

## Don't look behind you ...

BY PATTY ROY

As the afternoon shadows lengthen and the first touch of autumn gold dusts the summer leaves, it's time for us to turn our attention to the ghosts, goblins and things that go bump in the night heading our way with the approach of the spooky season.

Author and Oxford native Rob Racicot is familiar with the numerous legends and spirited hauntings of his hometown and has written a book based on one that is sure to capture the imaginations of middle schoolers - "The Haunting of the Oxford Library."

Four middle school students, Joanie, Maggie, Joe and Ted, call themselves "the library rats" since it's their regular meeting place.

They are strictly non-believers in ghosts until one day they witness a strange sighting, sending them on a hunt for evidence that the library could be haunted by a real specter.

"Five or more years ago, I heard rumors about the haunted library and people have written about it before," Racicot said, adding that Edward Lodi, a noted authority on New England legends, had

included a chapter in one of his books about it.

He also heard stories "from reliable people" like library staff members whom he interviewed.

"They all experienced some kind of strange happening," he said. "Like a girl's voice singing or the sound of voices when there was no one else in the library. Images moving across the floor. All kinds of cool stuff."

The stories were convincing enough that Racicot asked permission to sleep over in the library alone.

He got it. Maybe the fact that he's a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel as well as a scientist helped with his credibility.

"They allowed me to do it, but nothing happened," he said, sounding a little disappointed.

The night Racicot slept in the library, he started writing the book, but it took several years to finish. "Unfortunately, with distractions in life and a job, I just finished it now," he said.

The sleepover did have an effect on him, despite not actually encountering a ghost. Not that he didn't try.

"I went all around. I'll be honest,



Author Rob Racicot. Submitted photo

I wanted to see something. I'm walking down the stairs to the basement and I'm starting to get goosebumps on my arms because other people who have no reason to lie, very honest people I know who used to work there, had experiences in the children's section in the basement." he related. "You want to believe it, but then

**AUTHOR**  
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## Auburn Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz Doesn't Miss a Beat

BY JANET STOICA

The town of Auburn keeps humming along in a very positive direction under the watchful eyes of Ed Kazanovicz who took over Town Manager



Ed Kazanovicz took over as Auburn Town Manager after Julie Jacobson retired from the position in January.

responsibilities earlier this year. He worked as Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Town Manager prior to his current appointment and has been working for Auburn town government since 1995. He and Julie Jacobson, former Town Manager, worked on many projects for the town's betterment from economic development to human resources to collective bargaining. His responsibilities included all aspects of financial management including the town's annual operating budget and five-year budget forecasts. With a background in accounting, Mr. Kazanovicz is very well prepared in steering the town in the right financial direction.

"I've been in municipal government for 39 years," said Town Manager Kazanovicz, "I began my career in Lowell as an Assistant City Auditor and worked for the city for 12 years before becoming the Auburn Town Accountant. Julie Jacobson and I were very proud of our accomplishments and this town has never been in better financial shape. We put together great financial policies including a Stabilization Fund of \$4.5 million and OPEB trust funding of \$7 million." OPEB, or Other Post Employment Benefits, refers to benefits other than pensions provided to retired town employees such as medical benefits. A

**TOWN MANAGER**  
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**AUTHOR**

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again, I'm a scientist, so it's really hard to think that it could be real because it seems to violate the laws of science."

The scientific method would require all people to experience the same phenomena in the same way to be a true law of the universe, Racicot explained. But in the case of the Oxford Free Public Library, only certain people have had certain experiences at certain times.

On an optimistic note for believers in the supernatural, there are things in the universe that we don't still understand like dark matter and dark energy, he pointed out.

So why rule out ghosts, phantoms and other spectral apparitions? Especially in an old building like the circa 1906 library that

seems made for such things. Racicot enjoyed bringing the history of the town and the old building into the story, so the local young people will learn more about the place they live.

That happens when Library Rats launch an investigation into the possible ghost sighting and begin digging into the past to discover the ghost's identity. Joanie and Maggie are the lead investigators, but they are always backed up by Joe and Ted

Unsurprisingly, Racicot is a bit of a bookworm- an omnivorous bookworm, to be precise. He likes Stephen King, science fiction and historical fiction among other genres. They all play into the interests of an author who likes to engage in storytelling about local hauntings and legends.

"Maybe my own personal reading pleasure affects [my writing].

But I really think it was because I wanted to write about Oxford," he said.

His first book for kids was "The Legend of Carbuncle Pond", another dive into Oxford history and Native American lore that was published in 2013 and has great reviews on Amazon. Its hero is a 12 year old newspaper delivery boy and the story's discoveries are seen through his eyes.

The book is available at <https://www.amazon.com/Haunting-Oxford-Library-Robert-Racicot/dp/B0CCCKQ9BD>. Racicot will be signing copies at on Sept. 16 at Sometimes a Great Notion bookstore, 65 Southbridge Street, Auburn.

Also, be sure to look for a book signing and kids' writing workshop with Racicot at the Oxford Library shortly before Halloween.

**TOWN MANAGER**

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single tax rate for businesses and residents is also being addressed and the town is working hard to reach that single rate. The single rate should serve to create new jobs and help retain jobs in the area.

"An excess levy of \$9.3 million over the past 12 years has saved our taxpayers \$67 million and we are very proud of this," said Mr. Kazanovicz, "An excess levy is the amount we are allowed to tax but we haven't taxed to that maximum allowed and have not done so for 12 years. We also use our health trust of \$12.3 million to minimize health insurance premiums which serves to dilute our premium payments. It's good for our employees and it's good for our town. Additionally, our free cash is used for reductions in our capital expenditures."

Economic development in Auburn currently includes two Chapter 40B Projects for housing which enables the Planning and Zoning Boards to approve affordable housing developments if at least 20-25% of the units have long-term affordability restrictions. The Perry Street Project is a 155-unit development and the Albert Street Project will have 325 rental units. According to Mr. Kazanovicz both projects are considered "friendly" 40B projects which will allow Auburn to receive funding to offset impacts to traffic, the school system, and safety concerns. "We also have a large trucking, warehouse, and storage facility in progress off Route 20-westbound that is taking shape. It encompasses approximately 40 acres. Patrick Motors has completed its expansion on Route 20-eastbound and we are also quite

proud of our Pappas Recreation Complex. The fields are beautiful and are often rented out to local soccer, baseball, and softball teams. The fields do have night lighting which is also a plus. Local groups and residents rent out the pavilion and our town has its annual fireworks display there as well as its 10 annual summertime concerts. Not only are we grateful to the Dr. Arthur and Dr. Martha Pappas Trust for donating \$1 million for this \$5 million complex but we are also most grateful to all of our donors who graciously contributed to the funding for the complex."

