and Dean Tourangeau, this will be the first group inducted in the "team category" to the UHS Athletic Hall of Fame.

## Allison Cahill, Class of 1999

Arguably the best basketball player ever to play at Uxbridge, Allison graduated as the all time leading scorer in basketball holding the boys and girls record of 1446 varsity points. She was an excellent long range shooter for Coach Dean Tournageau's squad. A graduate of Princeton University, she was a collegiate 1000 point scorer, graduating in 2003 after serving as the team captain in basketball. Allison plays professional tackle football as quarterback for the Boston Renegades. She has played on teams that have won 7 National Championships: 3 with the Boston Militia and 4 with the Renegades. She is in her 20th season in the league, and she just surpassed 25,000 career passing yards.

## Emily Cahill, Class of 2013

Emily has been elected to the Hall of Fame in her first year of

eligibility, having completed one of the most storied track and field careers in school history. She holds numerous school records competing in both indoor and outdoor track and field (considering the school did not have a track facility at the time). She set and broke - and continues to hold

- school records in the high jump, triple jump, 100 meter hurdles, and 200 meters, and she also was part of a team that set the school record in the 800-meter relay.

## Dan Clarke, Class of 1994

Dan Clarke excelled in Cross Country, Basketball, and Base-

ball as a Captain and All Star. He earned 10 varsity letters and played on District E champion teams in both basketball and baseball, while also earning a place as an individual in the Massachusetts Cross Country Championship race.

In his senior year, Dan was

selected the Boys XC Coach's Award winner, named to the First Team All Academic in Basketball, won a District E Athletic Director Award, and was chosen Spartan

## HALL OF FAME

continued on page 14

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## HALL OF FAME

continued from page 13

of the Year.

### Meghan (Gaskell) Creighton, Class of 2002

A rare four year varsity player in three sports, including field hockey, basketball, and softball, Meghan was a three time MVP for Coach Joe McCourt's softball team. The crafty pitcher holds

the school record for career strikeouts (725) as she compiled a 23-1 record her senior year. She amassed 224 strikeouts in a single season (2000-01) besides holding the school record for 61 varsity career wins on the mound. Also a feared hitter at the plate, Meghan ranks 4th all time with 113 hits in her varsity career. The multi talented athlete was named to multiple First Team All Star squads for all three sports as

well as being recognized with the Coaches Award for those sports. Meghan went to play four years at Babson College, named League MVP her senior year while earning second team All American.

### Mark Donahue, Coach & Athletic Director

Mark Donahue becomes the third coach inducted into the UHS Athletic Hall of Fame. In a coaching career that spanned parts of

four decades, Mr. Donahue was the longtime head basketball coach, amassing 397 career victories, three Clark Tournament championships, and two district titles. In 35 years, his teams advanced to the state tournament 28 times. He also coached girls cross country, compiling a record of 195-32. He was inducted into the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2014. He also served UHS as its athletic

director before retiring from the post in 2015.

### Kristen (Lane) Martin, Class of 1996

Kristen was an outstanding three-sport athlete for four years in field hockey, basketball, and softball. A dynamic field hockey star, Kristen amassed 64 career goals, which was a school record not broken for 26 years. She was recognized as three-time First Team all star, considered a total team player with a natural knack for scoring while maintaining qualities of leadership that earned the respect of peers, coaches, and opponents. She was named the Spartan Female Athlete of the Year her senior year. Kristen went on to play Division 1 field hockey at Providence College.

### Jeff Parcels, Class of 1992

Jeff helped lead Uxbridge High School's football team to its first-ever Super Bowl title in 1991, amassing 134 yards and a touchdown to lead the Spartans to victory over Bay Path. With 1144 career rushing yards during his varsity career at UHS, Jeff is listed in the UHS record books with 126 points scored in a season (2nd all time) and 20 TD's in a season (2nd all time). For his career, his 34 touchdowns ranks second all-time. He was named to various First Team All Star squad teams for three consecutive years and was awarded the Spartan Male Athlete of the Year in 1992. Jeff went on to become the head football coach at his alma mater from 1999 - 2004.

### Kelly Rosborough, Class of 1996

Kelly was a three-sport athlete, starting in field hockey, basketball, and softball. Field hockey was her strongest, as she went on to play collegiately at UConn after earning multiple conference All Star selections as well as serving as team captain. Kelly was a hard working midfielder who always managed to keep the ball in the opponent's end and was highly regarded as a two-way field hockey standout for the Spartans. In basketball, she was a fierce defender who approached the game with tenacity and intensity, regardless of the opponent. She was named the District E Athletic Director Award winner her senior year. Currently, she is the head coach of the two-time defending state champion field hockey team at UHS.

## HALL OF FAME

continued on page 15

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**HALL OF FAME**

*continued from page 14*

**Steve Saulen, Class of 2004**

Steve was a standout athlete in both football and basketball as he captained both squads his senior year. A sure handed football receiver with 12 receiving TD's in a season (1st all time record list) and 18 varsity career receiving TD's (2nd all time record list). In basketball, Steve was a prolific power forward varsity starter for 4 years, totalling 1155 career points (3rd all-time) as he was recognized by his coaches for being an impact defensive player as early as his freshman year of varsity basketball. Steve was also named to various First Team All Star teams in both football and basketball and awarded the Coaches Award as well as Spartan of the Year. He furthered his college education while playing football at Colgate University.

**Chris Shaw, Class of 1993**

Chris was one of the captains of the 1992-93 UHS Super Bowl Football Championship team that went 11-0. A highly touted wide receiver on offense and stalwart secondary player for the defense, Chris also holds the school record for interceptions run back for a touchdown. In basketball, Chris was a key member of a team in 1992-93 that won the SWCL, Clark, and District titles compiling a record of 23-1. Chris was named Spartan Male Athlete of the Year in 1993 while earning First Team All Star status in both sports.

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- **Wednesdays**  
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5 pm - 6 pm Barre Strength Cardio  
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Hatha Restorative Yoga
- **Thursdays**  
9 am - 10 am Barre Strength Cardio  
6 pm - 7 pm Slow Flow Yoga
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The New Bay Colony invites you to an evening of classic rock 'n' roll at The Progressive Club at 6 p.m. Aug. 26. Members of the band that formed 50 years ago including lead singer Bill "Beau" Roberts, bass player Micky McAuliffe, Doug Moore, Bruce Carr, Jurgen "von Wo" Kern, (maybe) Buzzy Tremblay and Pelly "Mr. Manager" Pelletier. The Club is located at 18 Whitin Street, Uxbridge.



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Have an upcoming event? Do you have a concern about things happening around town? Email us at [news@theyankeeexpress.com](mailto:news@theyankeeexpress.com) and let us know!



*Karen Yacino of UniBank dropped off a "Random Act of Kindness" basket of goodies at the Douglas Senior Center, 331 Main Street in July. Photo submitted.*



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# 2023-24 school year openings

## Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School

**Wednesday, Aug. 16**

Freshman cookout – 5 p.m.

**Thursday, Aug. 17**

Freshman orientation, Day 1

**Friday, Aug. 18**

Freshman orientation, Day 2

**Monday, Aug. 21**

First day of classes for all students

## Douglas

**Wednesday, Aug. 30**

First day for all schools

## Northbridge

**Thursday, Aug. 31**

First day for Grades 1 - 12

**Tuesday, Sept. 5**

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

## Uxbridge

**Thursday, Aug. 30**

First day for Grades 1-12

**Friday, Aug. 31**

Kindergarten first day

**Sept. 5**

Pre-Kindergarten first



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## Free concert series

ValleyCAST, the arts and culture arm of Open Sky Community Services, is proud to announce the return of its Free Summer Concert Series featuring an incredible line-up of local bands playing a wide variety of popular music.

