



This intrepid tiny terrapin found him/herself in the middle of the road. Maybe washed into the street by the intense rains or maybe just out for a crawl. Nevertheless, one of our team members was happy to move it out of harm's way! This little omnivore, or Chelydra Serpentina, can live on average for 25-30 years or longer. Fun fact: The largest common snapping turtle recorded in Massachusetts was 76.5 lbs. and was found in the Town of Orange.

Courtesy of Grafton Police Department - Massachusetts Facebook



Madelyn Newton and Andrew Smith

## 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. Mill-

bury resident 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 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 perfor-

**HANOVER**  
continued on page 3

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SUTTON \* SHREWSBURY \* HOPKINTON

5 Tips to get rid of Tennis Elbow

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The Sutton Food Pantry is looking for the following contributions: Sugar (in a container), canned pineapple, canned peaches, canned carrots, cooking oil, canned hash, canned ham or Spam, Pop Tarts, individually wrapped adult toothbrushes, sponges, spray cleaner, tissues and paper towels.

The Sutton Food Pantry is open Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. at 19 Hough Road, next to the Sutton Senior Center.

For questions or food assistance, call the Senior Center at 508-234-0703.



## Tire collection

Millbury save the date: tire collection day  
The transfer station will host a tire collection day in conjunction with the Central Mass. Mosquito Control Program. This is a free event and is available for all town members. Bring passenger,



motorcycle, ATV and light truck tires to the transfer station, 207 Riverlin Street from 8 a.m. – 12p.m. Tires must be off-rim, no mounted tires will be accepted.

Questions? Contact the DPW office at 508-865-9143.

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--Marcia T

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## Schools get grant to improve security

The town of Sutton has received a grant of \$133,000 through the state Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to improve security at its four school campus on Boston Road.

The grant application was written by Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Roberts-Morandi, Information Technology director Dan Durgin, business manager Harrison McKinlay, high school principal Ted McCarthy and school resource officer Nick Bertone.

The grant will be used to

increase the number of cameras for interior and exterior security, Roberts-Morandi said.

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"We're very excited to be a recipient of this year's grant," said Roberts-Morandi. "It speaks volumes about the strength of collaboration between the schools and the police department."

## BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

Published on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Direct mailed to nearly 65,000 homes and businesses each month and available on news stands in the region.

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**4th Friday:** The YankeeXpress North: Auburn, Oxford  
**4th Friday:** Blackstone Valley North: Grafton, Millbury & Sutton

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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
- Kyle Fleming of Douglas
- Aidan Gordon of Douglas
- Joseph LaBonne of Douglas

- Derek Lemberger of Dudley
- Olivia Valentine of Oxford
- Emily Devine of Sutton
- Conner Pattison of Sutton
- Matthew Brook of Uxbridge
- Samantha Kauzens of Uxbridge
- Robert Whiton of Uxbridge

### HANOVER

*continued from page 1*

mances 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.

## Town manager resigns

Sean Hendricks resigned from his position as Millbury Town Manager on August 2. At their Aug. 8 meeting, the select board voted to appoint Deputy Town Manager Karyn Clark as acting town manager and procurement officer.

A town manager search committee will be formed to find a replacement for Hendricks. That process usually takes a number of months.



At the start of the Aug. 8 meeting Christopher Naff, chair of the five member select board, said there was no severance involved in Hendricks' resignation. He also praised Hendricks' accomplishments for the town. There would be no further statements from the board on the matter, he said.

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# 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 balance, caused illnesses. Treatment generally involved bleeding and purging. Nothing was

known yet about infections and contagion.

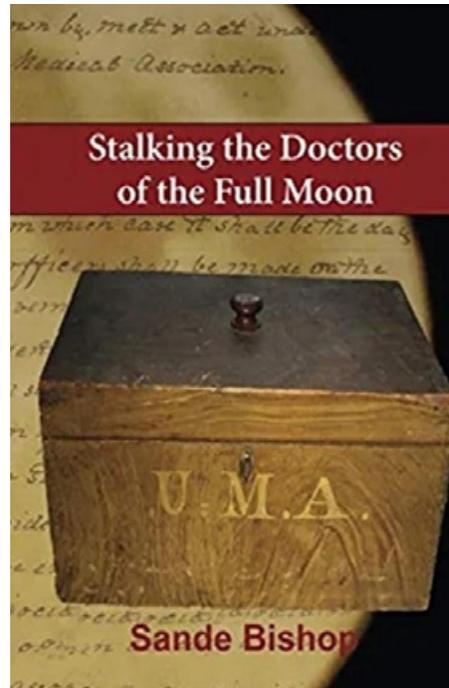
More than 400 of the Association's medical reports, dating from

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



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

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# 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  
Edward Jones Financial Advisor  
77 West Main Street,  
Hopkinton, MA  
508-293-4017  
Mark.Freeman@edwardjones.com