Note: Thursday, August 31, from 6-8 p.m. is the last Free Concert of the season at the Pappas Recreation Pavilion. Featured is a Tom Petty Tribute by Petty Larceny. The Pappas Complex is located at 203.5 Pakachoag Street, Auburn.

"We try to make it easy for businesses to locate in our town," stated Town Manager Kazanovicz, "and our Business Coordination Group handles our economic development to assist prospective businesses through the various permitting processes. All in all, our town is looking great." One of Mr. Kazanovicz's short-term goals is to develop a sidewalk and pedestrian safety program sustained in the town's annual operating budget.

In his personal time Ed enjoys hiking, gardening, and cooking but he always looks forward to spending time with his family most especially with the newest family member his granddaughter, Shea.

*jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com*

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# Teens shine on the Hanover stage

In one of the most delightful and poignant musicals of all time, Sutton teens Madelyn Newton and Andrew Smith featured in the Hanover Theatre full scale production of Fiddler on the Roof on July 28 and 29 in Worcester. Quinn Stone, also of Sutton, performed in the play in its Aug. 18 and 19 shows. Millbury resident

in the musical as part of their participation in the Youth Summer Program for teens entering grades 9 through college freshmen in fall 2023.

The program, now in its 15th year, is designed for students seeking a pre-professional experience. Teens are admitted to the program after submitting an audition video.

Participants attend daily morning classes focusing on music, drama, and dance as well as afternoon rehearsals for a final production. Students are cast in and present three performances of a full-scale Broadway musical at the end of each session on The Hanover Theatre's main stage.

This year's production was Fiddler

on the Roof. Madelyn Newton played the hat maker Yussel, a and Andrew Smith played one of the Russian peasants in this story set in the little village of Anatevka. Quinn Stone was Sasha, a Russian soldier and Joseph Fortunato was Perchik, a love interest of Tevye's daughter, Hodel.

The music centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia.

The award-winning tale of Tevye the Dairyman and his family's struggles in a changing Russia is a true musical theatre tradition.

Winner of nine Tony® Awards when it debuted in 1964, Fiddler on the Roof is the brainchild of

Broadway legends Jerome Robbins and Harold Prince, songwriters Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick, and bookwriter Joseph Stein. Touching audiences worldwide with its humor, warmth and honesty, this universal show is a staple of the musical theatre canon.

Set in the little village of Anatevka, the story centers on Tevye, a poor milkman, and his five daughters. With the help of a colorful and tight-knit Jewish community, Tevye tries to protect his daughters and instill them with traditional values in the face of changing

social mores and the growing anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia. Rich in historical and ethnic detail, Fiddler on the Roof's universal theme of tradition cuts across barriers of race, class, nationality and religion, leaving audiences crying tears of laughter, joy and sadness.

With iconic and beloved songs such as "Sunrise, Sunset," "If I Were a Rich Man" and "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," Fiddler on the Roof is the perfect mix of audience-pleasing humor and heart.



Madelyn Newton and Andrew Smith

Joseph Fortunato IV also played in the Fiddler on the Roof JR. version that was staged Aug. 12.

The older teens participated in the production as part of the Youth Summer Program (YSP) at The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts.

Newton and Smith performed

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# Laurie Massoni, Oxford's Best Ambassador

BY JANET STOICA

She works in the Highway Department. Her official job designation is Heavy Equipment Operator. She has given you something to appreciate and smile about as you drive through Oxford's Main Street or

are stopped at the traffic lights waiting patiently or impatiently at the Sutton Road and Main Street intersection. Laurie Massoni is her name and one of the many hats she wears as an employee of the Oxford Highway Department is that of the manager of the 31 pots and planters throughout the town.

Please don't say you haven't noticed. The pots are giant-sized and are positioned at Oxford's main intersection as well as along Main Street, Sutton Avenue,

**MASSONI**  
*continued on page 5*



Laurie Massoni



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**MASSONI**

*continued from page 4*

Charlton Road, and other nearby thoroughfares. The flora are absolutely stunning. Beautiful arrangements and a sure point of admiration and dose of relaxation for every resident walking or driving through town. Bright pinks, whites, reds, deep green shoots and sprays. Some of the arrangements drape like colorful blankets around the urns others have fronds and sprigs that have grown high. All are totally comforting to behold.

Massoni is an artist beyond the highest level of perfection. She has an eye for elegance and beauty that most of us can only hope to aspire to. Oxford is not only blessed to have her in its employ but can also be proud that Massoni has chosen to use her talent for the town's benefit. What other city or town in the area has an employee of similar characteristics? You would be hard-pressed to find one anywhere in the New England area who could compare to her genius.

Originally from western Massachusetts, Massoni decided to relocate to this area four years ago when she saw an ad for summer help landscaping for the town of Oxford. She was

hired. When a full-time position opened up, she applied and then had six months to obtain her commercial driver's license. The Oxford Highway Department crew took her under their wings. It was here that she became part of the Cemetery, Parks, and Recreation Dept.

"I've learned a lot from our town manager, Jen Callahan," said Massoni. "She explained and taught me the details of what she felt would be attractive plantings and now I've learned the finer points of well-placed plantings that will last for the season."

Maintenance, feeding, and watering are Laurie's job but she mentioned that every department employee is available to help when necessary.

Additional responsibilities for Laurie are grass mowing at all town sport fields as well as other lawn areas around town. "There are eight of us doing the parks and recreation maintenance," she said. "We do take care of a lot of acreage in town. I enjoy being outside and seeing the change of seasons. Many town residents stop by when they see me and the crew tending to the flowers and the compliments are many."

It's trial and error for choosing plants each year Laurie noted. When the drought happened last year it took a toll on the plantings

and this year there was a late frost which also did some damage. "The supervisors and I order the plants in the spring. Our choices are all thriving and doing very well this year. We prune often, use good soil, and fertilize often. We buy good soil from local vendors."

Massoni has a Class B driver's license which allows her to drive the large dump trucks and sanders with snowplows.

"It's fun and exciting driving these big rigs," she said, "I feel so small in those big trucks but I learned that I could do it even though it's a male-dominated field. A woman can definitely do this job. I take pride in doing a good job and am very proud of what our town looks like. I like that my job changes every season. For the floral fall clean-up mums, purple cabbages, and fall grasses are introduced and then for the holiday season decorations with greenery and pine. Snowplowing and sanding also take high priority. Just like any job, you learn as you go."

"I just really enjoy the Highway Dept. crew and it's hard not to appreciate the beautiful flowers and then to see them thrive. Our residents enjoy the planters, it's good for them and it's good for the businesses in town. I just do my job and enjoy it. I don't have

time for negativity. My fellow workers are awesome. It's a lot of physical activity and we all help each other. My Park and Recreation Superintendent, Matt Benoit, as well as Steve Esposito,

our DPW Director, have been a great support to me and they are good to work for," she said.



