

All That Jazz at Apple Tree Arts

BY PATRICIA ROY

Apple Tree Arts at One Grafton Common, will feature a concert of popular jazz tunes of the 1920s and early '30s by Alexander's Jazz Time Band on Sunday, June 30 at 6:30 p.m.

The 11 piece band under the direction of Alexander Lane will take you on a toe-tapping trip back in time with familiar standards by Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and Hoagy Carmichael in authentic arrangements of the Jazz Age.

Along with the famous and still-familiar tunes, there will also be a several nuggets of gold that Lane has mined.

Admission is \$20, \$16 for students and seniors.

Alexander Lane is the Minister of Music at the First Parish of Bolton and has given four performances there in Davis Hall, the church's performance venue with his professionally seasoned band. The Apple Tree Arts concert will be the first of what is hoped to many in the area.

With a PhD in Musicology from Brandeis University, Lane was a classically trained musician, but with a deep curiosity about the original arrangements of jazz and ragtime tunes and how they have changed over the decades. His



programs with carefully chosen standardized arrangements have a real authenticity to them.

"Some of the pieces like Alexander's Ragtime Band, will be familiar [to audiences]," he said. "There is a lot of Irving Berlin, including two waltzes." These are "All Alone" from 1924 and "The Song is Ended, but the Melody Lingers On," from 1927.

"Even though the foxtrot was the standard in the 1920s, the waltzes were relatively slow compared to it," he said. "It gives the dancers or the audience or the dancers a chance to rest their ears and their feet a little."

The Song "Stardust" by Hoagy Carmichael was written in 1927

while Carmichael was at law school in Indiana. His original arrangement was pretty fast, Lane said.

"The arrangement we're going to play is by Jimmy Dell who was an active arranger in the 1930s. It's moderately fast," he said.

Lane gives his band member the option of playing the transcribed solos as is or doing paraphrases of them.

"I would like them to be historically accurate as possible," Lane said.

He got interested in jazz era and ragtime music very early. Lane began taking piano lessons at age nine, and at 15 years started playing the organ. He went on to study organ performance at Westminster Choir College in New Jersey.

After that, he got interested in musicology, the scholarly study of music, and went on to earn a Master's degree and PhD in the subject.

"When I was 10 years old, my father gave me a book of simplified arrangements of Scott Joplin rags. A couple of years later, I started learning the original versions of those rags, and by the time I was through high school I had learned a significant number of Scott Joplin

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Grafton's Business Scene

BY CHRISTINE GALEONE

Helen Keller once remarked, "Keep your face to the sunshine, and you cannot see a shadow." Although she was speaking metaphorically, her words seem particularly appropriate during the summer months.

With Father's Day and June-teenth behind us and Independence Day on the horizon, the bright light of summer has been shining on important events and milestones, and it continues to do so. In Grafton during June and July, there are even more milestones and events to spotlight.

In June, one shop that celebrated an anniversary is Off the Common Antiques Marketplace, the multi-artisan, multi-vendor shop, located at 4 Worcester Street in Grafton. It celebrated its seventh anniversary. But the shop, which sells beautifully restored furniture, farmhouse style items and other antiques in addition to new handmade items from local artisans, will officially celebrate with a special customer appreciation event. From Friday July 5 - 7, its customers can get 10 percent off items storewide, com-

plimentary lemonade, and while supplies last, a voucher for a free ice cream at Uncommon Cow for customers who spend \$25 or more.

A North Grafton nonprofit that gives back to its community just celebrated its 16th anniversary in early June. Over the years, Treasures – an upscale thrift shop that's located at 82 Worcester Street – has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Whitinsville Christian School. The non-profit shop's efforts have enabled many students to be able to attend the school, since the money donated reduces tuition increases.

And Paisley Boutique, located at 40 North Main Street in North Grafton, celebrated its 10th anniversary. The shop, which also has a store in Hudson, carries affordable boutique style clothing and accessories in classic and contemporary styles.

Earlier this month, Angel Hair Alpacas in North Grafton held its annual Shearing Day. It's the day when the farm's alpacas are shorn, so their fleece can be used to make knitted items. To celebrate it, the farm gave tours and demonstrations, and its shop, which sells hand-knitted accessories, was open for visitors. In the coming weeks, the alpacas will make appearances at area farmers markets.

Once again, the Grafton Lions Club will hold its Independence Day concert. This year, the free concert will be held on Tuesday, July 2 at 7 p.m. on the Grafton Common. And, following tradition, it will feature the 215th Massachusetts Army Band.

The Town of Grafton's 2024 Concerts on the Common will also return soon to provide free music-filled summer evenings. Presented by Grafton Cultural Council,

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“There was a great website at the time that I stumbled upon called Red Hot Jazz.com. It was an online archive of streaming audio files of jazz recorded in the ‘20’s and ‘30’s,” he said.

discovering popular music of the jazz age, largely through online resources.

“There was a great website at the time that I stumbled upon called

Red Hot Jazz.com. It was an online archive of streaming audio files of jazz recorded in the ‘20’s and ‘30’s,” he said.

At that point, he became very curious how this music was notated and had a difficult time finding any printed versions of it.

It wasn’t until the pandemic with its hug swathes of free time, that Lane made a serious attempt to track down the arrangements through helpful music librarians at universities throughout the country.

Luckily, some of the archivists were willing to send scans of the arrangements for a nominal fee. At times, the old arrangements even turn up on Ebay, he said.

As a musicologist, he was uniquely qualified to evaluate the old arrangements and discovered that somehow, arrangements and recordings never paired up exactly as written. “Every jazz band or hot dance band that was worth its salt altered the arrangements to suit the instrumentation of the band and to showcase the players,” Lane said. “I’ve been doing the same thing with arrangements that I have my own band play. I transcribe the bits

that I like.”

There are 11 musicians in Alexander’s Jazz Time Band are what he terms a pretty standard jazz line-up. There are three saxophones comprising two altos plus a tenor. Saxophonists are expected to double on other instruments, often playing soprano sax and clarinet as well, he said. A clarinet trio is one of the characteristic sounds of a 1920s jazz orchestra.