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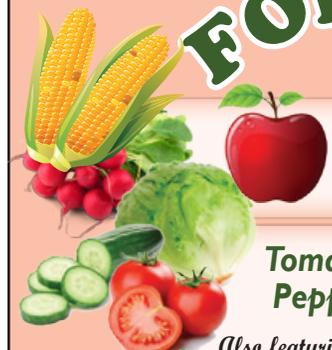
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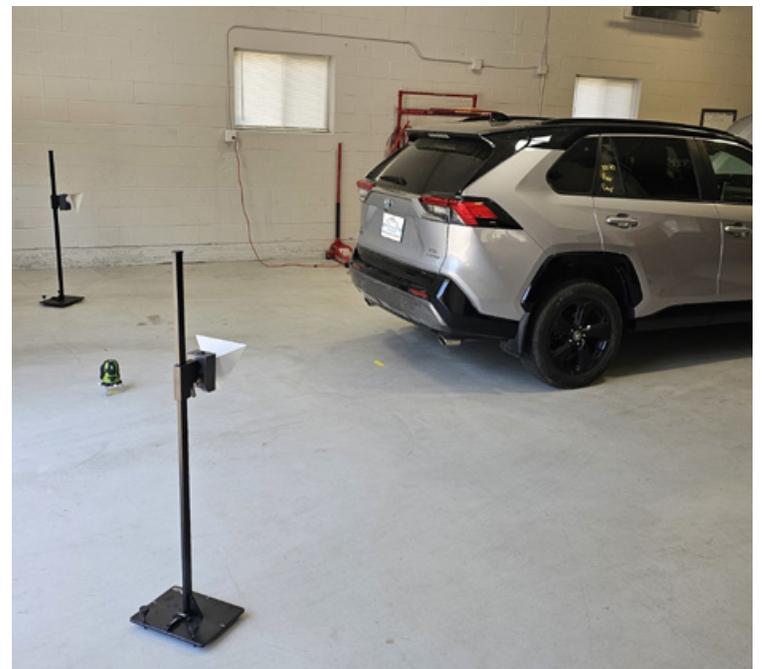
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A variety of scanning tools are being used to ensure vehicle safety with the introduction of the Advanced Driver Assistance System, or ADAS, at Fuller Automotive in Auburn.

all these precision sensors, called Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) need to be checked and possibly recalibrated to ensure they are still working as designed – even if the accident is not within the area of the installed equipment.

You should always confirm with your repair shop that all ADAS calibrations are properly completed after repairs to your car, according to Mike Ambrosino ADAS and diagnostic specialist at ADAS Diagnostic Solutions, 5 Southbridge Street, Auburn.

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.

And no one wants to be driving along unaware that the technology they rely upon is not working.

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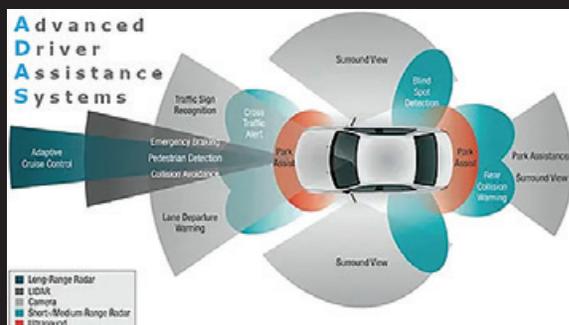
dealers who may not have the tools, the training or the knowledge on this type of recalibration," Ambrosino points out.

Since 2020, ADAS Diagnostic 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 Systems or even bring it in yourself, according to their service team. For information, email [info@adscalibrate.com](mailto:info@adscalibrate.com) or call 774-772-4803.

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“We’re very excited to be a recipient of this year’s grant,” said Roberts-Morandi. “It speaks volumes about the strength of collaboration between the schools and the police department.”

## 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 amaz-

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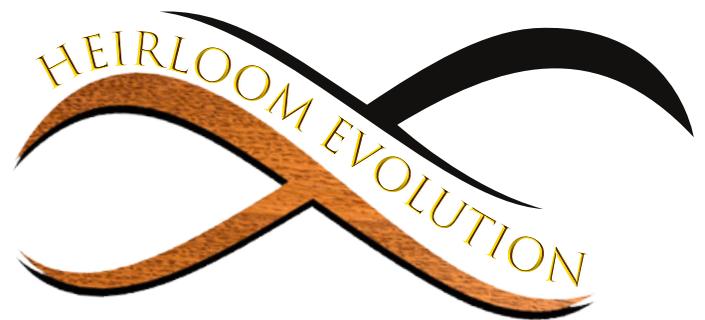
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# Free community college for hundreds under state's MassReconnect program

Quinsigamond 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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# 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-brainer. 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

truly delightful. Their backup accompaniment included a guitarist, bassist, drummer, two saxophonists who also played