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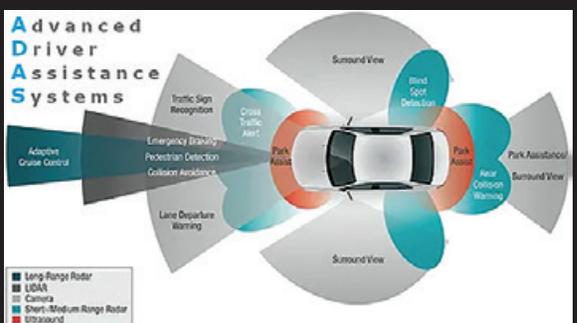


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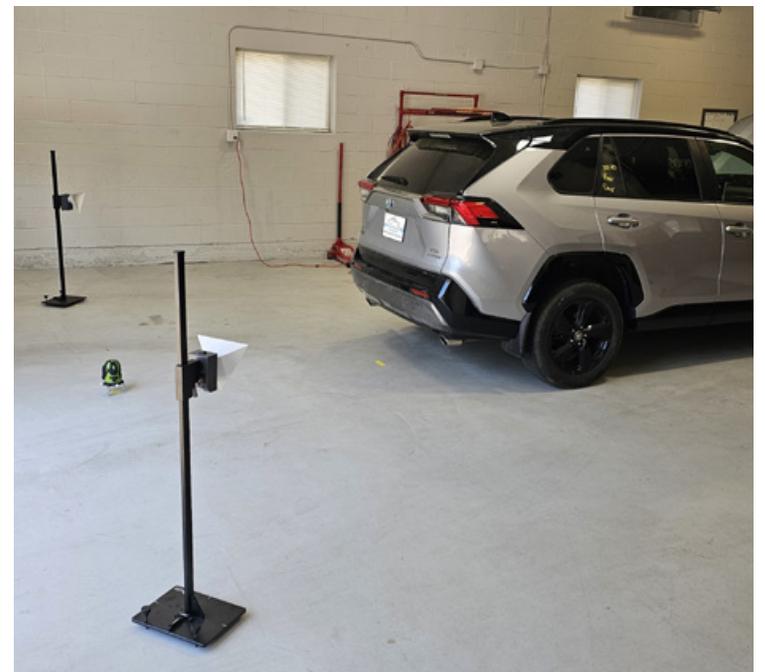
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While operating primarily as a business to business referral, it's fine to ask your collision repair expert to have your car checked by ADAS Diagnostic Systems or even bring it in yourself, according to their service team. For information, email info@adscalibrate.com or call 774-772-4803.

# Free community college for hundreds under state's MassReconnect program

**Q**uinsigamond Community College is poised to award free college tuition, fees and an allowance for books and supplies to hundreds of new and returning students for the Fall 2023 semester under the state's new MassReconnect program that makes community college free for eligible Massachusetts residents aged 25 and older.

Governor Healy recently signed the Fiscal Year 2024 \$56 billion budget, with \$20 million allocated to the state's 15 community colleges for the MassReconnect program as an effort to improve access to higher education. According to the state, there are 1.8 million Massachusetts residents with a high school diploma or equivalency but no degree and close to 700,000 Massachusetts residents who have some college credit but no degree.

"The MassReconnect program is a giant step forward in our quest for equity in higher education. By offering equitable opportunities and resources for our students, many of whom are juggling one or more jobs and caring for their families, we are bettering our entire community," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. "Obtaining a higher education is a way for people to advance a career, change careers and make a better life for themselves and their families. MassReconnect is going to be a gamechanger for so many."

"While QCC is prepared to include over 400 currently enrolled students in this no-cost college program pending their applications for financial aid, QCC is expecting many more eligible students to apply for the fall semester," said Michelle Tufau, vice president for Strategic Enrollment and Student Engagement.

Individuals aged 25 and older qualify for the program if they have not previously earned an associate or bachelor's degree and have been a legal permanent resident of Massachusetts for one year as of the start of classes. Students must complete the 23-24 Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) and enroll in at least six credits per semester in an approved program of study leading to an associate degree or certificate. To learn more, visit [QCC.edu/Massreconnect](http://QCC.edu/Massreconnect), or visit one of the information sessions QCC is hosting during its Super Saturday event on Saturday, August 26, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Sessions will run 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Spanish presentation), or 12:00 p.m.

Who will be eligible?  
Eligible students must:

- Be 25 or older on the first day of classes (September 6 for Fall 2023)

- Have been a permanent legal resident of the Commonwealth for at least one year at start of the enrolled term

- Have not previously received an associate or bachelor's degree, or the equivalent

- Enroll in at least six credits per semester in an approved program of study leading to an associate degree or certificate

- Maintain satisfactory academic progress according to the college's satisfactory academic record policy.

- Complete the 2023-2024 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The College will use information you have provided during the enrollment process and other available data to determine your eligibility before making an award. If you are later determined to be ineligible for the MassReconnect Program, you may owe a balance to the College and/or be required to pay back funds received.

Worried you don't qualify for MassReconnect? Don't worry! There are many other federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs available to help students with the cost of their education. Complete the 2023-2024 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered.



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# Family fun with hike and concert on Quinebaug River Trail

Webster natives and co-founders of the Massachusetts Walking Tour Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards will host a "Walking Tour" Sept. 17 on the Quinebaug River Rail Trail in Dudley.

The Last Green Valley and Local 4 Life are co-sponsors of this event, part of "Walktober" - a regional fall collection of walks, paddles, lectures and other events to connect people with the abun-

dant and diverse natural, historical and cultural resources within south-central Massachusetts and eastern Connecticut.

The event will run from 1-4 p.m. with the following schedule: gathering and welcome 1 - 1:15 p.m.; walk 1:15 - 2:15 p.m.; activities and concert 2:15 - 4 p.m.

The nature walk is a two-miles round-trip to "Ken's Bridge" on easy, mostly flat terrain suitable for strollers. Local 4 Life will then lead a hands-on take-home kids' activity to craft mason bee hotels (while supplies last). Light refreshments will be offered after the walk with an opportunity to visit with local partners like The Last Green Valley and others. Acclaimed local artists Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards will perform acoustic music accompanied by members of the Walking Tour band. Attendees are welcome to bring a chair or blanket for the concert (can be left in the car or at the gathering space during the walk). Meet at the end of Blue Herron Rd. in Dudley (off New Boston Rd) for all activities. The trail kiosk is located near the end of the cul-de-sac.

Street parking is available on Blue Herron Rd. and in the surrounding neighborhood. Alternative parking for those who don't mind a longer walk can be found in the small lot off Scho-



Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards will lead a walking tour and give a concert on the Quinebaug River Rail Trail next month. submitted photo

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field Ave in Dudley and along the driveway of the Webster Water Treatment Plant in Webster.