There are also two trumpets and the trombone. All the brass players are expected to use various mutes that change the “color” of their instrument, according to Lane. This is also authentic to the period. One brass player may use as many as three different mutes in a single tune. A straight mute was the most often used, or a derby hat could be placed over the bell of the instrument for a hollow, muffled sound. Occasionally, trombones would have a megaphone mute which was probably just as alarming as it sounds. Using kazoos and plungers as mutes was not far-fetched, he said.

Alexander’s Jazz Time Band has a rhythm section made up of piano, drums, tuba and guitar. In the 1920’s double bass and banjo were also popular.

The banjo was a more popular instrument than the guitar at first, “because it had such penetrating tones and it could be heard clearly on early recordings,” said Lane.

Electrical recordings came into use in 1925 and the guitar began to gain in popularity. That period even saw some banjo/guitar hybrid instruments.

The band also has a violinist. In many arrangements, the violin

plays the melody line, which is usually played by the first saxophone or trumpet, but the fiddle plays it an octave higher.

“That acoustic reinforcement can be very welcome,” he said. On the other hand, it can also be a dead weight, since it can make it difficult for the trumpeter to improvise.

Lane chooses the band’s programs, “but every once in a while he gets suggestions from band members.”

With so many arrangements available, he’s eager to try them all.

The band members are seasoned musicians from all kinds of backgrounds. The first saxophone in the band, Dr. John Clark Jr. has trained as a musicologist and wrote his dissertation on the use of stock arrangements by the Fletcher Henderson Orchestra (that a young Louis Armstrong played for) and is published in the field.

“If you’re a good musician and a good leader, it doesn’t really matter that you don’t have a jazz background,” he said. “If you have a good arrangement and listen to what everyone else is playing, you’ll be a great contributor.”

About one third of their program features vocals. They have a great vocal soloist in Chris Welles, Lane said, who plays rhythm guitar and will be singing lead in the Grafton concert. He is also with a band called Outrageous Fortune out of Boston.

So grab your best feather boa and or straw boater and shimmy over to Apple Tree Arts in Grafton on June 30. Admission is \$20, \$16 for students and seniors.

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GRAFTON

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sponsors include, but aren't limited to, Savers Bank, CSR Financial Services, Gaudette Insurance Agency, and Swirls and Scoops. Held on the Common every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. starting July 11, the first concert will be performed by Hit the Bus, a rock and dance band; the July 18 one will be by Petty Larceny, a Tom Petty tribute band; the July 25 one will be given by Big Chief, an R&B, Jump Swing and Boogie Woogie band; the Aug. 1 concert will be by Dock 10, an eighties music band; the Aug. 8 one will be by Holdin' Back the 60's, a pop and oldies band; the Aug. 15 concert will be by the Claflin Hill Symphony Orchestra; and the final performance will be given on Aug. 22 by Northern Fried Revival, a Rock and R&B band.

This week we experienced some of the longest days of the year. It should be one of those times when it's easier than ever to follow Helen Keller's advice. And it's even easier in Grafton.

Contact Christine with your business news items at cmgaleone15@gmail.com.



A Recent Vendor Display at Off the Common Antiques. (Photo from Off the Common Antiques Facebook Page)

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Millbury Lions Club Fourth of July Celebration at Windle Field



The Millbury Lions Club will once again sponsor the July 4 Carnival and fireworks celebration on June 28, 29 and July 1st through the 4th at Windle Field. The carnival will be closed on Sunday, June 30.

Wristband nights will be held on June 28, 29 and July 1 and 2 only. Ride all the rides for \$25 on wristband night.

There will be lots of rides, games, food and fun. The Lions Club will operate the kitchen with a variety of foods and drinks at Windle Field.

A spectacular firework display is planned for 9:45 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3 and Thursday, July 4. The fireworks are sponsored by the Millbury Lions Club.

The midway rides are provided by Rockwell Amusements.

The 42nd Annual Millbury Road Race will start at 9 a.m. on July 4 at the Millbury Memorial Junior/Senior High School at the Joseph Coggans Memorial.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. in the school lobby. Please obey all "No Parking Signs" as parking will be strictly enforced.

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Avoid these estate planning mistakes



Tim Furbush, CFA

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By the time you reach retirement age, you may have accumulated a 401(k), IRA and other investment accounts, along with insurance policies and physical properties. You'll use some of these assets to support your retirement, but the rest may end up in your estate — which is why an estate plan is so important.

So, to leave a legacy for your family and those philanthropic

groups you support, you need a comprehensive estate plan — and you need to avoid making mistakes. Here are some of the most common ones:

- **Procrastinating** — Estate planning, and its implications about our mortality, may not be a pleasant topic to think about. Yet, putting off your estate plans can be risky. If you were to pass away or become incapacitated without doing any estate planning, the results could be costly for your loved ones. One possible consequence: If you haven't at least created a basic, simple will, the courts could decide how to divide and distribute your assets, and they may do so in a way you wouldn't want.
- **Not updating wills and other documents** — Drafting a will and other legal documents, such as a living trust, is an important step in your estate planning. But you shouldn't just create these arrangements and forget about them. Changes in your life

and among your loved ones — deaths, divorce, remarriage, new children and more — may result in the need for you to update your estate plans, so it's a good idea to review them periodically.

- **Not updating beneficiaries** — Similar to updating your will to reflect changes in your life and family situation, you may also need to update the beneficiaries listed on your financial accounts and insurance policies. These designations carry a lot of weight and can even supersede instructions in your will, so you'll need to make sure they are current and accurate.
- **Not properly titling assets in a trust** — Depending on your situation, you may benefit from establishing a living trust, which may allow your estate to avoid the time-consuming and expensive process of probate. A living trust also helps give you control over how, and when, you want your assets distributed. How-

ever, you need to retitle your assets in the name of the trust for the trust to be effective.