The Free Summer Concert Series continues 6-8 p.m. Thursday evenings on the plaza through Aug.31 at the Alternatives' Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville. In case of inclement weather, the concerts move indoors to the Singh Performance Center at the same location.

Concert goers are invited to wander in and out of the Heritage Gallery during the concerts to explore the Weaving Community exhibit. Interactive displays and two looms are set up in the gallery for people to try their hands at

weaving and participate in community weaving projects with their neighbors.

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UniBank continued their "random acts of kindness" campaign this summer by delivering pizza to the Douglas Police Department on July 27. Karen Yacino of UniBank was the pizza delivery guy! She brought enough for all shifts to enjoy!

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# McGovern bill supports farms with sustainable food production practices

In July, U.S. Representative James P. McGovern (D-MA), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee and Senior Member of the House Agriculture Committee, introduced a bill to support American farmers and rural communities through plant-based food production.

In a press release, McGovern's office said the bill will establish new opportunities for farmers and food companies, creates new jobs in farming communities, advances United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) efforts to connect American farmers to new markets at home and abroad, and expands consumer choices at the grocery store, through plant-based food research and production. The Peas, Legumes, and Nuts Today Act, or PLANT Act, provides a blueprint for maintaining America's leadership in plant-based food production, while empowering farmers and rural communities and producing delicious, affordable food options for all Americans.

"The PLANT Act will help us win the future of food," said Rep.

McGovern. "Plant-based foods are already creating new opportunities for farmers across the country and exciting new options for consumers, and this legislation will be a game-changer. By putting farmers and their communities front and center as we grow the greatest plant-based sector in the world, we can create countless good jobs while showing the world what makes American agriculture so strong. Now is the time to embrace the enormous potential that plant-based foods have to strengthen our economy and our food system."

"Congress should do more to support farmers and food companies making plant-based foods when Congress renews the Farm Bill," said Scott Faber, Environmental Working Group's Senior Vice President for Government Affairs. "Supporting plant-based

foods in the farm bill helps the farmers growing ingredients, helps the rural workers turning those ingredients into great foods, and helps ensure that America remains the world's plant-based foods leader. The USDA has always supported our meat and dairy farmers, investing more than \$50 billion since 1995. Now, to maintain our global leadership role, it's time for USDA to also support the farmers growing for the plant-based industry."

Specifically, the PLANT Act would provide support for U.S. farmers who grow the ingredients used in plant-based foods; ensure that food companies who turn those ingredients into plant-based foods are eligible for USDA producer programs; and make targeted R&D investments at USDA to foster American innovation.

Contact Bill at 774-289-5564 or by email at [bcronan@theyankeeexpress.com](mailto:bcronan@theyankeeexpress.com) to learn how you can reach 153,000 households and businesses each month!

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# Corridor brings accessible biking to Massachusetts, Rhode Island

The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (BHC) is partnering with All Out Adventures (AOA) to offer a series of accessible cycling events in September on the Blackstone

An additional ride will be held on Wednesday, September 13, on the Blackstone River Bikeway in Lincoln, RI. All events will run from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. by reservation only.



River Bikeway/Greenway in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Two rides will be at the Blackstone River Greenway in Blackstone, on Wednesday, September 6 and 20.

The September 6th ride is presented in partnership with Universal Access Program, and there is a fee of \$5 per participant. The rides on September 13 and 20

are free and funded by the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Cooperative Agreement Number

UG4LM012347 with the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, Worcester.

To register for these events, call All Out Adventures at 413-584-2052 or email [info@allout-adventures.org](mailto:info@allout-adventures.org). All Out Adventures

will spend time talking with each individual to learn about their disability to select the proper piece of equipment ranging from single and tandem recumbent trikes to two-wheel tandem and upright and low-style handcycles. Cycling opportunities will also include the wheelchair tandem bicycle BHC acquired in 2020 through a grant from the Network of the National Library of Medicine, New England Region.

To learn more about All Out Adventures and other recreational programs it offers, visit [AllOutAdventures.org](http://AllOutAdventures.org). To learn more about the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, visit [BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org](http://BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org).

## About the Blackstone River Bikeway/Greenway:

The Blackstone River Bikeway/Greenway is a multipurpose, recreational resource and an alternate mode of transportation for commuters. Part of the East Coast Greenway, the Blackstone River Bikeway/Greenway will extend 48 miles (24 miles are currently constructed), connecting 14 cities and towns, from downtown Worcester, MA, to Providence, RI. BHC champions the Blackstone River Bikeway/Greenway as one of its top priorities. To learn more about the Blackstone River Bikeway/Greenway, visit [BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org](http://BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org).

## About the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor:

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, working with community partners, provides strong leadership to preserve, promote, and celebrate the Valley's historic, natural, and recreational resources for current and future generations. To learn more, visit [BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org](http://BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org).

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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 [news@theyankeeexpress.com](mailto:news@theyankeeexpress.com).

**THROUGH 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).

**AUGUST 12 & 13**

• The American Heritage Museum, 568 Main St., Hudson, presents "Centuries of the Soldier," a timeline living history exhibition from as early as the Revolutionary War, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days. [www.americanheritagemuseum.org](http://www.americanheritagemuseum.org) or call 978-562-9182.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13**

• Commemorate the Blackstone Valley's involvement in World War II by attending an informative and interactive afternoon of history presented by the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park and Valley-CAST from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 30-70 Douglas Road, Whitinsville. The program is being offered in partnership with Open Sky Community Services. The event is free and open to all.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16**

• The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's annual Steamers at Sunset event will be held at The Barn at Blissful Meadows Golf Club, 801 Chocolog Road, Uxbridge, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. To register or for more information about this signature event, email Liz O'Neil at [loneil@blackstonevalley.org](mailto:loneil@blackstonevalley.org) or Kristen Kearnan at [kkearnan@blackstonevalley.org](mailto:kkearnan@blackstonevalley.org).

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 17**

• A "Hoppin' Hoedown Concert & Luncheon" will be held at Plummer Place at the

Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, from noon to 2:00 p.m. Roger Tincknell will entertain with a variety of early Country & Western songs from such greats as Jimmy Rodgers, Hank Williams, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers along with traditional cowboy songs and yodeling. The event will also feature 50s and 60s rockabilly, western swing and popular country pop tunes by such artists as Johnny Cash, Ray Price, Bob Wills, Loretta Lynn, Patsy Cline, Merle Haggard and Glen Campbell. A themed lunch will be served. Cost is \$10 per ticket with a limit of two tickets per person. Sign up in the main office. This event 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.

• "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.

• Valley Cast's Free Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Claflin Hill Summer Winds on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza, 60 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. On a Roll food truck will be on the premises. In the event of rain, the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19**

• The Whittin 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.

• An Alzheimer's Association Lunch & Learn Program is being offered at Plummer Place at the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, at 11:30 a.m. The topic is "Effective Communication Strategies." Space is limited. Sign up in the main office.

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

• Valley Cast's Free Summer Concert Series continues with a performance by Dynamite Rhythm on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza, 60 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. On a Roll food truck will be on the premises. In the event of rain, the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23**

• The Webster Dudley Business Alliance will host its Summer Festival and Business Expo from 4-8 p.m. on Aug. 23. It's a chance to celebrate the summer and showcase your business at Andy's Neighborhood Canteen, 9 Frederick Street, Webster. A Farmers Market featuring Local food and artisan items along with a DJ will round out the event. Crafters, food vendors and all businesses are

invited to participate. Family fun activities like face painting, balloon animals and more will add to the festive atmosphere. Don't forget to get in on the raffles and giveaways. Live broadcast from 5-7 p.m. on WQVR FM 99.3. Vendors should file an

**HAPPENINGS!**  
*continued on page 22*

*St. Roch's Annual*

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**HAPPENINGS!**

*continued from page 21*

application from thewdba.org and register by Aug. 14. Vendors must provide their own tables. Fee is \$30.