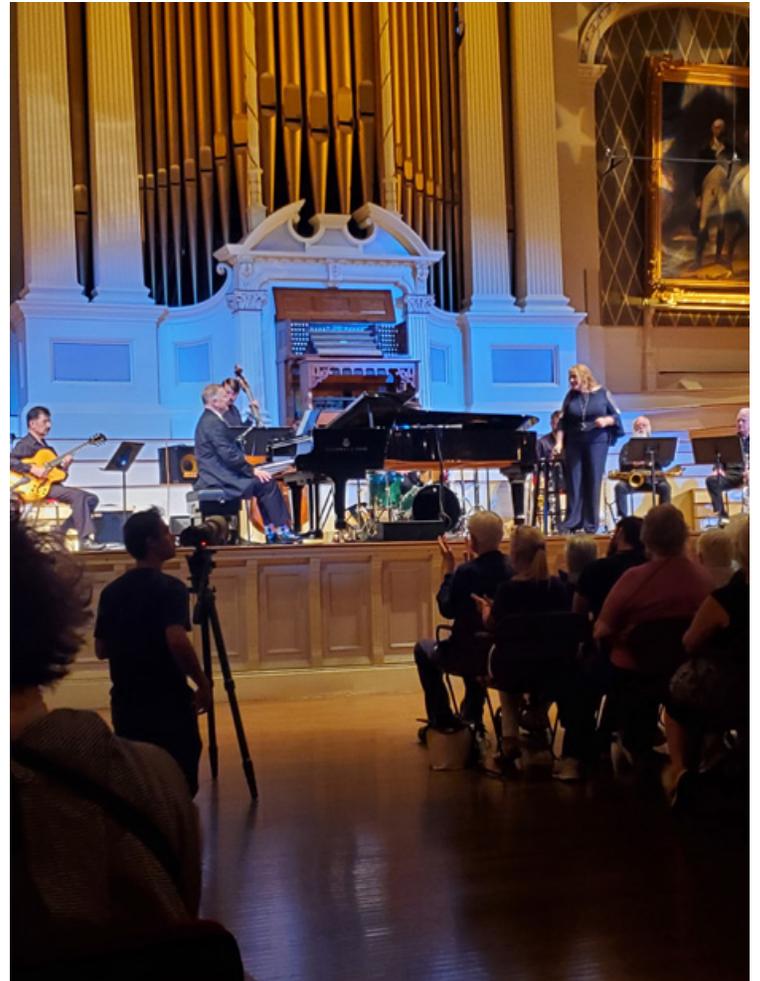
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Susan Wilbur is a certified Brain Gym instructor licensed through Breakthrough International. [www.braingym.org](http://www.braingym.org). To register go online to Bay Path Evening School classes at [www.baypatheveningschool.com](http://www.baypatheveningschool.com).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



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

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](http://thevalandjimshow.com) for more information.

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# Cornerstone promotes Sutton resident

Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 10 locations throughout Central Massachusetts, is pleased to announce the promotion of Sutton resident Daniel D'Amico to vice president, commercial banking officer.

In this role as a commercial lender and commercial services manager, he has a unique depth of knowledge regarding vari-



ous elements and collaborations within the bank, allowing him to provide a high level of service for all customers. He expertly assists customers with their lending and commercial banking needs along with the help of his team below him. He was previously the assistant vice president, commercial banking officer.

"Dan began his career in the banking industry 17 years ago and has been with us since

2013," said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. "From his experience in both commercial lending and commercial services, he supplies exceptional advice and solutions to his customers while creating meaningful and long-lasting relationships along the way."

D'Amico received a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Worcester State University. He is a Certified Fraud Examiner through the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, as well as a graduate of The New England School for Financial Studies.

"I am proud to be a member of the Cornerstone Bank Commercial Services team," said D'Amico. "The work our experienced staff does to help businesses operate efficiently and grow is second to none, and it is an honor to partner with our amazing clients."

By providing clients with the responsive support and extensive and enhanced commercial banking services they need, Cornerstone Bank simplifies banking so business owners can focus on what matters most to them: Their businesses, employees, and customers.

D'Amico is also treasurer of the Worcester Young Businessmen's Association and a board member of the Rainbow Child Development Center.

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HEALTHY BAKING

# Healthier Baking in the Blackstone Valley

BY CHRISTINE GALEONE

With kids going back to school, there's a lot for them to look forward to. But the sad reality is that some will

be bullied, pressured or manipulated into doing things that are wrong – like vaping or helping another kid cheat – or that they're uncomfortable with – like dating before they're ready. Empowering them

with a simple tool to fight bullying could help.

These Take Back Control Granola Bars are super easy for kids or parents to make. And if they're packed into a kid's lunch with a post-it note with "STOP" written on it, they can live up to their name.

You can teach your kids to remember that if another kid or adult ever attempts to bully them into doing something that they don't want to do, they can STOP and think of what they need to do. S stands for "Say no!" T stands for "Tell a trusted adult or two or three – even if threatened to keep quiet." O signifies that they should "Opt to be treated with the respect everyone deserves." And P reminds them to "Pass it on" to help their friends.

These granola bars are a healthy snack because they're nutritious. And they're free from artificial colors and preservatives. The oats are the whole grains that fuel energy. They also contain fiber, which is good for your digestive health, and they're a heart-healthy ingredient that can lower cholesterol.

And the raisins, dark chocolate



and cinnamon have anti-oxidants. Honey – in moderation – is also better for you than granulated sugar, and it can soothe your throat if you have a cough or sore throat.

Take Back Control Granola Bars

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 2 ½ Cups of Rolled Oats
- 1 Cup of Raisins
- 1 tsp. Cinnamon
- ¼ Cup of Honey
- ¼ Cup of Olive Oil (Light for Baking) and 1 Tbsp. reserved for chocolate chips
- 1 tsp. of Vanilla Extract
- 1 Cup of Dark Chocolate Chips (or 4 Baker's Squares of Dark Chocolate)

**DIRECTIONS:**

Pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees.