- **Not choosing the right executor** — An executor carries out your wishes based on the instructions you've given in your will or trust documents. But fulfilling an executor's duties is not as simple as, say, following a recipe for a basic meal. Consequently, while you might just want to pick a close family member as executor, you need to be sure this person is competent, good with details and won't be overwhelmed by the financial and legal issues involved in settling an estate. If your initial choice doesn't have these skills, you may need to find a responsible person outside the family.

Finally, here's one more mistake: going it alone. Estate planning is not a do-it-yourself activity. To help ensure your estate plan addresses all the issues involved, you'll need to work with a legal advisor, and

possibly your tax and financial professionals, too.

Devoting the necessary time and effort can help you avoid many of the mistakes that threaten the effectiveness of estate plans — and the fewer mistakes you make, the better off your beneficiaries can be.

Contact Tim for assistance with your personal finances.

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Grafton High School

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The Class of 2024 included the following students:

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Millbury man sworn in as correctional officer

On Friday, May 31, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis administered the Correctional Officers Oath to Ryan Logan of Millbury, one of the 24 graduating recruits of the Sheriff's Office's 61st Basic Recruit Training Academy (B.R.T.A.) at the department's Training and Command Center in West Boylston. The graduates of B.R.T.A. #61 constitute a highly diverse cohort of recruits from eleven different towns across Massachusetts.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office Academy is a paid full-time 13-week program that teaches recruits how to handle and maintain the care, custody, and control of inmates at the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction. The academy incorporates both classroom time and hands-on instruction.

Throughout the academy, recruits are exposed to all areas of corrections, including de-escalation, duty to intervene, fire safety, defensive tactics, first responder training, suicide prevention, mental health, and substance abuse. The academy also includes daily physical fitness training, weekly exams on classroom content, and frequent guest lectures/demonstra-



WCSO Officers Katherine LaRose of Oxford, Ryan Logan of Millbury, and Manuel Rosario of Auburn.

tions from many partners in public safety.

Before the start of the academy, applicants must pass a written exam, physical fitness test, background check, and psychological screening test. To ensure fairness and impartiality, Evangelidis has also implemented a policy that prohibits the submission of letters of recommendation from politi-

cians and gives preference to hiring those who have served our country.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for its 62nd Basic Recruit Training Academy, which will begin in September 2024. To learn more about what it takes to be a correctional officer, please visit WorcesterCountySheriff.com/Careers/Correctional-Officer-Academy/.

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HEALTHIER BAKING

Healthier Baking in the Blackstone Valley

BY CHRISTINE GALEONE

In last month's column, I shared a recipe for Good Morning Vanilla Pecan Muffins, a healthy baked good that can be enjoyed any time throughout the year. I also mentioned that pecan pie, the more iconic pecan treat, is something you may want to save for special occasions. But there is another delicious option that falls in between the two – pecan pie bites.

They're the perfect treat to make for people you love. And while you could make them for special occasions, they don't have to be reserved for them. Although these pecan pie bites can't be considered health food, they're much healthier than similar store-bought items and much healthier than many other homemade variations. Having one or two of these bites is also much better for you than having a slice of pecan pie.

Many other recipes for pecan pie bites include far more sugar, corn syrup and fat. But, here, you'll find a simpler crust and a simpler filling. You really don't need a sweet crust enveloping the pecan pie bites' sweet, gooey filling.

And, of course, the heart-healthy pecans are a source of an abundance of nutrients. They include calcium, magnesium, potassium, folate, niacin and zinc. They're also filled with vitamin A, vitamin E and vitamin B6. They're high in fiber and antioxidants as well.

Pecan Pie Bites

CRUST INGREDIENTS:

- 2 ½ cups flour
- ¾ cup butter (melted to the consistency of shortening)
- ½ tsp. baking powder



- ½ tsp. salt (omit if using salted butter)
- ½ tsp. white vinegar
- 10 tbsp. cold water

DIRECTIONS:

Combine flour, baking powder and salt in a large bowl.

Cut in butter until like peas.

Sprinkle vinegar over the mixture.

Sprinkle 1 tbsp. of water over part of mixture, toss with a fork, and move moistened dough to the side of the bowl. Repeat with the rest of the mixture, until it's all moistened.

Gather dough into two balls, and flatten each one (on a floured surface).

Roll each ball of dough into a 1/8 inch thick crust.

Using a ramekin, cut small circles out of the dough.

FILLING INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup chopped pecans
- ½ cup brown sugar

- ¼ cup light corn syrup
- 1 tbsp. melted butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla

DIRECTIONS:

Combine the filling ingredients in a small or medium-sized bowl.

Press each circle of dough into a small ramekin or mini-muffin pan cup, and fold over the top, so that it forms a mini pie crust.


Scoop the filling into each pie crust, but don't fill it to the top since you don't want it to bubble over.

Bake at 350 degrees for about 20 minutes or until the crust turns a golden color.

Remove from oven and let cool until warm. Serve warm, and enjoy!

Whether there's a special event happening or not, it's good to occasionally indulge in a special treat. These pecan pie bites are perfect for those occasions. Happy (healthier) baking!

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Worcester County Seniors Celebrated at Sheriff's Annual Senior Picnic

Over 1,000 Senior Citizens Attend Drive-Thru Picnic

On Saturday, June 8th, over 1,000 seniors from across Worcester County filtered through SAC Park in Shrewsbury to receive their FREE barbecue lunch provided by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff Association.

Sheriff Evangelidis and his teams have been celebrating the senior citizens of Worcester County for over a decade. Each summer, a team of over 100 volunteers is assembled to serve seniors barbecue boxed lunches and to hand out raffle giveaways, goodie bags, scratch tickets, Chick-fil-A gift cards, and much more.

For many seniors, the Sheriff's Annual Senior Picnic signifies the start of summer and is a highly anticipated event.