**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 31**

• The Art of Bow Making will be offered at Plummer Place at the Northbridge Senior Center from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. This class will demonstrate how to make bows for use in your home and/or for packages. Space is limited. Sign up in the main office.

• Valley Cast's Free Summer Concert Series continues with The Eagles Experience on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza, 60 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. On a Roll food truck will be on the premises. In the event of rain, the show will move indoors to the Singh Performance Center.

**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.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

• A Scam Alert Program presented by the Worcester County DA's office will be held at Plummer Place at the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, at 12:45 p.m. Kevin Donohue returns to help attendees recognize and learn about what scams are out there. Sign up in the main office. Light refreshments will be served.

**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. This organization is under the umbrella of the Auburn Historical Society and has just completed a year-long fundraising project to restore the Green Dome, which sat atop the 1935 original Auburn High School building. When the seventy-two year-old building was demolished, the Green Dome was able to be removed and saved. It had fallen into disrepair as it passed from several town departments, the Historical Commission and the Town Manager's office. It now sits on Auburn HS property where it has been restored and renovated, thanks to a dedicated "Save the Dome" Committee.

• An Evening with Elvis - at St. Denis Church, Douglas - Doors open at 5pm, performance starts at 5:30pm. \$20 per person (21+) includes finger sandwiches, pasta salad, chips, veggies and dip, baked goods, coffee, tea, soda, water. Beer and Wine available for \$5 each (limit 2 drinks per person). Raffle Baskets • 50/50 Cash Raffle • 50s theme (dressing for the era is encouraged!). For more information or to reserve your

ticket(s), visit SaintDenisChurch.com

**SEPTEMBER 16 & 17**

• The American Heritage Museum, 568 Main St., Hudson, presents "World War I/Early Aviation Weekend," showcasing the original 1917 Nieuport 28—American's first and oldest fighter aircraft, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. www.americanheritagemuseum.org or call 978-562-9182.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

• The UMass Cancer Walk and Run, celebrating twenty-five years of the community's commitment to cancer research, will take place at Polar Park in Worcester. Go to umasscancerwalk.org or email cancerwalk@umassmed.edu for further details.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

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

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5**

• The 7th Annual New England Electrical & Alarm Expo takes place from 1:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Twin River Casino, 100 Twin River Road, Lincoln, Rhode Island. The Exhibitor Show Floor opens at 3:30 p.m. More than 400 manufacturers will be represented. Visit neeae.com for further details.

**OCTOBER 7 & 8**

• The American Heritage Museum, 568 Main St., Hudson, presents "Battle for the Airfield WW II Re-Enactment Weekend," with over 350 re-enactors from branches of the Allied and Axis military participating in encampments and battles, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. www.americanheritagemuseum.org or call 978-562-9182.

**OCTOBER 9-23**

• The Friends of the Simon Fairfield Public

**HAPPENINGS!**

*continued on page 23*



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**HAPPENINGS!**

*continued from page 22*

Library in Douglas's fourth annual online auction begins. Donations for the event will be accepted through September 14th at 8:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit the library's capital campaign to renovate the building

• 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.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**



This antique beauty is one of many that will be on display at the Model A and Model T car show at Willard House & Clock Museum in Grafton on Aug. 19 (Rain date, Aug. 20). Submitted photo

and make it handicapped accessible. The Friends are also accepting sponsorships from community members or businesses.

• The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's 45th Annual Meeting & Awards Ceremony will be held at Pleasant Valley Country Club on Armsby Road in Sutton from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. Do you know a busi-

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

ness or individual deserving of recognition, or a business that is celebrating a milestone anniversary? Submit your nomination to Liz O'Neil at loneil@blackstonevalley.org.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16 2024**

• The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's Home & Community Expo will be held at the Northbridge High School Field House on Linwood Avenue in Whitinsville

from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration will occur late summer, early fall.

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**Thursday**  
**EVENINGS**  
**6:00 - 8:00 PM**

*Rain or Shine!*  
In inclement weather the concert moves indoors to the Singh Performance Center at the same location.

**Remaining Concert Line-Up:**

**August 17**  
Clafin Hill Summer Winds

**August 24**  
Dynamite Rhythm

**August 31**  
The Eagles Experience

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## Bible Study for Women

Coffee Break, a community Bible study for women, will begin its fall season with a Meet & Greet and Tour of the Holy Land from 9:30 – 11 a.m. on Sept. 12 at the Pleasant Street Church, 25 Cross Street, Whitinsville. On Sept. we will begin a study of Isaiah: Call to Trust. God loves us and has wonderful plans for our lives – no matter what the current events look like. Join others in a study

of the book of Isaiah as we look at who God is and the power and glory he is about to display in the earth. You're only allowed to be a newcomer the first week. After that, we're all friends. We look forward to meeting you.

Refreshments and childcare are provided—There's loving care for your babies and toddlers through age five.

Coffee Break offers women in the Blackstone Valley an op-

portunity to read and discuss the Bible, share questions and concerns, and develop new friendships. There's no "homework" required, and no previous Bible knowledge is necessary. Study guides are provided free of charge. For directions, questions, or to get more information, please call Anna 508-234-4902, email churchoffice@psrcr.org or visit psrcr.org/adults.

## AHM readies 'Centuries of the Soldier' weekend, August 12-13

On the weekend of August 12 and 13, the American Heritage Museum in Hudson will be presenting a time-line living history exhibition, "Centuries of the Soldier."

This extraordinary program will feature multiple historical encampments laid out chronologically over the great expanse of the museum's grounds. Starting as early as the Revolutionary War to the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, up to the Vietnam War.

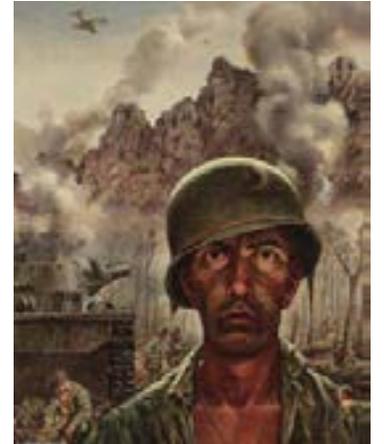
There will be several demonstrations and battle re-enactments involving a variety of re-enactors representing soldiers over the last many years. Gates open at 9:00 a.m. and close at 5:00 p.m. each day. Demonstrations will be ongoing throughout the weekend.

All three of the AHM's museums will be open: the American Heritage Museum, the Historic Aviation Hangar and the Classic Automobile Barn.

This is a unique opportunity to see some of the world's most rare aircraft, extraordinary American cars, historic tanks, armored vehicles and much more.

Advance sale tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and veterans and \$15 for children under twelve. Members, WWII/Korean War veterans and children under three are free. Admission discounts cannot be used for special-event weekends.

Tank driving experiences and tank rides will also be available



over the weekend. Registration can be done online or by telephone. Tanks featured will include the M24 Chaffee Light Tank and the M4 Sherman Medium Tank.

Visit [www.americanheritagemuseum.org](http://www.americanheritagemuseum.org) or call 978-562-9182 for more information.

Early Aviation Weekend is in September

The American Heritage Museum will present a World War I and early aviation event the weekend of September 16 and 17. The original 1917 Nieuport 28, America's first and oldest fighter aircraft, will be showcased. "We will also pull out the 1909 Curtis Pusher for an operation exhibition," ANH staff said. "There will be other organizations bringing and displaying their accurate World War I artifacts, equipment and replicas."