The Last Green Valley (TLGV) is two things - it's the 35-town National Heritage Corridor in eastern Connecticut and south-central Massachusetts, and it's also a member-supported, non-profit stewardship organization working for residents in the National Heritage Corridor. The corridor is a place with a rich history in a surprisingly rural landscape. More than 80 percent of the Corridor is forest and farm; it's also the last swath of dark night sky in the coastal sprawl between Boston and Washington, D.C. TLGV advocates to sustain our region's legacy for future generations. The Walktober event is in its thirty-third year leading people to wide-open spaces to explore with walks, hikes, historic tales, paddles, bike rides and farm visits.

Local 4 Life focuses on education, conservation and community-building. The non-profit was founded by two middle school Science teachers who were inspired to offer hands on learning that supported local farms and broadened their reach beyond the classroom. They recruited a diverse board of directors, advisors and volunteers that consist of farmers, educators, and entrepreneurs. With the help of their expertise, skills and talents, Local 4 Life has hosted events, workshops and activities for all ages that have been centered in four core values- Agricultural & Local Partnerships, Youth Education, Conservation of Resources, and Diversified Community Outreach.

Since 2010 Mandeville and Richards have organized a grassroots trek annually to raise awareness of recreational greenspace throughout the state and create folk coffeehouse-style musical events in each town. The

Massachusetts Walking Tour has performed over 131 concerts in 113 towns across the state, partnering with the National Parks Service, Mass Audubon, Trustees, DCR, Freedoms Way and AMC to hike sections of the Appalachian Trail, Mid-State Trail, New England National Scenic Trail, Bay Circuit Trail, Cape Cod Rail Trail, South Coast Bikeway and many of the region's smaller recreational greenspaces. In 2017, Senator Ed Markey officially recognized the Massachusetts Walking Tour in the congressional record for an annual commitment to promoting trails, arts and culture throughout the state.

"Our intention is simply to help people understand the importance of greenspace in our busy lives by inviting them out for a walk, to see younger and older folks hiking together, sharing thoughts on a nice day out in the woods," states Mandeville. "As for the concerts, we do our best to create a respectful listening environment which highlights local performers, artists and folks with good work to announce - in that way, each concert is unique."

Aside from organizing the Massachusetts Walking Tour, performing and recording their original compositions, Mandeville and Richards serve as music teachers in central MA through Blackstone Valley Music, an independently owned school with a popular Band Camp Program and monthly community coffeehouse.

See [www.markandraianne.com](http://www.markandraianne.com) for more information. Sponsored by Mark Mandeville & Raianne Richards [masswalkingtour.org](http://masswalkingtour.org), Local 4 Life [local4life.org](http://local4life.org), The Last Green Valley [thelastgreenvalley.org](http://thelastgreenvalley.org), and the Town of Dudley [dudleyma.gov](http://dudleyma.gov) and The Dudley Cultural Council.

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# Happenings!

*NOTE: Community bulletin board-type items are welcome for inclusion in the Happenings! section of the Xpress newspapers. Please allow enough lead time for publication. Email your calendar or event notice to 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 for further details or visit the Daniels Farmstead Foundation website at danielsfarmstead.org.

## 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 auburmmuseum@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.

• 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. • 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.

## 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.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

• Free family movie night featuring "Super Mario Brothers" at 6:30 p.m. at Waters Farm, 53 Waters Road, Sutton. Courtesy of Sen. Ryan Fattman, his family and Waters Farm Preservation. Ice cream courtesy of Country Montessori. Bring your own chairs and blankets. Free to all. • Stars Go Dim, Faith Church, 22 Faith

## HAPPENINGS!

*continued on page 10*

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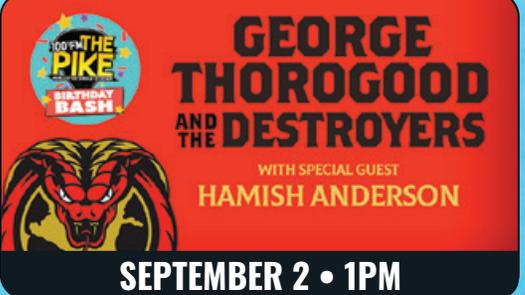
AUGUST 25 • 7PM



SEPTEMBER 2 • 1PM



AUGUST 27 • 7PM



SEPTEMBER 2 • 1PM



SEPTEMBER 4 • 1PM



SEPTEMBER 9 • 12PM



SEPTEMBER 24 • 12PM



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- SUNSET LAKE TOUR / SEPTEMBER 22 / 6PM
- SUNSET LAKE TOUR / SEPTEMBER 29 / 6PM
- LAKE TOUR / SEPTEMBER 30 / 10AM
- LAKE TOUR / OCTOBER 1 / 10AM
- LAKE TOUR / OCTOBER 15 / 3PM
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BOX OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Wednesday (10am-4pm), Saturday-Sunday, (10am-4pm) and Friday (10am-5pm). Tickets are also available by phone: 1-800-514-ETIX (3849). All events are rain or shine. No refunds. For ticketing and group sales, contact tickets@indianranch.com or call 508.943.3871. For information on private events, banquets and renting the Indian Princess Paddlewheel Boat, contact banquets@samuelslaters.com. Indian Ranch is less than an hour's drive from Boston, Providence, Hartford and Springfield. Indian Ranch is located at 200 Gore Road in Webster, MA.

**HAPPENINGS!**

*continued from page 9*

Avenue. 7-9 p.m. Christian pop artist and songwriter Chris Cleveland. Tickets \$15 - \$25.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

• Grafton Recreation will hold a Collectibles Fair, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Grafton Municipal Gym, 30 Providence Road. Coins, comics, toys, records, cards (sports and fantasy) and sports memorabilia vendors. No charge to get in. Accepting donations to the Grafton

Food Bank.

**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.

**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

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**Back to School movie night for a super time**

State Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) and his family announced that they are hosting a Back-To-School family movie night at Waters Farm in Sutton, on Friday, Sept. 8. The featured movie will be The Super Mario Bros. Admission is free and will begin at 6:30pm. The movie will start around 7:30pm. Ice cream will also be available, courtesy of Country Montessori.

The event is open to families in all the towns of the Blackstone Valley, and it is sponsored by the Fattman Family and the Waters Farm Preservation. Fattman, his family, and Waters Farm hopes you will join them to celebrate the waning days of summer by gathering as a community at this local historic treasure in the Blackstone Valley. Please bring your own lawn chairs and blankets for the movie.



p.m. www.americanheritagemuseum.org or call 978-562-9182.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

• The First Congregational Church, 148 West Main Street, Millbury is sponsoring a Flea Market, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone wishing to reserve table space in the church vestry should call Jeri Stead, 508-865-5371. The \$25 inside area consists of a large supper table plus a card table. An outside reservation is \$15 and those chancing the weather need to provide their own table. The kitchen will be serving coffee and muffins and at lunch time, hot dogs will be available. There will also be a baked good table and the Church Flea Market table.