The Sheriff's Office receives support and donations from local companies and organizations such as Table Talk Pies, Dimitria



Delights, the Massachusetts State Lottery, Polar Beverage, Atlas Distributing, Chick-fil-A Worcester, Chick-fil-A Westborough,

and Automatic Rolls of New England. "It doesn't get much better than this," commented Worcester

County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis as he stood among the cars navigating the Senior Picnic Drive-Thru. "We strive to deliver

the best experience possible for attendees. Our incredible volunteers make this event possible, and I couldn't be any more pleased with the turnout this year. I enjoy reconnecting with friends and familiar faces from all over Worcester County."

This year, the picnic was sponsored by the Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association and community partners such as CareOne at Millbury, The Overlook, Christopher Heights Assisted Living, The Gun Parlor, Mercadante Funeral Home, the Worcester Red Sox, McCarty Companies, the Massachusetts State Lottery, Tito's Handmade Vodka, and many other organizations.

A special thank you to the students and staff from Worcester Technical High School for volunteering their time to help make the day memorable for attendees.

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The Blackstone Valley Tech Class of 2024 Commencement Ceremony was held at The Ha-

nover Theatre & Conservatory for the Performing Arts in Worcester on May 30.

The ceremony included the National Anthem sung by members of the Class of 2024. A benediction was given by Yvette Martin, Direc-

tor of Student Services, followed by a musical performance by class members John Kearney and Amelie Botelho. Student speakers were Ella Rogozenski, Valedictorian, Michael Borowski, Class President and Eleanor Poitras, Student

Council President. As Salutatorian, Laney Beahn gave the Class Salute.

Assistant Principal Matthew Urquhart gave the Address to the Class of 2024.

Superintendent Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick greeted the class and diplomas were presented by Joseph M. Hall, School Committee Chair and Edward Evans, Academic Curriculum Coordinator.

Officers for the Class of 2024 were Michael Borowski, President, Giovanni Biagioni, Vice-President, Ava Lawton, Secretary, Avery Herrick, Treasurer and Chloe Vescio, Class Historian.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING AND FABRICATION

Matthew Austin Cavaliere (Sutton); Danica Jean Fiore (Grafton); Drew Michael Jacobs (Sutton); Hailey Anne Leavens (Millbury)

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continued on page 11



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MILLBURY

Celebration at Windle Field
The Millbury Lions Club will once again sponsor the July 4 Carnival and fireworks celebration on June 28, 29 and July 1st through the 4th at Windle Field. The carnival will be closed on Sunday, June 30. Wristband nights will be held on June 28, 29 and July 1 and 2 only. Ride all the rides for \$25 on wristband night. There will be lots of rides, games, food and fun. The Lions Club will operate the kitchen with a variety of foods and drinks at Windle Field. A spectacular firework display is planned for 9:45 p.m. on Wednesday, July 3 and Thursday, July 4. The fireworks are sponsored by the Millbury Lions Club. The midway rides are provided by Rockwell Amusements. The 42nd Annual Millbury Road Race will start at 9 a.m. on July 4 at the Millbury Memorial Junior/Senior High School at the

Joseph Coggans Memorial.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. in the school lobby. Please obey all "No Parking Signs" as parking will be strictly enforced.

SUTTON

Saturday, June 29 - The parade starts at 10 a.m. from Sutton Common to the Sutton Schools.
Entertainment from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 383 Boston Road, Sutton
11:20 a.m. Good new Gus
12 noon The Swingers
1 p.m. Fairs N Square/Hayloft Steppers
2 p.m. Good News Gus
2:30 p.m. The Driveway Chicks
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Road closures 8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Uxbridge Road to Bond Hollow
Open to road residents only
9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Boston Road from Center to Hutchinson Road
9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Putnam Hill Road from Boston Road to the back high school parking lot
Please park at the Sutton School or St. Mark's Church
For updates, visit thesuttonfourth.org

Holden James Marnell (Millbury); Anthony Joseph Octavius (Millbury)

MULTIMEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

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continued from page 10

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LIVING WITH LUKE

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Sticking Together

BY AMY LECLAIRE

Some mornings are simply crazy. The week following Memorial Day was no exception. A four-day week caused a traffic jam in the flow of our typical week. Since Luke is a dog who married into a busy family, he was about to pay an unfair price. Ahem. That is, until I stepped in. Here's the Wednesday morning story.

My son, Ben, fed Luke and let him out before leaving for work at 7:15 am. I checked into the kitchen fifteen minutes later to find the obvious note. LUKE ATE. (Luke has been known to bluff when a family member feeds him early, facing his bowl like an impoverished child in pursuit of a double dip). I did a happy dance. One less thing to do before leaving to teach a class. I texted my son a follow-up note. "Did Luke poop?" Dog parenting is much like training a toddler to go on the potty. Scheduling and communication are important. My family is not above talking about Luke's poops. "No."

The weight of the world bore down upon me.

Jim, my husband and Luke's Daddy, entered the scene 15 minutes later, briefcase in hand. "You're headed to the office today?" I did the math. Who would be available for Luke this morning? "Do you think you can let Luke out to do his poop before you leave? I have class this morning."

Luke raised a brow. "Mummy, I'll go when I need to go." When Luke needed to and when he could go were two different things. Unlike my last few Golden Retrievers, Luke outgrew his crate when he was only four months old. He was a bull with a big head in a China closet that he resented. We heard him shift through the night like a sheet-tossing sleep partner and had to make a change. We allowed Luke the freedom to choose where he wanted to sleep downstairs. First, he created his own safe space beneath the kitchen table, where he curled up like a kitten throughout the night. I'd enter the kitchen to find him waiting for the morning cue to get up and walk around. "Good boy, Luke!" Months passed, and he began to collapse on the dog beds we offered him. Now, at two and one-half, Luke has developed the sleep habits of a male living in his own bachelor pad. He snuggles with us on the



couch. He stretches like a lion across accent rugs. He sips water from the toilet bowl. We're waiting to find him cracking open a Coors Light at 3 a.m. Luke stayed in his crate until he was over a year. When we left him alone for a few hours, even outside of the crate, he never had accidents. Luke is a dog of a different color.