In a bowl, mix together all the dry ingredients except the chocolate chips.

Add the wet ingredients, and mix everything (except the chocolate chips) together.

Distribute the mixture evenly in a 9" X 9" pan, press it down firmly with a spoon, so that it's level, and bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Let it cool completely. Then, melt the chocolate chips or squares (combined with the 1 Tbsp. of olive oil), and completely coat the granola with the melted chocolate for granola bars. If you prefer granola over the bars, just drizzle the melted chocolate over the granola, instead. Cool in the refrigerator, and cut into bars after the chocolate layer has hardened. Makes about 16 granola bars or servings of granola.

\*Please Note: Honey is unsafe for infants, so this recipe shouldn't be made for anyone under one year old.

Hopefully, your kids, grandkids, nieces or nephews will never have to use this anti-bullying tool. But it could be helpful now or many years in the future. And no matter what, they can have some healthy and delicious granola bars. Happy (healthier) baking!



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# McGovern thanks volunteer farmers

U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Worcester) visited Community Harvest Project (CHP) in Grafton on Aug. 3 to speak about hunger relief and food insecurity in Massachusetts. Community Harvest Project engages and educates volunteers to grow fruits and vegetables for hunger relief in the region.

During his visit, Rep. McGovern addressed critical issues related to hunger, including the farm bill and state lawmakers' efforts to fund free universal school meals. He emphasized the importance of taking steps to alleviate food insecurity in the community.

Despite these positive efforts, Rep. McGovern also expressed concern over congressional Republicans pushing for cuts to existing benefits, which could hinder progress in the fight against hunger.

"Hunger is a political condition," Rep. McGovern remarked during his visit. "We possess the necessary resources, knowledge, and food to solve this problem. What we lack is the political will. However, we are gradually building that will, and together, we can make a real difference."

Community Harvest Project relies heavily on the support of volunteers and plays a crucial role in addressing the hunger crisis. Last



Rep. Jim McGovern stands with staff, interns and volunteers of Community Harvest Project. Submitted photo

year alone, CHP donated 323,375 pounds of produce to people experiencing food insecurity in Eastern and Central Massachusetts.

Tori Buerschaper, CHP's Executive Director, highlighted the gravity of the current situation.

"Recent statistics indicate that one in three people in Massachusetts faces hunger, a number higher than pre-pandemic levels," she said. "This is a crisis, and we must take action. It is imperative that we provide robust support systems, including programs that help people secure a living wage, ensuring they

have all they need to afford food without struggling."

Several of Community Harvest Project's distribution partners also participated in the discussion including Lovin' Spoonfuls, Community Servings, UMass Memorial Health, Boston Area Gleaners, Grafton Food Bank, and Stone Soup Kitchen, as well as an aide from Rep. Hannah Kane's (R-Shrewsbury) office.

For more information about locations, programs and impact, contact Wayne McAuliffe, wayne@community-harvest.org.



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## Grafton Library events

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# Hello, Summer!



64 Williams Street, Upton, MA

### SATURDAY, AUG. 26

2 - 4 p.m.

Lecture: Travel and Transportation in Early 19th Century New England

The Grafton Historical Society presents Tom Kelleher of Old Sturbridge Village, who will deliver a lecture with slideshow on Travel and Transportation in Early 19th Century New England. America in the early 1800s was in the midst of a transportation revolution, and compact, industrializing New England led the way. This overview will outline some of the innovations and changes that put "the whole population in motion" in the first several decades of the 19th century.

2-4 p.m. Drop-in Knitting Group

### MONDAY, AUG. 28

10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Friends Book Sale set-up

6:30- 7:30 p.m. Tween and Teen Manga Club, grades (6-12) sign-ups are required. In the Maker Space

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Read Well with Others book group. Join us on Monday August 28th at 7:30pm, in room 228 of the Grafton Public Library for the "Reads Well with Others" Book Group's discussion of Leaving Coy's Hill, by Katherine A. Sherbrooke.

Born on a farm in 1818, Lucy Stone dreamed of extraordinary things for a girl of her time, like continuing her education beyond the eighth grade and working for the abolitionist cause, and of ordinary things, such as raising a family of her own. But when she learns that the Constitution affords no rights to married women, she declares that

she will never marry and dedicates her life to fighting for change. Based on true events, "Leaving Coy's Hill" is a timeless story of women's quest for personal and professional fulfillment within society's stubborn constraints. And as an abolitionist and women's rights activist fighting for the future of a deeply divided country, Lucy Stone's quest to live a life on her own terms is as relevant as ever. Copies of the books are available in regular print, and audiobook on CD, so stop by the library to pick up a physical copy.

Located at 228, study group 6.

### TUESDAY, AUG. 29

Inspirational book group and guided meditation

7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Located in room 228

The library is closed for Labor Day, Saturday, Sept. 2 - Monday, Sept. 4

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Friends of the Grafton Library Back to School Book Sale

50 percent off for teachers. Fill a bag for \$5! Cash, check or PayPal for purchases over \$5.

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 10

The Friends Book Sale continues, 12-2 p.m.