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

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15**

• Scarecrow building contest on the Grafton Common 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Join Grafton Recreation in building a scarecrow and decorating a pumpkin. Supplies provided. Free.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

• The Sutton Historical Society welcomes Mark Savoys 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**

• 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

**HAPPENINGS!**

*continued on page 11*



**Town-wide Yard Sale**

Auburn is holding a town-wide yard sale from 7 a.m. - 12 p.m. Sept. 9. At the Dr. Arthur and Dr. Martha Pappas Recreation Complex, 203A Pakachoag Street. Send a check for \$20 made out to the town of Auburn, 4 Goddard Drive, to reserve your 10 feet by 10 feet spot. Bring your own tent and table. Captain Ron's food truck will have coffee and breakfast items and Richie's Ice Cream Truck will also be there. If you want to hold your yard sale at your own house, simply stop by Town Hall and get a yard sale sign from Ginger and Melinda. Call 508-832-7736 or email kpappas@town.auburn.ma.us with questions.

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Thursday, August 31, from 6-8 p.m. is the last Free Concert of the season at the Pappas Recreation Pavilion. Featured is a Tom Petty Tribute by Petty Larceny. The Pappas Complex is located at 203.5 Pakachoag Street, Auburn.

**HAPPENINGS!**  
continued from page 10

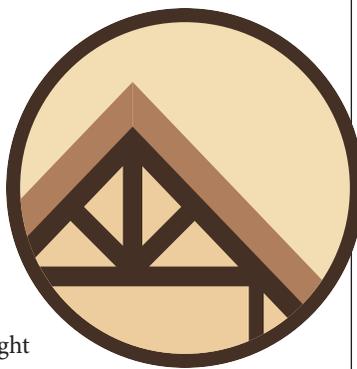
from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. Do you know a business or individual deserving of recognition, or a business that is celebrating a milestone anniversary? Submit your nomination to Liz O'Neil at loneil@blackstonevalley.org.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16**

• 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.

**Community Workshop on Housing**

Residents are invited to learn about updates to Auburn's Housing Production Plan and participate in a planning activity to guide the future of housing in town from 6-8 p.m. Sept. 18 in the select board's meeting room at Auburn Town Hall. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Emily at eglaubitz@cmrpc.com. Light refreshments will be provided.



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# This little piggy ...

The newest historic building in old Sturbridge Village is built neither of straw, sticks nor bricks, but sturdy timber framing. The Allen Piggery represents the best in porcine accommodations and was owned by farmer John Partridge Allen, dating from about 1830 and

perhaps housing breeds such as Berkshires who grew so fat so quickly they could not be driven to market, but needed a wagon.

Most New England families kept at least some pigs for their own use even if they weren't farmers. Once villages outlawed them having free range with con-

sequent damage to crops, the pigs began to be confined and fed, rather than rooting for food.

Pigs are relatively easy to care for and could be cheaply fed with farm and household waste, especially "dairy wash," the whey, skim milk, and buttermilk left over from making butter and cheese.



A stone-lined well for fresh water was located just outside the door to the piggery while a brick hearth was located inside to support a large cast-iron set kettle

for cooking slop. Period advice

## PIGGIES

continued on page 15

**Do you know anyone having difficulty in school, at work or feeling more stress than usual?**

**Someone who had a stroke or working to recover?**



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**Brain Gym for professionals/parents/anyone** is being offered at **Bay Path Evening School** starting consecutive Mondays - September 11 through October 2 from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Susan Wilbur is a certified Brain Gym instructor licensed through Breakthrough International. [www.braingym.org](http://www.braingym.org). To register go online to Bay Path Evening School classes at [www.baypatheveningschool.com](http://www.baypatheveningschool.com). For questions call Susan Wilbur at 508-410-5654.

# Free school lunches are 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.

When Governor Maura Healey signed the budget into law, parents will no longer have to worry about paying cafeteria charges. Lunches as well as breakfast and snacks will be free at schools where they are available.

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

"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."

Even though the state of MA has extended universal free meals, it remains very important for all families to complete the annual Household Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals. This form allows school districts to serve families more effectively by establishing eligibility for other important programs such as P-EBT benefits, fee waivers for school district programs/services (as determined by each school district), and more, according to the Massachusetts anti-hunger group Project Bread. To find the application, visit your district's website or contact the School Nutrition Department at your district.



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# September events at Purgatory Chasm State Reservation

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

Purgatory Chasm State Reservation is located at 198 Purgatory Road, Sutton. Please note that public programming may be affected by construction projects taking place within the park.

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

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 A.M.**

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

**GLACIAL GEOLOGY HIKE**  
**MONDAYS 2 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.**

Discover our glacial past on this one 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 inside the Visitor Center.

**OFF THE BEATEN PATH**  
**FRIDAYS 2:30 P.M. - 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 P.M. - 5 P.M.**

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Center. Suitable for ages 8 and above. Approximately one mile over easy terrain.



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# It's Wonderful, It's Marvelous, It Was a Steve & Eydie Celebration

BY JANET STOICA

The article in the Worcester paper about a free tribute concert at Mechanics Hall in Worcester intrigued me. The concert would have two local singers on stage paying homage to perhaps the most successful and longest-lasting husband and wife singing duo to grace the Las Vegas stage, Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme. I was in. Asking my 95-year-old sprightly Aunt Marie to join me was a no-brain-

er. How could anyone not enjoy the songs of the Eydie & Steve era?

This wife and husband team were mesmerizing in their heyday from the 1950's to the 1980's. Their easygoing banter on stage and obvious love for one another was a definite audience draw. Steve's mellow tenor and Eydie's soothing soprano, with an incredible range, were a match made in heaven. The couple were attractive, comedic, and carefree. They not only had their own TV show

but also made many other TV appearances on The Ed Sullivan Show, The Mike Douglas Show, and the Merv Griffin Show.

As mentioned, their songs were from the 1950's - 1980's when romantic ballads and upbeat relaxing songs were the norm. They refused to join the rock style and that decision turned out to be their success. The ballads and love songs of that era were always stylishly performed by Steve and Eydie and on Wednesday, Aug. 16, in the acoustically perfect Mechanics Hall, Jim Rice and Valerie Roy gave it their best to entertain hundreds of concert goers who listened intently to their vocals.

Mr. Rice and Ms. Roy, who are both from the Worcester area, regaled the crowd with an abundance of and signature songs from the book of Steve & Eydie. This Could be the Start of Something Big, Wouldn't It Be Lovely, That's What Friends Are For, The Two of Us along with a host of Broadway medleys (which lasted well over 10 minutes each without a break) to which my Aunt Marie exclaimed, "It's amazing that they can sing that long! They're just wonderful!" Her smile and enjoyment of the show was greatly rewarding to see.