"I never should have eaten that bunny poop. My stomach was off. I did my best to hide that mound on the edge of the carpet. How did you find it?"

Busy lives or not, Luke needed to do his business before we left the house. "Go do poopies, Luke." Daddy let him out, but only to find Luke trotting back up the stairs, almost as though sensing the immediacy of our request, and perhaps not wanting us to leave. He collapsed on the floor. His dog calendar was wide open. "I need to relax before the poop will come out."

"He'll be fine." Daddy detached from the conflict and headed out. I was less convinced that Luke would be fine. It wasn't fair to make him hold it or worse, not hold it. I did what every good Dog Mom does. I grabbed his leash and told myself we'd figure it out. "You want to come to Crunch Fitness with me, Luke?"

"I thought you'd never ask!" (I swear I noticed him wink to an invisible reader at that very moment). We drove in peace. Luke has been the easiest travel companion of all my dogs. He popped

his head from the sunroof of his dog crate and quietly watched the cars and houses pass him by. We arrived at Crunch Fitness ten minutes early on a sunny Wednesday morning. There was no way I could leave Luke in the car, even with the windows open. The temperature was already climbing. Dogs are vulnerable to heat stroke. With a few minutes to spare, I unloaded Luke and walked him along the sidewalk flanking the gym. We found a patch of mulch across the street. Luke did number two while solving problem number one. Hallelujah! But what would Luke do while I teach class? Where would I put Luke?

"That water bottle is the best!" Luke was about to party on through a Zumba class. He made an immediate connection with his Auntie Jo (sweet Bruno's Mom) and pranced about the room with her water bottle. He squealed joyfully. He could barely contain his sudden luck. "Fitness is the best. I feel like they cranked the AC too!" I set up my music with only one minute to spare. I couldn't let Luke roam freely about the room. Members needed to concentrate on the dances. How would I teach a full Zumba class with my dog?

I was about to find out that I would teach with my dog present very easily. Leashed and tied to a bar at the back end of the room beside Auntie Jo, Luke rested

LUKE

continued on page 13

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REAL ESTATE

The Mistakes Buyers could Make Today Without a Pro Agent

Buyers face challenges in any market and today's is no different. With higher mortgage rates and rising prices and limited supply of homes for sale, there's a lot to consider. But, there's one way to avoid getting tripped up,



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

and that's leaning on a real estate agent for the best possible advice. An expert's insights will help you avoid some of the most common mistakes home-buyers are making right now.

PUTTING OFF PRE-APPROVAL

As part of the home buying process, a lender will look at your finances to figure out what they're willing to loan you for your mortgage. This gives you a good idea of what you can borrow so you can really wrap your head around the financial side of things before you start looking at homes. While house hunting can be a lot more fun than talking about finances, you don't want to do this out of order. Make sure you get your pre-approval first. If you wait to get preapproved until the last minute, you might be scrambling to contact a lender and miss the opportunity to put a bid on a home.

HOLDING OUT FOR PERFECTION

While you may have a long list of must-haves and nice-to-haves, you need to be realistic about your home search. Even though your ideal state is you find a home that checks every box, you may need to be willing to compromise especially since inventory is still low. Plus, a home that has everything you want may be too pricey. When you expect to find the perfect home, you could prolong the home buying process by holding out for something better. Or you could end up paying more for a home just because it meets all your needs. Instead, look for something that has most of your must-haves and good bones where you can add anything else you may need down the line.

BUYING MORE HOUSE THAN YOU CAN AFFORD

With today's mortgage rates and home prices, there's no arguing it's expensive to buy a home. And while it may be tempting to stretch your finances a bit further than you're comfortable with to make sure you get the house, you want to avoid overextending your budget. Make sure you talk to your agent about how changing mortgage rates impact your monthly payment. Focus on what monthly payment you can afford rather than fixating on the maximum loan amount you qualify for. Just because you can qualify for a \$300,000 loan doesn't mean you can comfortably handle the monthly payments that come with

it along with your other financial obligations. Every borrower's case is different, so factor in your whole financial profile when determining how much house you can afford.

NOT WORKING WITH A LOCAL REAL ESTATE AGENT

This last one may be the most important of all. Buying a home is a process that involves a lot of steps, paperwork, negotiation, and more. Rather than take all of this on yourself, it's a good idea to have a pro working with you. The right agent will reduce your stress and help the process go smoothly. Attempting to buy a home without a real estate agent makes the process more arduous than it needs to be. A real estate agent can give you professional guidance and legal references, market expertise and support, which will save you time, money and stress. They can also increase your chances of finding the right home so you don't have to spend hours scouring the internet for listings. Mistakes can cost you time, frustration, and money. If you want to buy a home in today's market, connect with The Marzeotti Group or a local real estate professional so you have a pro on your side who can help you avoid complications.



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LUKE

continued from page 12

against her cloth pocketbook and listened to the music calmly; an old man waiting for a catch on a fishing boat. He looked up every so often at me and broke into a smile that made my heart dance.

"You can always count on me to be a good boy, Momma. We just need to stick together."

I couldn't agree with Luke more.

Stay tuned for more on Luke Valentino.

Follow him on IG @livingwith-lukevalentino

Write to Amy at amy@leclair.com

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**

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The Ghosts of Great Swamp

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

The Great Swamp fight in Charlestown, Rhode Island was one of the most important battles of King Philip's War. This is also known as the forgotten war as it does not appear in many scholastic history books or school curriculum which is rather unfortunate, as the conflict was the bloodiest war per capita ever fought on American soil. The Narragansetts had signed a neutral treaty with the English stating they would not get involved in the war but at the same time, felt obligated to help women and children from tribes that had been displaced during the conflict. Governor Winslow took this as a sign of treachery on the Narragansett's part and ordered an attack upon their winter quarters.