### MONDAY, SEPT. 11

Book Sale breakdown 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

6-8 p.m. Happy Harvesting with Plant Guy Eric

You've waited all season and it's finally time! Let PlantGuyEric help you make the most of it!

Following our popular "Let's Get Growing with PlantGuyEric" program in the spring, many of you have been practicing the skills you learned then, and it will soon be time to reap the fruits of your labor.

In this hands-on workshop you will learn how to determine the best

time to harvest your homegrown cannabis, and Eric will guide you through the proper steps of trimming, drying, and curing in order to achieve a top-quality finished product.

LOCATION: Community Room A/B

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 13

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Not Just for Young Adults Book Group

"The Memory Thief" by Laura Mansy

6:30 - 8:00 Grafton Ukulele Musicians (GUM) Jam

Bring your own ukulele or check out one of ours! While we mostly work with Daily Ukulele, participants may bring or suggestion music to learn, and we plan to offer themed selections -- 80s night, 3 chords night, Beatles night -- if there is interest.

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 14

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

LGBTQ+ Worcester for the Record with DR. Stephanie Yuhl

Come celebrate Worcester Pride and LGBTQ History Month with a Presentation by Holy Cross professor Dr. Stephanie Yuhl on the queer history of Worcester and beyond and the work that went into making the exhibit at the Worcester Historical Museum.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 19

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Daytimers

Book Group "Cinnamon and Gunpowder" by Eli Brow

7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Mystery Book Group

"Wicked Autumn" by G.M. Miller

Wednesday, Sept 20

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Office Hours: Senator Michael Moore

LOCATION: 202: Group Study 4

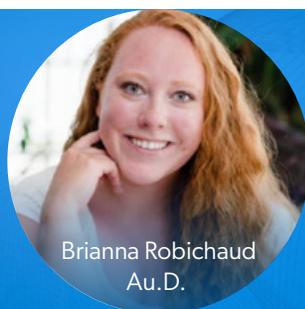
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Doctorate of Audiology, University of Massachusetts Amherst



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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

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 Massachu-

setts 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.



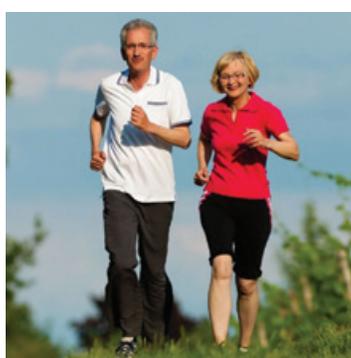
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**NOTE:** Community bulletin board-type items are welcome for inclusion in the *Happenings!* section of the Xpress newspapers. Please allow enough lead time for publication. Email your calendar or event notice to [news@theyankeeexpress.com](mailto:news@theyankeeexpress.com).

**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 [danielsfarmstead.org](http://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 [auburnmuseum@verizon.net](mailto: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. • 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](http://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 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](mailto:jackmae@charter.net) to register for this event.

**HAPPENINGS!**

*continued on page 18*



## Prayer

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**



# INDIAN RANCH

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SEPTEMBER 2 • 1PM



AUGUST 27 • 7PM



SEPTEMBER 9 • 12PM



SEPTEMBER 4 • 1PM



SEPTEMBER 9 • 12PM



SEPTEMBER 24 • 12PM



SEPTEMBER 10 • 1PM

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COMEDY NIGHT WITH PAUL GILLIGAN,  
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SEPTEMBER 30  
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LAKE TOUR / SEPTEMBER 2 / 10AM

SUNSET LAKE TOUR / SEPTEMBER 2 / 7PM

LAKE TOUR / SEPTEMBER 4 / 10AM

SUNSET LAKE TOUR / SEPTEMBER 8 / 6:30PM

LAKE TOUR / SEPTEMBER 9 / 10:30AM

100 FM THE PIKE 90'S CRUISE  
HOSTED BY CHUCK PERKS / SEPTEMBER 9 / 6:30PM

MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE / SEPTEMBER 14 / 6:30PM

SUNSET LAKE TOUR / SEPTEMBER 16 / 6:30PM

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

100 FM THE PIKE BOOS CRUISE  
HOSTED BY CHUCK PERKS / OCTOBER 21 / 6PM

LAKE TOUR / OCTOBER 22 / 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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## HAPPENINGS!

*continued from page 17*

### 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](http://www.americanheritagemuseum.org) or call 978-562-9182.

• 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.

• 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](http://umasscancerwalk.org) or email [cancer-walk@umassmed.edu](mailto:cancer-walk@umassmed.edu) for further details.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

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

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

## HAPPENINGS!

*continued on page 19*

# WANTED



**Toys & Comics from the 1940s - 1980s**  
Gijoes, Cap Guns, Hot Wheels, Slot Cars, HeMan, Cowboy Toys, Ghostbusters, Tonka Trucks, Plastic Car Models, Rock N' Roll, Gas Station Memorabilia, Stingray Bicycles, 1967 - 1975 Muscle Car Items, Action Figures, Pedal Cars, One Item Or Collections.

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109 Main St. Putnam CT.