The duo of Rice and Roy were truly delightful. Their backup accompaniment included a guitarist, bassist, drummer, two saxophonists who also played flute and clarinet, trumpeter, and a trombonist. Mr. Rice sat casually as he sang and played the shiny black grand piano on center stage while also directing the instrumentalists as Ms. Rice stood to the right of the piano at times strolling to the opposite side of



the stage during her singing. The Mechanics Hall pipe organ served as the backdrop for the stage performance and the lighting was excellent.

Jim Rice's warm, smooth, and mellow tenor was the highlight of the show. He never missed a note and his professionalism shone brightly. Sometimes a "free" performance leaves something to be desired but not this act. Jim and Val were absolutely spellbinding.

A very classy show. The presentation was partially sponsored by the Worcester Arts Council and ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding from the City of Worcester. A free will offering was also suggested.

Jim and Val can also be found entertaining in Boston as regulars at Club Café's Napoleon Room, visit thevalandjimshow.com for more information.



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**PIGGIES**

*continued from page 12*

literature recommended cooked grains, potatoes, pumpkins, and various root vegetables such as carrots and turnips. The upper level held a granary with wooden bins for storing dry feed while an enclosed shelter for pigs was located below.

To properly preserve its history, carpenters from the Village carefully disassembled the piggery to save it from further deterioration and vandalism. Each beam and brace of the structure was labeled, shipped and then reconstructed on the property. The piggery incorporated features recommended in agricultural periodicals like Thomas G. Fessenden's popular weekly, "The New England Farmer", along with English advice books like Robert Henderson's "Treatise of the Breeding of

Swine."

This landmark offers a unique glimpse into New England's agrarian past. Visitors can explore the beautifully restored barn and learn how 19th-century



farmers cared for their valuable farm animals.

The piggery was generously donated to Old Sturbridge Village by local businessman and OSV Council of Ambassadors member Gary Galonek and his wife Beckie in memory of long-time Sturbridge teacher Alice Kelly.

# Stalking the Doctors of the Full Moon

In 1834, the American Industrial Revolution was evolving and growing at a frenetic pace along the Blackstone River in 1834, with dozens of textile mills fueling the new industrial economy.

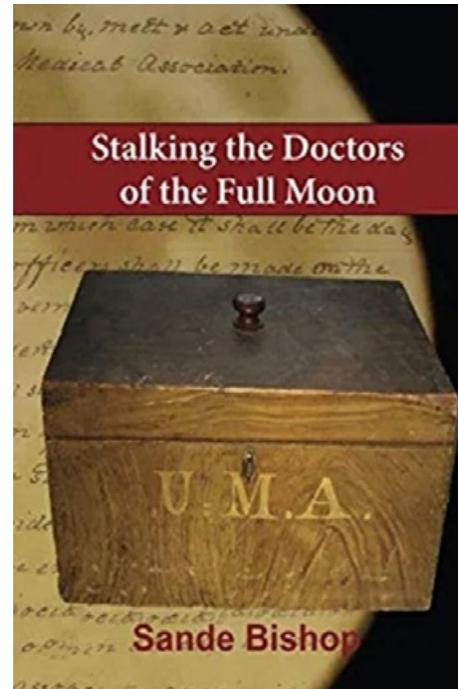
Medical practices, however, had yet to advance into a scientific era. Medical knowledge remained basically unchanged during the first half of the 19th century.

In the Blackstone Valley, a small group of well-educated and respected doctors formed the Union Medical Association to share their knowledge and document their cases. The group met monthly in Mendon on the Monday following the full moon, and each member was compelled to prepare a report.

The medicine the doctors practiced was based on the Hippocratic humoral system, that the body fluids blood, phlegm, black bile, and yellow bile, when out of balance, caused illnesses. Treatment generally involved bleeding and purging. Nothing was

known yet about infections and contagion.

More than 400 of the Association's medical reports, dating from



1834 to 1845, were stored in a small wooden box and found in a corner of the Worcester District Medical Society.

Medical historian Sande Bishop compiled and analyzed the papers for her book, *Stalking the Doctors of the Full Moon*, a fascinating look at the practice of medicine before the scientific era.

Ms. Bishop and curator of the Worcester District Medical Society Dr. Dale Magee will discuss the book at a special presentation at the Samuel Slater Experience museum, 31 Ray Street, Webster, on Sunday, September 10, at 2 p.m. The event is free, but registration is requested. To register, go to the museum website [www.samuel Slater Experience.org](http://www.samuel Slater Experience.org) or Eventbrite.com.

*About Samuel Slater Experience*

Samuel Slater Experience opened last year to tell the story of Samuel Slater, the beginnings of the American Industrial Revolution, and Slater's impact on mill towns such as Webster Massachusetts. The museum employs state-of-the-art digital technology with immersive video and interactive exhibits to recreate two time periods: the early 1800s and the early 1900s. For more information and tickets, visit

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# 2023-24 school year openings

**Auburn**  
**Wednesday, Aug. 30**  
 First day of classes for all students

**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

**Dudley Charlton**  
**Tuesday, Aug. 29**  
 First day for Grades 1-12  
 Friday, Sept. 8 First day for Pre-Kindergarten - Kindergarten

**Grafton**  
**Tuesday, Aug. 29**  
 First day Kindergarten – Grade 12  
**Wednesday, Aug. 30**  
 Pre-Kindergarten Open House  
**Tuesday, Sept. 5**  
 First day of Pre-Kindergarten

**Millbury**  
**Monday, Aug. 28**  
 First day of school for Grades 1 – 12  
**Tuesday, Aug. 29**  
 First day of school for Kindergarten

**Wednesday, Aug. 30**  
 First day of school for Pre-Kindergarten

**Oxford**  
**Tuesday, Aug. 29**  
 First day of school for Grades 1-12

**Wednesday, Aug. 30**  
 First day of school for Kindergarten  
**Wednesday, Sept. 6**

First day of school for Pre-Kindergarten

**Sutton**  
**Thursday, Aug. 31**  
 First day of school for all grades

**Webster**  
**Thursday, Aug. 31**  
 First day of classes for Grades 1-12

**Wednesday, Sept. 6**  
 First day of school for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten

**Shepherd Hill Regional High School**  
**Tuesday, Aug. 22**  
 Freshman “Jumpstart” program 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
**Tuesday, Aug. 29**  
 First day of school for Grades 1-12+  
**Tuesday, Sept 5**  
 First day of school for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten



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2021 ACCURA TLX SH - AWD	19UUB6F53MA002571	12-5-22	3ABZ24-MA
2012 CHEVROLET CRUZE LS 1.8	1G1PC5SH2C7404900	3-22-23	3BVA34 -MA
2004 ACURA TL - 3.2L, V6	19UUA66254A000958	7-12-22	8893TW-MA
2007 BUICK LUCERNE CX - 3.8L	1G4HP5727U164346	1-16-23	2WN567-MA

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# The Green Dome project

There is an ongoing effort to save the town's reknowned green cupola that once graced the original Auburn High School. The old high school was opened in 1935 when the town

meeting on August 29, 1933 with some of the funding coming from the Public Works Administration.