On December 19, 1675, 1,150 English and Mohegans, with the

help of a captured Narragansett named Peter, easily marched up to Conanchet's five-acre fort in Great Swamp. At first, they found it difficult to penetrate the massive fortress until a Connecticut regiment found an opening from the rear of the fort and rushed in. The Indians immediately killed several of the English, including Captains Joseph Gardiner, Isaac Johnson and Nathaniel Davenport. The Indians, though great in numbers were mostly women, elderly men and children. They suddenly found themselves severely overpowered by the ingress of colonial militia.

Ninety seven warriors fell that day and five hundred to one thousand women, children and other non-combatants were mercilessly slain. Most of the Narragansetts were killed, taken prisoner or ran into the woods where they succumbed to hunger or the elements.

The brutal battle almost totally annihilated the Narragansett tribe. Upon retreat, the militia set the camp ablaze. The colonists, although victorious in the battle suffered greatly as well, having lost seventy men and one hundred and fifty wounded. Several of the casualties were English officers who fell early during this fight as they led the charge toward the fortress. More of the militia succumbed to their wounds on the long march through the deep snow and cold back to Smith's Blockhouse, now Smith's Castle in nearby North Kingstown.

There is a great burial ground where the casualties of war were interred and at night, the disembodied battle cries, gunshots, and screaming echoes through the hours of darkness as the spirits of those who perished in the struggle relive their last mortal moments.

Great Swamp Management Area is now used for hiking and scouting. In the fall and winter months, hunters grace the woodland looking for game. A long catwalk spans a section of the swamp where one can meander and imagine how difficult it must have been to navigate the terrain, especially in winter. Many artifacts within the confines of the old encampment have been unearthed over the centuries such as arrowheads and musket balls. There are other artifacts, those from the other side that also linger within the management area. Ghosts of those who suffered in the skirmish are seen wandering throughout the swamp where they met their untimely fate. Warriors in full war paint and battle clothing are heard screaming battle cries and are sometimes seen flitting through the trees and brush. English militiamen and the ghosts of women and children who met a tragic end are among the spirits that still roam the swamp eternally reliving their day of infamy. Hunters, hikers and park service people all swear to the unearthly phenomena lurking among the thick within these cursed woods. As one traverses the trails and woods of Great Swamp, take in the history and never let it be repeated; there are enough ghosts in the recreational area due to the mistakes of humankind.

One more note; Since the 1930s, Narragansett and Wampanoag people have commemorated the battle annually at the site of the massacre in a ceremony initiated by Narragansett-Wampanoag scholar Princess Red Wing that includes ritual wailing by tribal women.

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SPORTS

Brothers Beginning to Make Her Mark on Millbury Softball

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Growing up Brielle Brothers found herself participating in numerous sports in hopes that she would find something that interested her. Now as she concludes her sophomore year at Millbury High School, she finds

“When I first started playing softball I was basically doing it to have fun; never did I expect to have this type of success,” she said. “It definitely feels good to be recognized for what I am doing and it has boosted my confidence, but I still like to stay humble.”

Prior to entering middle school, Brothers had begun playing for the

position.”

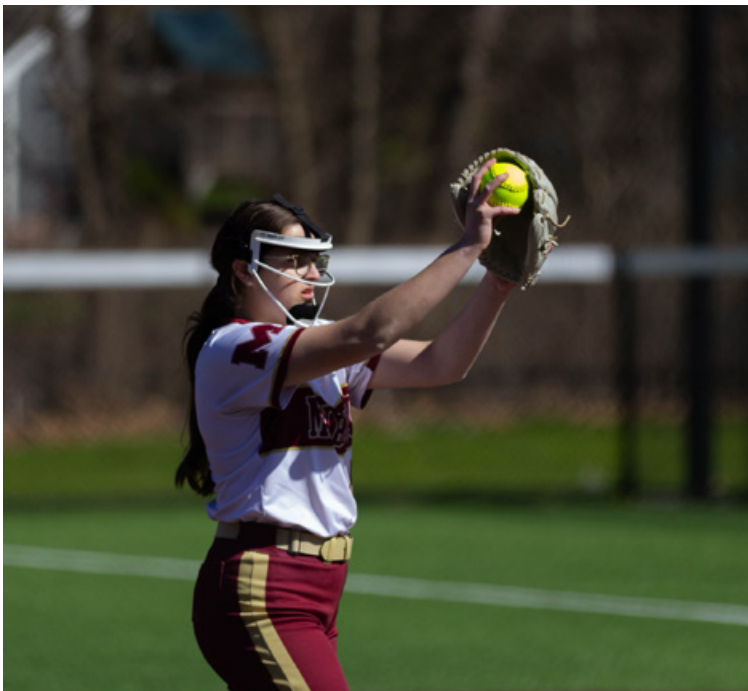
While being on the varsity team was an ultimate dream, it was once again a very nerve-racking situation for the seventh grader, especially one that was relatively shy. Being that quiet individual the young athlete figured that it was going to be very hard for her to bond with the older girls, but much to her surprise the older girls took her under their collective wing and welcomed her on the team.

Her hitting originally struggled. She found herself very nervous each time that she stepped into the batter’s box to face the opposing pitcher, but as the season went on she started to get her hits and she felt the nerves fading away.

During her first full season with the varsity team, as an eighth grader, she started to get some pitching starts against the lower-level teams. Although she can’t recall her stats from her first pitching performance, she did know that it was a shutout against Southbridge.

“I always go into a game trusting my defense,” she said. “I don’t go into every game trying to strike everyone out, but I don’t want them crushing the ball on me either.”

As a freshman, last spring, Brothers started every game for the Woolies where she pitched 133 innings allowing 61 earned runs and striking out 103 batters. With the success Brothers decided to put in



herself a three-sport (volleyball, basketball, and softball) athlete for the Woolies. Although she is keeping busy during each athletic season, softball has become her favorite sport.

“In second grade my parents had me trying all kinds of sports, but I found out early on that softball was my favorite,” Brothers said. “Not only was the game fun, but I had a real love for the game, especially when I started pitching.”