## 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.

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<b>FRIGIDAIRE SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIGERATOR</b> <b>\$1199<sup>99</sup></b> <small>WAS \$1,599.99</small>	<b>AMANA WASHER OR DRYER</b> <small>#NED4655EW</small> <b>\$479<sup>99</sup></b> <small>WAS \$599.99</small>	<b>MAYTAG DRYER</b> <small>#VEDC46HW</small> <b>\$579<sup>99</sup></b> <small>WAS \$699.99</small>	<b>WHIRLPOOL FRENCH DOOR BOTTOM FREEZER</b> <b>\$1699<sup>99</sup></b> <small>WAS \$2,699</small>
<b>MAYTAG TOP FREEZER</b> <small>18 CU. FT.</small> <b>\$699<sup>99</sup></b> <small>WAS \$899.99</small>	<b>AMANA GAS RANGE</b> <small>#AGR1533CBAS • Stainless Steel</small> <b>\$599<sup>99</sup></b> <small>WAS \$699.99</small>	<b>GE FRONT LOAD WASHER</b> <small>#GFWSOSSNWW</small> <b>\$799<sup>99</sup></b> <small>WAS \$999.99</small>	<b>20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER</b> <b>\$899<sup>99</sup></b> <small>WAS \$1099.99</small>



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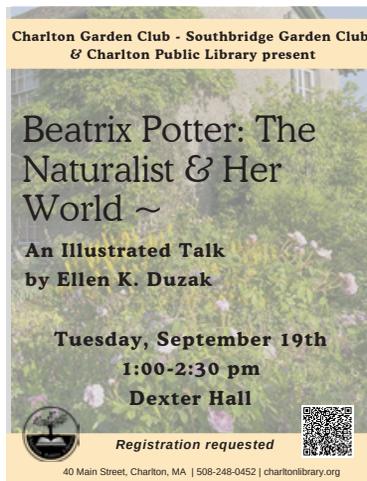
# The World of Beatrix Potter

The Southbridge Garden Club, Charlton Garden Club and the Charlton Public Library will co-sponsor an illustrated lecture entitled “Beatrix Potter: The Naturalist and Her World” on Tuesday, Sept. 19th at 1 p.m. at the Charlton Public Library, 40 Main Street, Charlton. The public is invited to attend.

Ellen K. Duzak, retired Professor of Psychology at Becker College, will present the program. Registration is requested at 508-248-0452 or

access the Programs & Events tab at <https://charltonlibrary.org>.

Beatrix Potter is best known as an artist and writer. Her beloved children’s books, featuring Peter Rabbit and friends, are still fresh and alive over a century after their first publication. Less is known of her as a woman who found personal and intellectual freedom in nature. She later became a conservationist in an effort to preserve the landscape that had inspired her art.



The program will explore the many creative paths of Miss Potter over her lifetime and relish how her generosity left an indelible imprint on the Lake District of England. She was a woman of her time, yet produced art and story that are timeless.

The Southbridge Garden Club is a non-profit organization that welcomes gardeners of all abilities from the area and supports various programs, scholarships, and local beautification projects.

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## HAPPENINGS!

*continued from page 18*

### 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 [neea.com](http://neea.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](http://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 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](http://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 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](mailto: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.

## Autumn Class Schedule

- **Mondays**  
9 am - 10 am Booty Barre  
7 pm - 8 pm Hatha Restorative Yoga
- **Tuesdays**  
10:00 am - 11:00 am Vinyasa Yoga  
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Vinyasa Yoga
- **Wednesdays**  
9 am - 10 am Barre Sculpt  
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
- **Fridays**  
9:15 am - 10 am Curly & Crunches
- **Saturdays**  
8:30 am - 9:30 am Hatha Yoga  
10 am - 11 am Vinyasa Yoga
- **Sundays**  
8:30 am - 9:30 am Weekly Rotate Between Barre and Yoga

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## Flea Markets

The final two in this summer’s series of flea markets sponsored by the Upton VFW Post 5594, will be held September 9th and October 14th at Post headquarters, 15 Milford Street (Route 140) in Upton, neighboring the new Upton Community Center. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

These long-time summer events benefit both the Post and the community, therefore participation by vendors and shoppers is very much appreciated. Great bargains are to be had.

Ample spaces for vendors are available for \$10 each, or for an additional \$5, a banquet sized table can be provided by the Post. Reservations are not needed although further information can be provided by Post member David Kennedy via the VFW Facebook Page or by calling 508-529-3314.

Parking is free for vendors and shoppers. Dunkin’ Donuts and coffee are available throughout the morning, then hot dogs, chips, and coffee for lunch.

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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.**

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.

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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 consequent 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 sup-

port a large cast-iron set kettle for cooking slop. Period advice 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.



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 longtime Sturbridge teacher Alice Kelly.

To properly preserve its history, carpenters from the Village carefully disassembled the piggery to save it from further deterioration and vandalism.

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## Volunteers in Parks Opportunities

**O**n any given day, you may find volunteers in a wide variety of activities throughout the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. Our volunteers share their time and expertise with welcoming visitors to any number of museums and recreational and cultural sites throughout the Valley.