On March 5, 1935, plans drawn by architect Lucius W. Briggs were accepted and within

ber 16, 1935, the first classes were held, with the formal dedication of the high school on January 16, 1936.

The Green Dome stood over the main entrance and quickly became an icon of both the school and of Auburn. The magazine published by students of Auburn High School was even named "The Green Dome."

The old Auburn High School was demolished 72 years after it was built to accommodate a growing student population.

The Green Dome was spared

from demolition, according to Jackie Walsh, Auburn High Class of 1966.

The dome had fallen into disrepair, she wrote in an email, passing into the charge of several town offices until it ended up in the town manager's care.

The goal is to raise funds to structurally stabilize and possibly remove lead from the cupola, then repaint and keep the dome as a tribute to all Auburn students and teachers.

For more information, visit [greendomepreservation.org/](http://greendomepreservation.org/).



The Green Dome is seen atop the old Auburn High School. Donations are being sought to preserve it.

realized it could better serve its students as well as save some money by educating Auburn high schoolers in their home town, rather than busing them to Worcester.

The high school building funds were approved at a special town

a month work had started on Auburn's first high school.

Briggs constructed other well-known buildings in the region, including the clubhouse at the Worcester Country Club, Worcester Memorial Auditorium and Leicester Town Hall. On Decem-

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SPORTS

# Local High School Football Schedules

## SHEPHERD HILL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – THE RAMS

Week 1 – Sept. 8 Away at Concord-Carlisle  
 Week 2 – Sept. 15 Away at Groton- Dunstable  
 Week 3 – Sept. 22 Home vs. Fitchburg  
 Week 4 – Sept. 30 Homecoming game vs. Westborough  
 Week 5 – Oct. 6 Home vs. Algonquin  
 Week 6 – Oct. 13 Away at Nashoba  
 Week 7 – Oct. 20 Away at Marlborough  
 Week 8 – Oct. 27 Away at Grafton  
 Week 9 – Nov. 23 Thanksgiving game Away at Tantasqua Regional



## AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL – THE ROCKETS

Preseason Aug. 26 Home vs. Hudson 10 a.m.  
 Preseason Aug. 31 Away at Grafton 5 p.m.  
 Week 1 – Sept. 8 Home vs. Swampscott 7 p.m.  
 Week 2 – Sept. 15 Away at Tantasqua Regional 7 p.m.  
 Week 3 – Sept. 22 Home vs. Maynard (non-league) 7 p.m.  
 Week 4 – Sept. 29 Home vs. Fitchburg (non-league) 7 p.m.  
 Week 5 – Oct. 6 Away vs. St. Bernard's Central Catholic (non-league) 7 p.m.  
 Week 6 – Oct. 13 Away at Worcester Tech (non-league) 5:30 p.m.  
 Week 7 – Oct. 20 Home vs. Northbridge 7 p.m.  
 Week 8 – Oct. 27 Away at Uxbridge 7 p.m.  
 Week 9 – Nov. 23 Thanksgiving game Away at Leicester (non-league) 10 a.m.



## OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL – THE PIRATES

Week 1 – Sept. 9 Away at Worcester Tech (non-league) 3 p.m.  
 Week 2 – Sept. 15 Away at Millbury 7 p.m.  
 Week 3 – Sept. 22 Home vs. Uxbridge (non-league) 7 p.m.  
 Week 4 – Sept. 30 Home vs. Abby Kelley Foster (non-league) 3 p.m.  
 Week 5 – Oct. 6 Away at Quaboag Regional 7 p.m.  
 Week 6 – Oct. 13 Away at Quabbin Regional 7 p.m.  
 Week 7 – Oct. 20 Home vs. Bartlett/Douglas 7 p.m.  
 Week 8 – Oct. 27 Home vs. Leicester 7 p.m.  
 Week 9 – Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Home vs. Baypath Regional Vocational (non-league) 7 p.m.



## BARTLETT/WEBSTER - INDIANS

Week 1 – Sept. 9 Away at. Burncoat, Worcester (non-league) 12 p.m.  
 Week 2 – Sept. 15 Home vs. Keefe Technical (non-league) 6 p.m.  
 Week 3 – Sept. 22 Home vs. Abby Kelley Foster (non-league)  
 Week 4 – Sept. 29 Home vs. Minuteman Regional (non-league) 6 p.m.  
 Week 5 – Oct. 6 Away at Prouty (Spencer) 7 p.m.  
 Week 6 – Oct. 13 Home vs. Worcester North (non-league) 6 p.m.  
 Week 7 – Oct. 20 Away at Oxford 7 p.m.  
 Week 8 – Oct. 27 Home vs. Quaboag Regional 6 p.m.  
 Week 9 – Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Home vs. Southbridge (non-league) 10:15 a.m.



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TALES FROM BEYOND

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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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## 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 unsubtle 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

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.”



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

“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 cute-



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ness, 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 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 bit-

tersweet 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. “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

**LUKE**

*continued on page 21*

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 homes for sale is still so low. In June, 76% of homes sold, saw an average of 3.5 offers. Source –



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

National Association of 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.

ers. 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 20

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.

Write to Amy at amyelaire@hotmail.com

Find Luke Valentino on Instagram @livingwithlukevalentino

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

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

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

# Own a business? Consider these retirement plans

If you own a small business or are self-employed, you've always got plenty to do, but you can't forget about the days when you'll be less busy — that is, when you're retired. How can you prepare for that time of your life?



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

One key step is establishing a retirement plan for your business or yourself. And thanks to the 2022 SECURE 2.0 Act, you can now receive tax credits for opening and administering a 401(k), SEP-IRA or SIMPLE IRA. These aren't the only plans available for small businesses or sole propri-

etors, but they are among the most popular. Let's look at each of them:

- **401(k)** – A 401(k) offers several key benefits: First, any earnings growth is tax deferred, and your contributions can be tax deductible. (Taxes are due upon withdrawal, and withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10% penalty.)

If you choose a Roth 401(k), your contributions aren't deductible, but your earnings and withdrawals will be tax free, provided you meet certain conditions. And a 401(k) offers a variety of investment options. If you have workers, you'll need to consider whether to offer matching contributions, which are tax deductible to you, up to the limit of 25% of compensation paid to eligible employees.