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## ArtFest is back

The Friends of the Sutton Public Library will present ArtFest from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Aug. 26. The event will be held on Sutton Common, 4 Uxbridge Road, if the weather is nice, In the event of rain it will be held inside the Congregational Church ,307 Boston Road. In addition to dozens of talented vendors, the Fudge Lady will be back!

Please support your Arts and Crafts neighbors and your local library.

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# Samuel Slater Experience adds Thursday hours, August Adventures

Samuel Slater Experience is now open on Thursdays! The museum began special new hours on July 13th and is now open Monday-Wednesday by appointment, Thursday, Friday and

ing the geographical and cultural diversity of the Massachusetts arts and culture community.

Visit Samuel Slater Experience for free on Saturday, August 19th. Tours take about an hour and a

unique, immersive exhibits that make the history of the American Industrial Revolution and its people come alive.

First off, during the Orientation, visitors learn about the beginnings of a mill economy, with examples of the spinning and weaving tools that predate the American Industrial Revolution.

Other exhibits as visitors make their way through the museum include "Meet young Samuel

Slater in Belper, England;" "Samuel Slater's Shipboard Immersive Theater Experience;" "Slater arrives in NYC—was that a rat I just saw?"; "Slater settles in Rhode Island;" "Master of Industry—Samuel Slater's office;" "A tough life—mill worker's bedroom and kitchen;" "Waterwheel and Slater's Mill;" "Create your own textile;" "Mill workers' working life and community life;" "Why this Place? Webster 1820 to 1900;" "Town of Webster

Streetscape;" "The Trolley Car 4D Experience;" "Maanexit Hotel;" "Mannexit Hotel Speakeasy;" "The Liberty Theater interior;" "Webster Times interior;" "Make your own Webster Times newspaper;" "Racicot Bros. general store;" "Dugan's drug store;" and "Webster Then and Now."

To make a donation in support of one of the region's coolest happening place this summer, go to [samuel Slater Experience.org](http://samuel Slater Experience.org).



Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4:00 p.m.

With Thursdays added, Samuel Slater Experience is now poised for Highland Street Foundation's August Adventures, which will provide access and opportunities to new and old partners highlight-

half. Due to the large number of anticipated participants, only ten people will be allowed per time slot.

Email [admin@samuel Slater Experience.org](mailto:admin@samuel Slater Experience.org) or call 50-461-2955.

The Samuel Slater Experience comprises more than twenty

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## Uxbridge senior golf outing

The 17th Annual Uxbridge Senior Center Golf Outing, sponsored by the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, features what is now clearly one of the best nine holes at one of the top golf courses in Massachusetts. On Sept. 18, the golf outing will be held at Whitinsville Golf Club in Whitinsville starting at noon with a Shotgun Start. The annual fundraiser benefits the programs and activities of the Uxbridge Senior Center.

Teams of four may sign up to play for \$100 per golfer for nine holes including cart and buffet supper. Golfers may contact Russ Rosborough at 508-579-5983 or Karen Beane at 508-769-3816. A full sponsor may be purchased for \$600 which includes fees for four golfers, carts and supper, plus tee sign with additional acknowledgment in press and print matter.

Special events at the golf outing include two closest to the pin prizes, longest drive, team prizes, individual prizes and more. The number of teams is limited to 14, so golfers should be sure to sign up early. Non-golfers may join in the fun for \$30 for buffet only served at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Since its first year, local businesses and community members have supported the event by purchasing a tee sign, making do-



Uxbridge Elderly Connection Treasurer Marianne Shanley presents prizes to one of the award winning teams at Uxbridge Senior Centers 16th Annual Golf Outing in 2022. Photo submitted

nations, or providing a gift basket or gift item. Silent and live auction items have provided a fun addition. Tee signs, provided by Yyz Signs of Mendon, go for \$100 and are a mainstay of this important fundraiser.

Forms for golfers, donors and tee signs can be obtained at the senior center between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Or contact Russ Rosborough at Russroz@hotmail.com. For tee signs, gifts or donations contact Cathy Thornton at catherinethornton941@gmail.com. Checks may be mailed to Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc, P.O. Box 215, Uxbridge, MA 01569. Payments may also be made via Unipay QR code accessed on Uxbridge Senior

Center Facebook page. The staff of the Uxbridge Senior Center, under the leadership of Director Lisa Bernard, is an integral part of this fundraising effort dealing with much of the behind-the-scenes responsibilities and nice touches enjoyed at the event.

The Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc. is a non-profit 501 c 3 organization and donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Its mission is to support the Uxbridge Senior Center and to help fulfill some of its needs such as education, nutrition, medical transportation and socialization, not provided for by its municipal budget.

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# August events at Purgatory Chasm

**P**urgatory Chasm State Reservation is located at 198 Purgatory Road, Sutton.

All programs are free and open to the public. Bring water, wear sunscreen/bug spray, and dress for the outdoors. Sturdy footwear is strongly recommended for hiking events. An adult must accompany all children. Hiking programs are canceled in inclement weather.

## CHASM HIKE

**FRIDAYS 11 A.M. - 12 P.M., SATURDAYS 2-3 PM, SUNDAYS 3-4 PM**

Scramble around boulders while taking in the mystery of Purgatory Chasm! Find out about the park's history and cultural influence, the chasm's rock formations, or the wildlife that call the chasm home. Meet at the pavilion at the mouth of the chasm. Appropriate for ages 8 and above. About a half mile over moderate terrain.

## CHASM PRIMER

**SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS 11:30 AM**

Find out the chasm's history in just 15 minutes. This is the perfect primer before your hike through the chasm. Meet at the entrance to the chasm. Appropriate for ages 8 and up.

## GLACIAL GEOLOGY HIKE

**MONDAYS 2-3:30 P.M.**

Discover our glacial past on this 1-mile hike to Little Purgatory. Explore evidence of the ice that blanketed this park over 10,000 years ago. Meet at the Visitor Center. Suitable for ages 8 and above. About one mile over moderate terrain.

## KIDLEIDOSCOPE

**MONDAYS 11 A.M. - 12 P.M.**

Join us each week for Kidleidoscope! We will read a short book, followed by an outdoor activity. Afterwards, enjoy a craft that relates to the story. Each week has a new theme, stop by often. Meet at the Visitor Center. Designed for ages 3 to 6. Siblings are welcome. During inclement weather this will be held in the Visitor Center.

## OFF THE BEATEN PATH

**FRIDAYS 2:30 - 3:30 P.M.**

Hiking trails are the heart of our park system and getting outdoors is a great way to exercise! Join us on this recreational hike with other like-minded people. Meet at the Visitor Center. Appropriate for ages 8 and above. About one mile over easy terrain.

## ROCK DETECTIVES

**SATURDAYS 11 A.M. - 12 P.M.**

Have you ever wondered where rocks come from? See a bunch of different rocks and find out more about where they have been and where they are going. Stay for five minutes or an hour. Meet in the pavilion near the entrance to the chasm. Appropriate for ages 4 and above. The program will be held in the Visitor Center during inclement weather.

## SECRETS OF THE SKULL

**SUNDAYS 11 A.M. - 12 P.M.**

We can learn many things about how an animal lives by looking at its skull. Join us to look for clues about how different animals survive by examining their skulls. Stay for five minutes or an hour. Meet

in the pavilion near the entrance to the chasm. Appropriate for ages 4 and above. The program will be held in the Visitor Center during inclement weather.

## TIME TRAVELER TOUR

**SATURDAYS 4 - 5 PM**

Take a step back in time! Get an introduction to this unique park as we walk among the historic structures and geological features, jumping around the park's history all the while. Meet at the Visitor Center. Suitable for ages 8 and above. Approximately one mile over easy terrain.