Two years into playing softball, she happened to be at a softball clinic. While her parents thought that it would be a good chance for her to try pitching, little did they know it would be her golden ticket to the game. Brothers soon found out that she had a knack when she stepped into the pitching circle.

Central Mass Thunder, hoping that by the time she did get to middle school she’d be ready to try out for the high school teams. Since the school is both a Junior and Senior High School, athletes in the seventh and eighth grade can play on the high school teams.

Hoping to make the JV team and spend her middle school years on the squad was all that Brothers was aiming for.

“It was a pretty nervous situation at the tryouts as I thought that the other girls were a lot better than I was. All I wanted was to make the JV team,” Brothers said. “I did make the JV team, but about half-way through the season the varsity team had an injury to their first baseman and I was called up to fill the spot as I could play the

a lot of off-season work to improve her pitching skills.

According to the new Millbury softball coach, Kim Cadrin, Brothers continued to work with her pitching coach Aimee Lee where she not only improved her velocity but developed a curve ball.

“Brielle has been working with Aimee for four years now and this year she learned the curve ball and it is nasty,” the first-year varsity

coach said. “It has become her best pitch and she throws it about 85% of the time.”

Brothers has seen a big difference in her pitching this season and attributes it all to her pitching coach.

“Learning the curve came quickly giving me another pitch to

SPORTS

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THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

Brake caliper lubricant, DIY oil change and a used Tesla – to buy or not to buy?

Q. I have a Honda Accord and it will need brakes soon. I know I should lubricate the brake caliper pins; is there a certain lubricant I should use?

A. Honda and many other manufacturers recommend ATE Plastic Lube (available online or at some auto parts stores). You would use this on the guide pins, guide surfaces of the calipers and the back of the brake pads. This will help prevent corrosion and squeaking.

Q. I have a 2013 Subaru and I have owned it since new and have changed the oil myself for the past 11 years. Over the years the drain plug has started to round off. I know I can just buy another one, I was thinking about trying to find the same size with a bigger bolt/head size to avoid this in the future. I do plan to keep this car until the wheels fall off.

A. This drain plug issue was a common problem, so much so that Subaru came out with a new design drain plug. The new drain plug is 17mm, whereas your car's original drain plug used a 14mm wrench. This bigger size should improve the life of the drain plug. Any Subaru dealer should have the revised drain plug in stock.

Q. I belong to a local library group, and we meet periodically and discuss issues and interests. The topics could be anything from health care to real estate. Many people have expressed an interest in electric cars, do you know where we could find a speaker to come and talk with us?

A. You never mentioned where you are located, but if you are within AAA Northeast club territory, you can email me (jpaul@aanortheast.com) and I will get your request to someone local who would be happy to come visit with your group.

Q. The tires on my car seem to be wearing faster than I expected. The dealer recommends tire rotation every 6000 miles. This to me seems excessive and it gets expensive. Is this necessary and what is the proper rotation these days? Is it front to back or X-pattern?

A. Most vehicle manufacturers as well as tire manufacturers recommend tire rotation twice a year. Rotating tires periodically helps reduce tire wear and is also a good excuse to check items such as brakes and suspension. As for rotation, if the tires are directional, move them front to back. If the tires are not directional, move the left front to the right rear, right rear to right front and right front to the left rear, left rear to the left front.

Q. I left my sunroof open, and it rained for hours, and the car got wet. I wet-vacuumed the seats and carpets, but the car still smells like a wet dog. What can I do, this is my only car and I need it to go to work.

A. You may need to remove the seats and take the carpet out to get to the padding and dry or replace the pad. The jute material is very heat resistant and a good insulator, but also absorbs water. Remove the carpet and let it air out in the sun, replace the underlayment and then once clean and purchase a carbon/charcoal cabin air filter as a replacement for the standard paper filter.

Q. I have a chance to buy a 2013 Tesla Model S60. It is in good condition but has 169,000 miles on it. The dealer has it for \$16,000 which looks like a decent price and under my budget. What do you think, is this a wise buy?

A. Buying an 11-year-old car always has the potential for problems, buying an 11-year-old luxury car that happens to be all electric can be even more challenging. The S60 had a range of about 210 miles when new and over the past decade likely has some battery degradation and the range may be 10 to 20 percent less than it was new. Ask to see the car with a fully charged battery to determine how the battery has changed. Also, electronics can grow finicky as they age. Before I purchased this car, I would bring it to an EV specialist who is familiar with Tesla vehicles for an evaluation. I would also put the \$16,000 price slightly above market value. If I were to spend \$16-\$18,000 for an EV I would look for a newer Model 3, not as luxurious but likely a car with less potential to have problems.

Q. I have a new VW Jetta and it has brake vibration. I took it to the dealer, and they resurfaced the brake rotors. The car stops smoothly, but I have read your articles for years and you have stated that once you remove too much metal from the rotors, they are more likely to warp again. What should I do?

A. Volkswagen allows resurfacing of brake rotors (if the vehicle is less than 12 months/12,000 miles old providing they show no signs of corrosion, high heat discoloration or cracking). The brake rotor thickness measurement must exceed the minimum specification after the machining process is completed to be re-used. If the brake rotor thickness measurement did not meet this requirement after machining the dealer would have replaced the brake rotors.

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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Quinsigamond Community College has released its Spring 2024 Semester Dean and Merit Lists

A total of 459 students were named to the college's Dean's List and 1,072 students were named to the Merit List.

QCC'S DEAN'S LIST SPRING 2024

Students who meet the criteria below and have earned 12 or more credits in a given semester are named to the Dean's List:

All grades must be "C" or higher. (No grades of "I" or "X" are permitted).

Semester Quality Point Average (QPA) must be 3.50 or higher, and cumulative QPA must be 2.00 or higher.

All courses must be college-level.