But even if you're self-employed, with no employees other than your spouse, you can establish what's known as a "solo" or "owner-only" 401(k). In 2023, you can put in up to \$22,500 as an employee, plus a catch-up contribution of \$7,500 if you're 50 or older, for a total of \$30,000. Plus, you can contribute an additional 25% of earned income as an employer, up to an overall employee and employer maximum of \$66,000 (or \$73,500 if you're 50 or older).

- **SEP-IRA** – An SEP-IRA may be attractive to you if you're self-employed or if you own a business but have few or no employees. That's because you must contribute an equal percentage of your own compensation to every eligible employee. In 2023, you can contribute up to \$66,000 or

25% of your income, whichever is less.

- **SIMPLE IRA** – A SIMPLE IRA is easy to establish and administer. As with an SEP-IRA, earnings in a SIMPLE IRA can grow on a tax-deferred basis. If you have employees, they aren't required to contribute to this plan — but you are. You must match up to 3% of employees' contributions or provide 2% of their annual salaries, although you do have some flexibility. If your business goes through a rough patch, you can temporarily decrease SIMPLE IRA contributions to 1% for up to two years out of the previous five. Your contributions to your employees' accounts are tax deductible, but in terms of building resources for your own retirement, a SIMPLE IRA may be less appealing because of its contribution limits, which are relatively low compared to a 401(k) or SEP IRA. In 2023, you can put in up to \$15,500, or \$19,000 if you're 50 or older.

You should consult with your tax advisor to determine which retirement plan is right for you. Your financial advisor can also help you explore your options. And the sooner you put a plan to work, the better.

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

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# Driving car after a recall and manufacturer gives a loaner

**Q.** My Lincoln has been recalled. I have been advised to unhook the battery and not drive the car. I have been given a loaner vehicle until the parts come in. If I drive my recalled car after receiving the loaner, and the car catches fire, will I be covered?



BY JOHN PAUL

**A.** I'm not a lawyer, but it is unusual that the manufacturer is loaning you a car—something they are not required to do. It seems based on that

alone your car may be more prone to fire than others. Will the recall still cover damage to the car if you continue to drive it, even though you were advised to not drive it, I would say yes. Should you drive it after you have been advised to disconnect the battery and not drive it, common sense say no. Why put yourself in a dangerous and potentially deadly situation when you don't need to.

**Q.** I am currently leasing a 2022 Honda HRV. Recently, I received an email from the service department stating that I was due for a 12,000-mile service. I went down to Honda and asked what was in the service. I was given a written estimate for the following: oil change 69.99, tire rotation 39.99, wiper inserts 54.99, air/cabin filter 169.99, alignment 179.99, rear differential flush 229.99. Over \$700 for a car that is a little over a year old. What are your thoughts, especially on the differential flush. When I previously leased the same car, Honda made it sound like if I didn't get the flush, it would cause a major problem at some point. When I had that done it was not at the low milage that I'm at now

**A.** Honda doesn't have a service recommendation based on mileage, but rather uses an electronic maintenance reminder built into the vehicle that

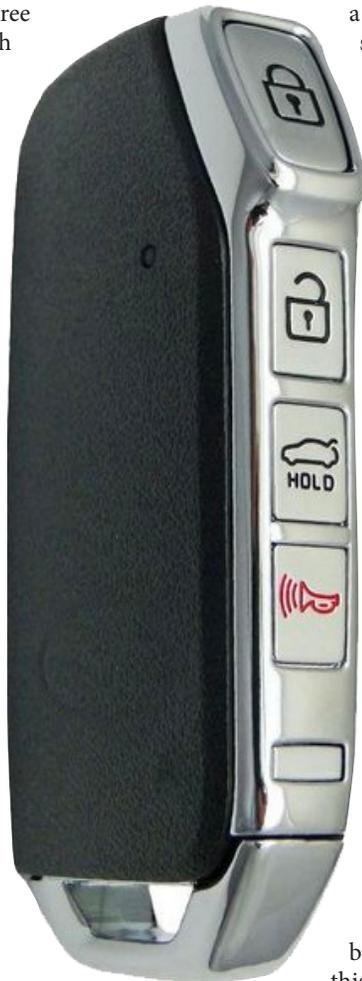
lets you know what services need to be performed. The dealer can make their own recommendations, but those items are not necessary to maintain the warranty. Typically, at a year old an oil change, maybe wiper blades if they streak or chatter and a tire rotation are needed. Depending on where you drive, the engine and cabin filters can last three years, less in high dust or pollen situations. Differential flush—really a fluid change will come up but closer to 60,000 miles but sometimes as low as 30,000, look for the maintenance reminder and let it guide you. There was a time when Alldata (one of the technical databases I use) had a mileage equivalent for the service reminder, but even now just reference the onboard maintenance reminder.

**Q.** This concerns the key fobs and a 2022 Kia EV6 Wind AWD. Both of my key fobs stopped working on Monday this week, which seemed strange since I've only had the car since October. (I am able to unlock/lock the car with the Kia iPhone app and can start the car by pressing the car's Start key with a fob.) I replaced the button cells in both fobs and am still having the same problem, though now it is intermittent with both fobs throughout the day (at any time either both

work, or both don't work) I tried getting a service appointment but won't see them for quite a while. I've called Kia Care and they could not help. Any thoughts?

**A.** From your description it does sound like the key-fobs are faulty but is it very odd they both failed on the same day. The key-fobs use a short-range radio signal, and a strong battery is required. Since you replaced the batteries and that helped a bit, I would test the new button cell batteries, they could have been old stock. The phone app uses the vehicle's IP address rather than a radio signal, which is why it still works. If everything else looks okay, I suspect for whatever reason the front antenna has failed. It is located behind the front bumper cover. My only other thoughts are that a license plate mounted toll transponder could be interfering with the signal or the vehicle's 12-volt battery is weak. At this point, since neither

Kia Care nor I were very helpful, you will need to wait for your appointment with the dealer and have them scan the various modules to see what is going on.



**Q.** My three-year-old Toyota Highlander has 28,000 miles and is still under warranty. The rear brakes were all rusted, and the dealer said the rotors need to be changed (not covered under manufacturer's warranty). I believe this is unusual since I drive this car just like I drove my previous vehicle. What can I do?

**A.** You didn't mention if the rust is causing a problem. It is not unusual for brake rotors to rust even just after sitting overnight. Generally driving the vehicle is enough to have the brake pads clean the rust off the rotors. As an example, my wife's car may sit all weekend and the rotors are brown with rust. After a short drive the rotors clean up and everything is fine. If there is a problem with

the rear brake calipers sticking this may also be contributing to the rusting rotors. If the rotors are deeply pitted, then the only answer is to replace the rotors and at the same time inspect all aspects of the brake system.

*John Paul is AAA Northeast's Car Doctor. He has over forty years' experience and is an ASE-certified master technician. He will answer readers' questions each week. Email your questions to jpaul@aanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on Facebook at mrjohnfpaul.*

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