Please note that public programming may be affected by construction projects taking place within the park.

For more information call 508-234-9610 or visit: <https://www.mass.gov/locations/purgatory-chasm-state-reservation>



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<p><b>TUESDAYS</b> <span style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 2px;">STARTS SEPT 12</span></p> <p><b>TOPIC:</b> 9:30 - 11am Isaiah: "Call to Trust"</p> <p><b>WHERE:</b> Pleasant St. Christian Reformed Church 25 Cross St, Whitinsville, MA 01588</p> <p><b>QUESTIONS OR NEED INFO?</b> CALL: Anna 508-234-4902 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:churchoffice@pscrc.org">churchoffice@pscrc.org</a> VISIT: <a href="http://pscrc.org/adults">pscrc.org/adults</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Come as you are. IT'S FREE!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Come with an open mind. WE ALL LEARN TOGETHER. Don't have a Bible? No problem. We have plenty.</p> <p><b>Child Care Provided</b></p> <p><b>Coffee, Tea &amp; Refreshments</b></p>
<p><b>THURSDAYS</b> <span style="background-color: #0070c0; color: white; padding: 2px;">STARTS SEPT 14</span></p> <p><b>TOPIC:</b> 9:30 - 11am Joshua: "I Will Be With You"</p> <p><b>WHERE:</b> Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church 305 Goldthwaite Rd, Whitinsville, MA 01588</p> <p><b>QUESTIONS OR NEED INFO?</b> CALL: Ginette 508-234-4806 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:ginette45@yahoo.com">ginette45@yahoo.com</a> VISIT: <a href="http://fairlawncrc.org/outreach/coffeebreak.cfm">fairlawncrc.org/outreach/coffeebreak.cfm</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Meet &amp; Greet with tour of the Holy Land 9/12</p>

SPORTS

# Rams defense drives team in postseason play

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Keith Verra came aboard as the Northbridge baseball coach five years ago and although he lost an entire season to the Covid pandemic he has guided the Rams into the State Tournament the other four years. During his first season with Northbridge the Rams came within one game of moving on following the regular season. In

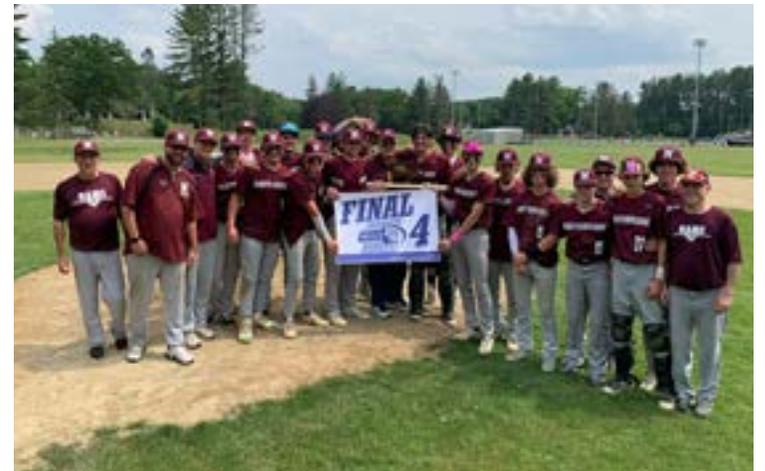
2021 Northbridge won two games in the Division 3 Central Tournament before falling to Oakmont in the Semi-Finals.

Last spring Verra guided the Rams into the Division 4 State Tournament only to fall in the first round, but this past season Northbridge avenged last year's one and done in the State Tournament. Entering the Tournament as the number nine seed, the Rams faced off against South Hadley and

their top pitcher in the first round and it looked as though Northbridge would be repeating last year's round one exit when South Hadley scored two runs in the top of the seventh to take a 3-1 lead. However, the Northbridge players pushed across three runs in the bottom half of the seventh to earn a 4-3 walk off victory.

Blackstone Valley Tech, which had beat Northbridge 3-2 during the regular season, was up next for the Rams. Unlike its regular season loss, Northbridge squeaked out a 2-1 victory to advance into the third round of the State Tournament. Verra was looking at facing top seed Bellingham in the next round, but number 16 seed Lowell Catholic upset the Blackhawks and Northbridge was now finding themselves back at home for their next contest. Once again the Rams grabbed the victory 2-1 to advance into the Final Four.

"Our first three tournament games were all by one run," the Northbridge coach said. "Abington was a marathon game which we eventually lost in 14 innings. Michael Cary and Joey McKeown gave us six innings each, but we just didn't have enough. McKe-



The Northbridge Rams celebrate making the MIAA Division 4 Finals. Photo submitted.



Coach Keith Verra and assistant coach Matt Abrain hold for a photo with the Rams' senior players. Photo submitted.

own (who was coming off an arm injury) had 10 strikeouts for us in that game."

Throughout the year, the Rams seemed to find themselves involved in a lot of close contests against the better teams. They have also had their share of blowouts as well as getting blown out when they were not on their defensive game.

Verra does not consider Northbridge to be a power hitting team, nor a team that has strikeout pitchers. Instead, his team prides

themselves on their defense.

"It was our defense that got us going mid-year and propelled us into and through the tournament," Verra said.

That defense was led by captain and catcher Matt Visbeek. The senior not only provided the defense behind the plate but was third in the Ram lineup, batting .361 with

SPORTS

continued on page 29

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**SPORTS**

**SPORTS**

*continued from page 28*

30 hits in 89 at bats and was named to the SWCL All-Star team.

"Pitching is an important part of the game, but if you don't have a catcher who can keep the ball in front of him you're going to have problems," Verra said. "Most people believe that your defense starts with your shortstop and center-fielder, but your catcher is the one who jump starts the defense."

The Northbridge defense continues with the infield, which is made up of three juniors and a sophomore. McKeown, another SWCL All-Star, played the hot corner for the Rams this past season and much like Visbeek, he provided the team with defense as well as offense.

The junior led the league in batting at .405 with 30 hits in 90 at bats, in addition to leading his team with five extra base-hits and 23 stolen bases. According to Verra, the Rams third baseman is a tremendous defensive player and one of the best athletes at the position that he has coached in 30-plus years.

Sophomore Jake Costello batted .347 with 24 runs scored, while second baseman Brady Hubert

batted fifth in the lineup and with his defensive skill provided a formidable double play tandem with Costello.

Senior Cam Athanas found his role as the squad's DH, although he would have much rather been playing second base.

"Cam was a great leader and

Athanas, a three sport athlete at Northbridge, was another Ram named to the SWCL All-Star team. He had 96 plate appearances for Northbridge and stole 13 bases.

On the mound Dom Radford and Michael Cary carried the team. As Verra noted the squad was not big on strikeouts, but his

there was. He went 6-2 with a 1.12 ERA while giving us 5 to 6 innings per game and in 62.2 innings he had 26 strikeouts and only allowed 10 earned runs," the coach said. "Michael was our number two and won a couple of tournament games for us and pitched phenomenally for us in the 14-inning game against Abington in the tournament."

"This season was unbelievable, I truly love this team and enjoyed going to the field with them every day," Verra said.

The Northbridge skipper continued to note that although they will be losing four seniors (Visbeek, Athanas, Radford and Cary) the team will be up for another run next spring.

"We may be even better next year," he said. "It's all about these four contributing seniors who changed the culture for the positive for Northbridge baseball. They will be the reason we move forward in the future."

One of the main reasons the culture worked was because of Assistant Coach Matt Abrain, a 2010 Northbridge graduate who was part of the State Championship team. According to Verra, the kids could really relate to Abrain.