**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, Gloucester, 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@Blackstone-HeritageCorridor.org](mailto:volunteer@Blackstone-HeritageCorridor.org)

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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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## SPORTS

# Grafton welcomes new AD

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

**W**ith the departure of Grafton Athletic Director Kevin Anderson making a move over to Ashland in the same position, he left a vacancy in Grafton that needed to be filled. Enter the Gators' new Athletic Director Ashley Paulsen.

The new AD grew up in Framingham and was a gymnast there before heading to Arizona State to study business, but after finishing her college degree and working for TJX in her hometown for a couple of years, she realized that she was in the wrong field.

"I originally thought that I'd work in corporate America for a Fortune 500 company and make lots of money," Paulsen said. "After working for TJX, I found that working 9-5, sitting at a desk just wasn't for me. I had always coached gymnastics and wanted to take my abilities to the high school, thinking that it was a good niche, teaching the younger athletes."

Paulsen felt that she was still young enough to teach the high school athletes the skills that need-

ed to be successful, while still being able to use a tough love mentality in their training. In 2015 she was coaching gymnastics at her alma mater while subbing on a part-time basis as a teacher. A few years later she started to get into teaching and had an opportunity to become a long-term high school teacher, so she jumped at the opportunity.

In the meantime, she was studying to better herself and looking to become an athletic director down the road, when she landed a job with Framingham high school as the Assistant Athletic Director. For the past four years she studied under her mentor Paul Spear.

"I loved being at Framingham and learned a lot from Paul," she said "He taught me everything and gave me the full athletic director experience over those four years.

Last summer Paulsen and her boyfriend bought a house in Grafton and found herself commuting to and from Framingham, when an opportunity opened up in Grafton. This was too good to be true, so Paulsen decided to apply for the vacancy that Anderson left.

"I happened to be preparing for AD jobs, when the opportunity

came up in Grafton," Paulsen said. "Having been in the town for about a year I had come to love everything that Grafton stood for and the community aspect of the town, especially with athletics."

Now as the Gators' new AD Paulsen wants to continue the success that Anderson built over his tenure in Grafton. She would also like to expand the sport options in terms of adding more teams to the athletic programs. According to the new AD, Grafton is adding a Junior Varsity 2 (much like a freshman team) to the boys soccer program and volleyball seems to be gaining a ton of traction that would require 3 levels.

She would like to bridge the gap between the youth sports and the middle school sports and middle school to high school.

"There are a lot of amazing youth sports here in Grafton," Paulsen said. "I want to continue to work with everyone together as one and get sports in the area on a higher level."

*Ashley Paulsen is the new athletic director for the Grafton High School Gators.  
Chris Tremblay photo*



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# 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, Engineering & 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.

### 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 Gubbins, Construction Technology; Peyton Nolan, Multimedia Communications; and Macyn White, Construction Technology.

### UXBRIDGE

Yara Alomar, Health Services;

**BVT**

*continued on page 27*

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SPORTS

# Gwen Spencer Riding PMC For Her Brother

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The Pan Mass Challenge (PMC) is a Massachusetts based bike-a-thon that raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the country. All money goes to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, a world leader in adult and pediatric cancer treatment and research. Riders and volunteers come from 43 states and 12 countries all for the common goal of finding a cure for cancer. Since its inception in 1980 the PMC has raised \$900 million for Dana Farber and the Jimmy Fund.

While some ride just for the sake of helping to rid the world of

cancer, many ride for a particular person in their lives. Sutton native Gwen Spencer is riding in her tenth PMC, which all began because of her brother Mike, who was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia back in 2013. Spencer had known some people who were involved in the event, and she wanted to make a difference, so she decided to climb aboard a bike and give it a shot with many friends from PwC, the consulting firm where she works, at her side.

“Like many, as a kid I rode a bike, but nothing like the PMC. I had to go out and get the basic equipment, like a bike, shoes, and a helmet before I could begin,” she said. “I didn’t go high-end; I got an entry-level bike as I was not exactly sure how it was going to go.”

With the equipment now purchased, before she could actually ride the bike, Spencer said that she had to learn the nuances of the clip-on shoes. She noted it was something that she had never used before so she had to practice clipping on and off the shoes so she wouldn’t fall off when she got off the bike.

Once she was stable in getting on and off the bike with no issues, it was time to take it out for a ride and prepare for her first PMC. That first year she did the Wellesley circle, a 50-mile ride that went from Wellesley to Gillette Stadium and back. To train she just rode her bike around Sutton, which as she noted was a very hilly area.

“That first year I rode my bike up and down the hills of Sutton, while my friends that were also involved with the event gave me tips on nourishment and how to ride in comfort,” she said. “I also trained in all kinds of weather as



Gwen Spencer and her son Alex Picard at the 2023 PMC

you never know what you’re going to get on the day of the event.”

Once she actually took part in her first PMC Spencer was astonished to how things went from beginning to end.

“I can’t tell you how amazing that first year was, there was so much support and people cheering you on everywhere,” Spencer

recalled. “The ride itself seemed to go really smoothly and the weather that day was perfect. It seemed like I buzzed right over to Gillette and turned around to return.”