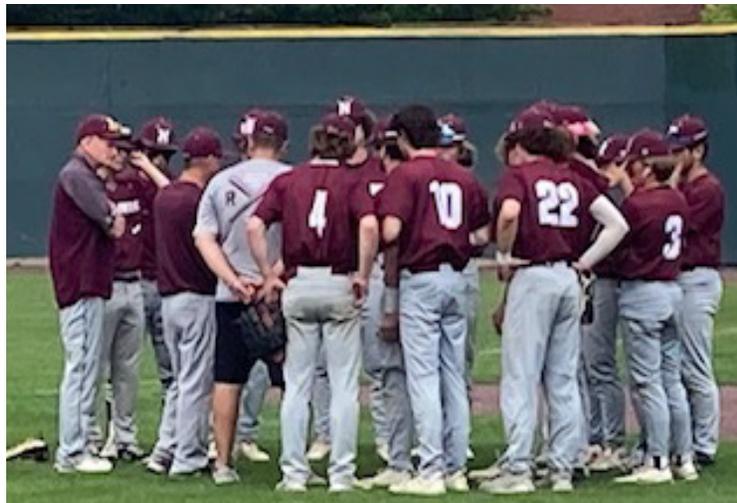
Despite losing his catcher, DH,

and top pitchers this season Verra firmly believes that next season the team should continue where they left off this season. Northbridge will be bringing its entire infield as well as its left fielder (Ryan Bedigian) and centerfielder (Zac Tevepaugh), both incredible defensive athletes. Six of this year's eight position players will be back on the diamond next spring with Verra.

On the mound, McKeown should be healthy and back to 100% while taking on the role as the Rams pitching ace. Verra foresees big things for him as well as being one of the best hurlers in the league. Also seeing some action on the mound will be sophomore Ryan Miley as well as Hubert.

Northbridge will also see an influx of talent moving up from a successful junior varsity team that should also improve the varsity squad.

"We're losing two very good senior pitchers, but we should still be able to keep pace with Joey moving into the ace role and having a supporting staff behind him," Verra said. "I don't want to wish this season away as it was truly special, but we have to start looking to the future."



Talk gets serious in this pre-game huddle. Photo submitted.

teammate," the coach said. "He accepted his role as DH but would have rather been out in the field. We tried him out in the outfield, but he was just not comfortable there."

two senior hurlers not only kept opposing batters off balance, but minimized the number of walks they gave up.

"Dom became our ace and lead the team in every pitching category

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FOR UPDATES

## BVT Announces Third Trimester Commendation List Acknowledging Academic and Vocational Achievements

**B**lackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) has released the Superintendent-Director's Commendation List for the third trimester of the 2022-2023 school year. To be named to the Commendation List, students must meet rigorous standards, such as maintaining a grade point average of 88 percent or above in each technical, related, and academic course for the trimester.

The following students, grouped by grade level and hometown, were named to the third trimester Commendation List:

### SENIORS (CLASS OF 2023)

#### DOUGLAS

Murphy Potter, Painting & Design Technology, and Brett Staples, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

#### GRAFTON

Juliana Errara, Health Services; Noah Mariano, Engineering & Robotics; and Henry Warfield, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

#### MILLBURY

Samuel Bazydlo, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Brianne Laudani, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Sean Perrotta, Construction Technology; Brooke Maguire, Health Services; and Kasey Reeves, Health Services.

#### NORTHBRIDGE

Jenna Dolber, Multimedia Communications; Sam Grilli, Drafting & Design Technology; Noah Malkasian, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Nicholas Vaughan, Electronics & Engineering Technology; and Emily Wildfeuer, Drafting & Design Technology.

#### SUTTON

Ryann Lombardi, Health Services; Paige McMullan, Painting & Design Technology; and Colin Medeiros, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

#### UXBRIDGE

Mackenzie Barnicle, Culinary Arts; William Crosby, Painting & Design Technology; Isabella Gannon, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Maxwell Guyton, En-

gineering & Robotics; and Autumn Herrick, Electrical.

### JUNIORS (CLASS OF 2024)

#### DOUGLAS

Laney Beahn, Engineering & Robotics; Cameron Burdick, HVAC&R; Jack Dooner, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Baron Sherry, Engineering & Robotics; Tyler Stevens, Information Technology; Sorcha Twohig-Mann, Health Services; and Chloe Vescio, Engineering & Robotics.

#### GRAFTON

Caitlin Brown, Dental Assisting; Danica Fiore, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Carlie Jensen, Painting & Design Technology; Ethan Keenan, Health Services; Soumith Madadi, Information Technology; Joshua Mumford, Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing; Grant Purcell, Engineering & Robotics; Lily Turcotte, Construction Technology; Nicholas Valoras, Engineering & Robotics; and John Wingate, Engineering & Robotics.



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**MILLBURY**

Madison Moore, Painting & Design Technology; James Richert, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Isabella Rose, Health Services; and Emma Shum, Dental Assisting.

**NORTHBRIDGE**

Giovanni Biagioni, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Hailey Feehan, Painting & Design Technology; Lily Marshall, Dental Assisting; Willigis Mfonow, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Ella Rogozenski, Engineering & Robotics; Brandon Spiller, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Jonathon Spiller, Painting & Design Technology; and Emma Vaughan, Culinary Arts.

**SUTTON**

Michaela Gledhill, Construction Technology; Christopher Gubins, Construction Technology; Peyton Nolan, Multimedia Communications; and Macyn White, Construction Technology.

**UXBRIDGE**

Yara Alomar, Health Services; Savannah Brodeur, Cosmetology; Noah Cahill, Engineering & Robotics; Victoria Cieply, Dental Assisting; Micah Deary, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Trevor Horgan, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Sean Knox, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Grace Mathieu, Engineering & Robotics; and Marissa Osimo, Health Services.

**SOPHOMORES (CLASS OF 2025)**

**DOUGLAS**

Haley Bilodeau, Biotechnology; Dale Boudreau, Electrical; Haley Chamberlain, Cosmetology; Justin Dooner, Engineering & Robotics; Tyler Grybowski, Information Technology; Emily

Muniz, Engineering & Robotics; Om Patel, Engineering & Robotics; Samantha Pinto, Health Services; Jaden Roddick, Multimedia Communications; and Willow Windoloski, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

**GRAFTON**

Steven Caya, Engineering & Robotics; Nora Iadarola, Multimedia Communications; Christopher Joiner, Biotechnology; Keyara Jones, Health Services; Ella McCann, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Carly Simpson, Health Services; Daniel Warfield, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Annika Welles, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; and Robert Wells, Electrical.

**MILLBURY**

Mason Diosomito, Engineering & Robotics; Ethan Ikeda, Construction Technology; and Jayden Quang, Engineering & Robotics.

**NORTHBRIDGE**

Ava Bates, Cosmetology; Sosie DerKosroffian, Health Services; Zabel DerKosroffian, Information Technology; Abigail Dineen, Dental Assisting; Faith Ellis, Multimedia Communications; Conner Gomez, Engineering & Robotics; Haden Houatchanthara, Plumbing; Mara Keane, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Dylan Leeds, Engineering & Robotics; Haley Marston, Dental Assisting; Markas Petone, Health Services; Eva Schairer, Health Services; Isabella Reed, Biotechnology; Sean Russo, Information Technology; Scarlet Sergel, Dental Assisting; and Alexa Seward, Engineering & Robotics.

**SUTTON**

Colton Corash, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Benjamin Hicks, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Tyler Houlihan,

Health Services; and Caroline Martin, Engineering & Robotics.

**UXBRIDGE**

Alexi Cox, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Samantha Fairhurst, Health Services; Samuel Kirby, Electrical; Mikaela Swanson, Biotechnology; and Stephanie Zaitoun, Engineering & Robotics.