For two years Dr. Corey Cutler had been involved in treating her brother. Mike had undergone a bone marrow transplant and found himself cancer free, but unfortunately, his body didn’t accept the bone marrow; after enduring Graft vs. Host disease, Mike lost the overall battle. According to Spencer, Dr. Cutler was later involved in the research of her brother’s disease and was part of the team that got three FDA approved drugs on the market.

“Those drugs would have made a big difference in my brother’s life had he still been here,” she said. “With the support of Dana Farber Mike had several years of added time to be with friends and family, but had those drugs come out sooner I believe that they would have truly improved his outcome, giving him a 50/50 chance of surviving.”

While Spencer will be riding in her tenth PMC, she will be doing her seventh with her son Alex Picard, who is now 20 years old. At 13, Alex decided that he too wanted to do something to honor his uncle, so he began riding the PMC. That first year he followed in his mother’s bike riding steps and did the 50-mile round trip, but that second year he wanted to increase his riding and took on the second day ride from Bourne to Provincetown, meeting his mother after her day one ride from Sturbridge. The two have been doing the Sturbridge to Provincetown since.

Spencer noted that she really enjoys doing the ride and will continue to do it as long as her son want to continue doing it. As she enters her tenth PMC, it’s somewhat of a milestone that she never thought that she’d accomplish. In addition to riding the two-day PMC event for her brother, Spencer has also got involved with the American Cancer Society in the Boston area.



Gwen Spencer in a past Pan Mass Challenge

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*continued from page 25*

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**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 Mc-

Cann, 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**

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**SUTTON**

Colton Corash, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Benjamin Hicks, Electronics & Engineer-

ing Technology; Tyler Houlihan, Health Services; and Caroline Martin, Engineering & Robotics.

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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.

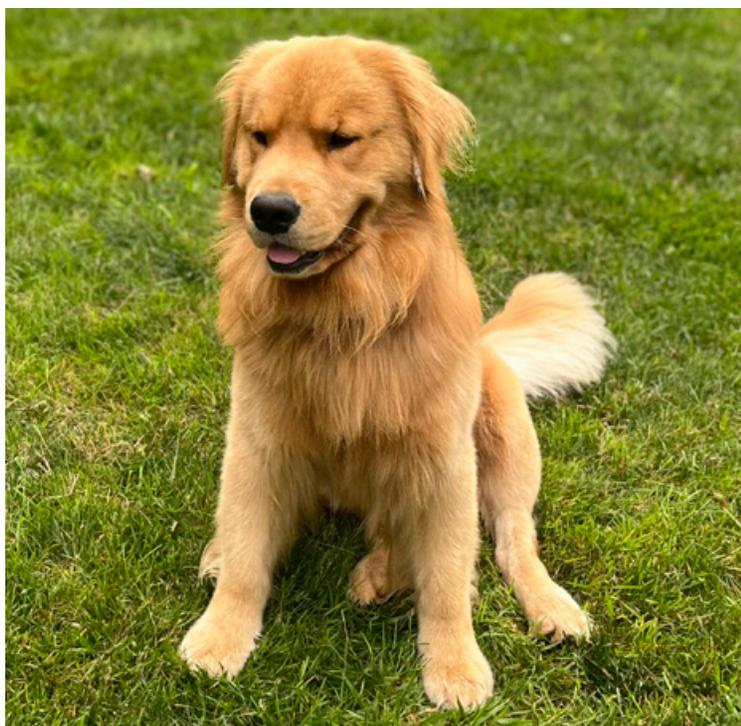
Big dogs have big needs. Do they have bigger needs than little dogs? Perhaps their needs are simply different. Luke is not a particularly needy dog (or overly big) but he's a playful one. His favorite game happens to be Chase, a game that's been written about, a game branded by the unsubtle push of a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

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**LUKE**

continued on page 29

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

homes for sale is still so low. In June, 76% of homes sold, saw an average of 3.5 offers. Source – 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. 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 reignite 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 28*

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.

Write to Amy at [amyleclaire@hotmail.com](mailto:amyleclaire@hotmail.com)  
Find Luke Valentino on Instagram @livingwithlukevalentino

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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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THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

# 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 mileage that I'm at now.

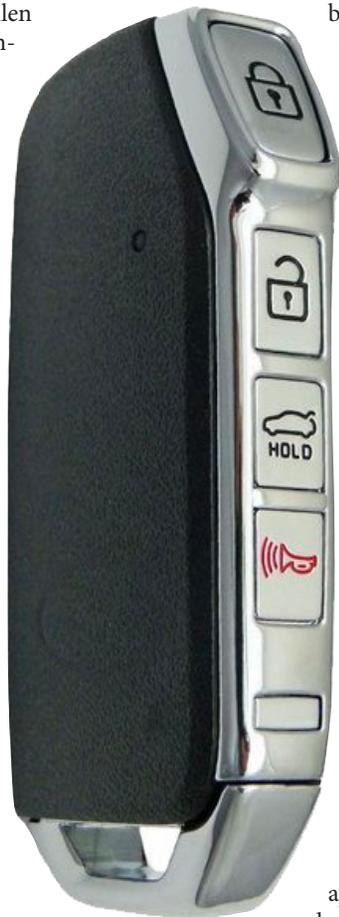
**A.** Honda doesn't have a service recommendation based on mileage, but rather uses an electronic main-

tenance 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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