**FRESHMEN (CLASS OF 2026)**

**DOUGLAS**

Maddison Dos Santos, HVAC&R; Caitlin Kelly, Health Services; and Sophie Rivard, Engineering & Robotics.

**GRAFTON**

Logan Black, Electrical; Kevin Magill, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Cooper Often, Electronics & Engineering Technology; and Ellen Winderbaum, Painting & Design Technology.

**MILLBURY**

Allison Garden, Engineering & Robotics; Lily Kelley, Multimedia Communications; Kyra Moody, Biotechnology; and Julie Wenson, Health Services.

**NORTHBRIDGE**

Esther Alves, Engineering & Robotics; Isabelle Balon, Biotechnology; Landon Gibson, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Autumn Gromelski, Culinary Arts; Emersen Polymeros, Construction Technology; Jacob Poole, Information Technology; and Allegra Sadik,

Health Services.

**UXBRIDGE**

Breanna Donahue, Electrical; Gabrielle Gannon, Engineering & Robotics; Brooke Gniadek, Cosmetology; Veronica Jordan, Health Services; Isabella McLaughlin, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Daniel Noel, Engineering & Robotics; Daniel Pimentel, Information Technology; Khari Torku, HVAC&R; and Parker Waugh, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

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## LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

# Luke's Right to Play

BY AMY LECLAIRE

**T**ruth. Having a dog is like having another kid. Dogs need our discipline, love, energy, and patience. Dogs remind us to be on top of our game. “No Slackers Allowed,” they tell us.

Big dogs have big needs. Do they have bigger needs than little dogs? Perhaps their needs are simply different. Luke is not a particularly needy dog (or overly big) but he's a playful one. His favorite game happens to be Chase, a game that's been written about, a game branded by the unobtrusive push of a stuffed animal—directly into the square of our butts.

“Ooh!”

“Ahh!”

“Luke!”

The jolt takes us by surprise. Then, game on. The stuffed lamb hangs from his mouth like a dead

bird. You're It. We've been nominated. “I'm gonna' get you!” We raise our hands like a monster's while, spooked, Luke rushes away and slides around corners of the house, slipping foolishly. Pizza is about to be delivered.

“Hello there.” I open the door, disheveled, and wipe stray hairs from my sweaty cheek. “Let me take that from you.” The delivery man simply wants to accept his tip and split, but my 68-pound Golden wants IN on this new person. He wiggles. He whimpers. Chase has become a distant memory. “I don't really know you, but you smell good.” He drops the lamb and picks up a sneaker to share. “Oh, and I love you, too.” Pizza Man shuffles to make a smooth transition.

Rather inconveniently, a paper receipt falls to the ground and Luke snatches it up. I extract wet paper from his mouth and struggle to accept a pizza still unpaid for. I want to wash my hands so badly, but things are starting to feel awkward. “Excuse me. Young dog here.” I'm embarrassed. Worse, I make excuses for my own lack of proper dog

training. Front Door Greetings are huge when it comes to this. Luke should be waiting patiently for me to decide when the time is right for a front door exchange with Mr. Pizza. “Have I told you lately how much I love you?” Instead, he licks the young man's hands, and fails to respect boundaries.

“It's your turn.” Luke's exuberance has led my family to keep score regarding the work required to own him.

“I walked him the long way.”

“I did hose play.”

“I stayed up late with him.”

Luke follows the conversation and awaits the verdict. “Aren't I the cutest male Golden?” Luke's cuteness, admittedly, has kept him out of trouble. I've watched him dig holes wide and deep in the yard. I can't help but admire how productive he is. “Luke is as powerful as a motor! He dug that hole in 30 seconds flat! He's a natural landscaper, I swear.” My husband, visibly worn-down by Luke's hobby, covers the hole like a gravedigger. “Daddy is so good at yard work.” He smiles



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down at his work. “We're such a good team.”

Luke, though needing assistance at times, surprises us as well. Sometimes he handles boredom like a champ. He noses through his toy box, pulls a toy out, and lays down to chew. His independence warms our hearts, though in a bitersweet kind of way.

“Look at Luke! He's self-soothing with that smelly, old bat!” We watch him play by himself, his paws stretched at eleven, a crinkly bat (a first toy) between his paws.

**LUKE**  
continued on page 33

REAL ESTATE

# Pricing your house right still matters today

While this isn't the frenzied market we saw like the past few, homes that are priced right are still selling quickly and seeing multiple offers right now. That's because the number of



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

Realtors

To set yourself up to see advantages like these, you need to rely on a REALTOR or real estate agent. Only an agent has the expertise needed to find the right asking price for your house. Here's what's at stake if that price isn't accurate for today's market value.

The price you set for your house sends a message to potential buyers. Price it too low and you might raise questions about your home's

condition or lead buyers to assume something is wrong with it. Not to mention, if you undervalue your house, you could leave money on the table, which decreases your future buying power.

On the other hand, price it too high and you run the risk of deterring buyers from ever touring it in the first place. When that happens, you may have to do a price drop to try to re-ignite interest in your house when it sits on the market for a while. But be aware that a price drop can be seen as a red flag for some buyers who will wonder why the price was reduced and what that means about the home.

It can be thought of this way; your house's market debut is your first chance to attract a buyer and it's

important to get the pricing right. If your home is overpriced, you run the risk of buyers not seeing the listing . . . But price your house too low and you could end up leaving some serious money on the table. A bargain-basement price could also turn some buyers away, as they may wonder if there are any underlying problems with the house.

Think of pricing your home as a target. Your goal is to aim directly for the center – not too high, not too low, but right at market value.

Pricing your house fairly based on market conditions increases the chance you'll have more buyers who are interested in purchasing it. That makes it more likely you'll see multiple offers too. Plus, when homes are priced right, they still tend to sell quickly.

Lean on a professional's expertise to price your house

right. So why is an agent essential in finding the right price? Your local agent has the skill, tools and the insight necessary to find the market value of your home. They'll use their expertise to determine a realistic listing price by assessing:

- The prices of recently sold homes
- The current market conditions
- The size and condition of your

house  
The location of your house  
Pricing your house at market value is critical, so don't rely on guesswork. Work with a trusted REALTORs like The Marzeotti Group or another professional to make sure your house is priced right for today's market.



## LUKE

continued from page 32

"No one wants him! This is so sad. He doesn't ask for much, and we're all too busy."

Oblivious, he nibbles at the bat's broken wing. He's moved on. Dogs do not dwell on problems. Sometimes (the irony) we lie beside him while he chews and crowd him. Independence may be the goal, but we can't bear to watch him grow up too fast. "What a good choice, Luke!" He looks up at me. "I'm a purebred good boy." Then he licks me on the lips.

\* \* \*

"Has Luke gone for a walk?" My son faces me with deep concern

while I prepare to leave the house. Keys in hand, I ponder the interrogation. Ben has been to Italy, the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Aruba, Iceland and soon to be Nashville in a span of years that have had me rolling lint brushes across black clothing. "I've walked nearly as many dogs as your age," I think to myself. "Good idea, Ben," comes out instead. "Let's try and make a walk happen." My son's intentions are good. Like me, he worries about our pup. We may not be a perfect dog family, but one thing is for sure when it comes to living with Luke. We love this dog—a once bashful pup nestled beside his brother, the darker of his littermates. We love Luke Valentino, and we understand his right to play.

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# Where are the remains of Rhode Island's first settler?

## A mystery in two parts

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

The title of this story poses an enigma in regard to the history of the Ocean State. So do the events that follow. If you visit Cumberland, Rhode Island, you will see a town rich with the history of industry and economic growth. Its mill houses and factory buildings that grace this parcel of land abound with stories and legends that are common to America's youth. One portion of the town's history is filled with a mystery that spans centuries.

If you visit the village of Lonsdale, a section of Cumberland, take a trip to the Ann & Hope Mill Outlet. It was once the largest outlet store in the state as well as a monument of history in itself. Take a walk a little north of the parking lot and you will see a monument in a little square. This monument is the final resting place of Rhode Island's first white settler, the Reverend William Blackstone, sometimes spelled Blaxton. There is one small problem, however, he is not resting there. Where is he

then? Well, that is what we would all like to know. His story after his death is more interesting and mysterious than his achievements of being first founder of Rhode Island, alleged first founder of Boston, Massachusetts, and a minister of the Anglican Church.

Reverend William Blackstone settled in Shawmut, now Boston, in 1628. He became the solitary inhabitant after the rest of his fellow settlers left the area. But, it wasn't long before he was sharing the real estate with the Puritans. Over the next couple of years, the two co-existed in somewhat harmony. Reverend Blackstone soon had his share of the Puritans and in 1635 sold his land on what is now Beacon Hill and Charles Street. He then headed south towards present day Rhode Island. With his belongings, which included at one point, the largest library in New England, (it was one of the most extensive libraries of the new world), he settled in present day Cumberland. There he built a home removed from all other colonial influence and lived in his

sought-after solitude of himself and his library. He called his home "Study Hill." He is also credited with starting the first apple orchard in Rhode Island on his piece of real estate.

Reverend Blackstone lived in peace among the local Indigenous Peoples as a self-imposed recluse until 1659 when he wed Sarah Stevenson of Boston. They had one son together named Johnathon. Sarah died in 1673 and the reverend would follow two years later in 1675 at eighty years of age. He was buried near his home on Study Hill which was marked by two boulders abreast of a quartz stone marker. Shortly after, the King Philip's War broke out among the colonists and Indians, and the very natives he lived in harmony with, burned his estate to the ground.

It wasn't until 1855 when the saga picks up again. It was then that a group of citizens gathered around the overgrown roughshod grave to pay tribute to their founder and raise money to have a proper, more modern monument planted in the place of the anti-

quated rock pile. Donations were taken but the monument never materialized. Neither did any refunds to the charity givers.

Many years would pass as time took its toll and the weeds grew high hiding William Blackstone's grave from common sight until The Lonsdale Company, owned by the firm of Brown and Ives, decided to expand their operations by building a mill on the Blackstone River. This meant leveling Study Hill and moving Reverend Blackstone's remains to another place.

Luckily, a certain William Gammell was not only one of the directors of the Lonsdale Company, but the president of the Rhode Island Historical Society so when the Ann & Hope Mill was to take the place of Study Hill, it was he who saved the remains of William Blackstone from being totally dug up and lost. At least, for a while.

A special meeting was held on July 26, 1886 where it is written that on May 6, 1886, respected

Providence undertakers, Miles and Luther, exhumed the grave of

William Blackstone only to find a few pieces of bone, some bone dust and the remaining nails from what once held together his long since deteriorated coffin. These artifacts were put in a special lead sealed box and were prepared for reburial. Witnesses to this historic act were Mr. Gammell and a descendant of the Reverend Blackstone, a Mr. Lorenzo Blackstone.

Three years later the company decided it was going to erect a monument in honor of the great reverend. Yet at another meeting held on July 26, 1889, the descendants of Mr. Blackstone resolved to bear the expenses of erecting the monument that would relate the history, in their words, (as accurately as possible) the life and attributes of William Blackstone. The Lonsdale Company had no objections. Now is where things begin to get sketchy and plans go awry.

*The solution to the puzzle of the missing minister will be revealed in the next issue.*

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# Camry wins out as a dependable, fuel-efficient car

**Q.** I have a 2012 Infiniti M37x, when slowing down fast not to a complete stop and then reaccelerating the transmission will clunk, more in standard mode than in sport drive mode. Please analyze and recommend a remedy.



BY JOHN PAUL

**A.** Now certainly at 11 years old there could be some wear and tear to the transmission and axle shafts which is certainly worth checking. But interestingly

Infiniti does have a technical service bulletin that could provide a solution. In some vehicles the axle shafts bind in the hubs and cause a clunk. The fix is to loosen the axle nut, push the axle back and lubricate the axle splines with an anti-seize lubricant. I would give this a try before pursuing more costly repairs.

**Q.** I want to thank you for your advice. I was looking for a vehicle to replace my Chevy Traverse, that would be easy to get in and out, easy to drive and park but have some cargo carrying ability. I don't carry anything heavy, groceries, plants, and flowers. You gave me a few recommendations and talked me out of a few as well. I settled on the Subaru Impreza, it has room, and it is easy to maneuver and fit in my budget.

**A.** The Subaru Impreza is an easy pick. For a compact car it has good room, the ride is comfortable, decent fuel economy, the overall handling is quite good and the all-wheel drive is a great choice for New England winters.

**Q.** I have a Toyota and the cooling fan comes on when the engine gets hot and runs just about all the time. The engine temperature is 210 degrees and I'm worried the engine is overheating.

Where should I look for problems?

**A.** I would start with the basics, depending on the age of the car, the radiator could be partially clogged, the thermostat may not open fully, and the cooling fan may be starting to slow down due to age. Also keep in mind that 210 degrees is not overheating. A 50/50 mix of coolant and water and a pressurized radiator will boost the boiling point to over 250 degrees.

**Q.** I recently purchased a 1981 Chevy Malibu wagon for my beach house (a beach wagon) and the one odd issue is the air conditioner only blows air on the floor not out the dash vents, although occasionally, it does switch to defrost. It isn't that big a deal, but it would be nice if the A/C worked properly. Any ideas?

**A.** These cars used vacuum operated controls and blend doors. To keep everything working properly while driving there was a vacuum reserve tank (looks like a black plastic softball). Check to see if there is a vacuum leak at the tank. At the same time, it may be a good idea to replace as many of the 42-year-old vacuum hoses as possible.

**Q.** I drive a Toyota Camry hybrid, it is good on gas, roomy for four adults and it is quiet on the highway. I was with a friend car shopping, and he was looking at an Audi A6, a nice car but it cost nearly twice as much as my Camry. He claims it is well worth the money and is a much better car. What do you think?

**A.** The Audi is a great car, the handling is quite good, the fuel economy isn't too bad, the ride is somewhat firm but that adds to the handling and the cabin is very nicely finished. The Camry is one of the best and most dependable mid-sized sedans, the hybrid has fantastic fuel economy, the ride and handling is smooth and confident, but not sporty. The interior is comfortable but not as luxurious as an Audi. Is the Camry much better than the A6, it

depends on what you are looking for in a car. If you are looking for a high-quality interior, sports sedan handling and luxury car prestige, yes, the Audi offers that. If you are looking for a dependable comfortable fuel-efficient car the Camry wins out over the Audi.

**Q.** I recently purchased a 2022 Kia Stinger, perhaps one of the best cars I have ever owned. My only disappointment is with the sound system. The sound isn't as rich and deep as I would like. Is there a way to improve the sound?

**A.** Generally, the Harmanardon system in the Stinger gets the same high marks that the rest of the car gets. In my opinion the Stinger is one of the best sedans on the road and I remember the radio to be very good, but I'm hardly an audiophile. I would start by making sure the 700 plus watt sound system in working properly. If it is, then a trip to a good car audio store would be my next step. This car has up to 15 speakers, perhaps upgrading some of the speakers may get the sound

you are looking for.

*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](mailto:jpaul@aanortheast.com). Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on Facebook at [mrjohnfpaul](https://www.facebook.com/mrjohnfpaul).*



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