Grafton: Devin Baraban, Sean Collins, Harrison Klumpenaar, Zane Waters

Millbury: Fatma Al-Bargash, Kyliegh Corey, Maria Delvina, Mitzi Ibarra Suarez, Michaela Krugel, Lucas Ogasahara, Barifi Opare-Addo, Abdoul Aziz Salim Ouedraogo, Aran Paquin, Kelly Sandberg, Aaron Stowbridge

North Grafton: Caden Ashmore,

Isabella Bianco, Sarah Bianco, Logan Donohue, Nathan Jewers, Sean Manning

South Grafton: Holly Atchue, Nahum Echevarria-Jordan, Abigail Miklasz

Sutton: Mya DiDonna, Christopher Elkins, Grace Gilroy, Madaley Mitchell, George Smith, Rielly Sobaleski

QCC'S MERIT LIST SPRING 2024

Students who meet the criteria below and have earned six or more credits in a given semester are named to the Merit List:

All grades must be "C" or higher. (No grades of "I" or "X" are permitted).

Semester Quality Point Average (QPA) must be 3.50 or higher, and cumulative QPA must be 2.00 or higher.

All courses must be college-level.

Grafton: Farida Abdellateef, Matthew Atchue, Cheyenne Cardin, Mackenzie Collins, Molly Corrigan, Brandon Dionne, Christina Duggan, Jocelyn Hamilton,

Michele Medeiros, Lilanna Oskin, Debokkawe Pannasiri, Kara Picherri, Ebamu Soffor, Audrey Ziegler

Millbury: Retaj Al Qaysi, Ali-cian Berenson, Rebecca Brodeur, Kristen Curran, Rebeca Garcia Cordova, Jack Jensen, Rebeca Aline Oliveira, Allison Parmenter, Daniel Preston, Natalie Price, Loren Rezende, Mitchell Tucker, Archer Uccello, Dawn Zeek

North Grafton: Maximillian Cleveland, Savannah Corriveau, Rhawnie Morris, Michelle Nicolas, Tim Richardson, Kali Sage, Ashayla Scott, Harsith Thokala

South Grafton: Lyla Cutting, Daniel Do Nascimento, Meghan Hogan, Jeremy Kim, Charles Laperle, Mackenzie Matuzek, Marco Montvitt, Nicole Parella, Francis Rosales

Sutton: Meghan Andrade, Justin Brigham, Emily Chase, Matthew Dennis, Ethan Dougherty, James Fink, Dale Goodspeed, Parker Huggins, Shannon Murphy, Erin Piccioli, Alexandra Richard, Hawa Soloyan Wollie

SPORTS

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throw with my fastball," she said. "I'll throw the curve the most but I like to mix in a high fastball or something inside to keep hitters on their toes."

Thus far, Brothers' stats in the circle have surpassed last year. The sophomore, at the time of this writing, had pitched 123 innings allowing only 26 earned runs while striking out 146.

Cardin, who was previously the junior varsity head coach and assistant varsity coach, noted that Brothers is a great all-around player. The new skipper continued to say that her young pitching phenom is a very versatile athlete that could play just about every other position if the team needed her to.

Despite being part of a young team, Millbury was able to finish

7-3 in the SWCL while finishing the regular season at 13-7 earning an 18 seed in the Division 4 State Tournament. Millbury squared off against Lynnfield in the first round and was able to squeak out a 6-5 win. Following their win the Woolies had to travel to number two seed Tyngsborough, where the home team was relentless and beat Millbury 10-1 to end their season.

With still another two years of softball to be played for Millbury the young pitcher would like to continue to improve her game in all aspects while staying consistent in the batting box, where she hit .397 this year. Before she leaves Millbury, she would love nothing better than to lead her Woolie teammates far into the State Tournament. She would also like to be scouted to play in college where ever that may be.



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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.

SATURDAYS, THROUGH AUGUST 31

• Douglas Farmers Market from 9 a.m. – noon. Rain or Shine. Held at the historically significant E. N. Jenckes Store Museum,

283 Main Street, Douglas. Explore various vendors and support local businesses. Visit the museum and learn about preservation efforts.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

• Celebrate Pollinators Day Festival 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Joslin Park, Main Street Oxford (Rain location Community Center) Join us for a fun-filled day learning about pollinators and native plants. Planned activities include firmative pplant give-away, pollinator talk, community challenge, plant sales, interactive demonstrations, information tables, craft vendors, children's games and crafts, ballong twister and face painting. Tour the 1872 Schoolhouse and more. Sponsored by the Oxford Conservation Commission and Oxford Grow Native for Pollinators Campaign

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

• Sutton Fourth of July parade kicks off from

Sutton Center at 10 am. Fun community events will be held at the Sutton Schools from 11 am to 4 pm. Information on the parade, participants, and the post parade events can be found at thesuttonfourth.org. The Historical Society will be set up with the civil war cannon for ole tyme photos. Stop by and learn about what the Society has to offer, and how we are preserving local history and preparing for the Nation's 250th anniversary. Visit www.thesuttonfourth.org for more information.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

• Alexander's Jazz Time Band. Come join us at Apple Tree Arts, One Grafton Common, Grafton, on Sun, June 30th at 6:30 PM for a concert of jazzy popular tunes for the 1920's and early 1930's. A period-style band will present a program of familiar standards - as well as some forgotten gems - by Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Hoagy Carmichael, and others - all in authentic Jazz-Age arrangements. Admission is \$20, \$16 for students and seniors.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

• Calling all trivia fans. Here's a chance to show off your knowledge at the E.N. Jenckes Store Museum at 283 Main Street, Douglas at 7 p.m. for the Time to test your trivia smarts. Entry fee is \$10.00 per team member. This covers your entry into the competition as well as never-ending refreshments of coffee, tea, cold drinks and confectionery treats. The win-

ning team will receive half of the amount collected for entry fees and the other half will be used for needed repairs and upkeep of the E. N. Jenckes Store Museum. There will be multiple rounds in several subjects. Total score from all rounds will determine the winning team. If necessary, a tie breaker question or questions will determine the winning team.

THURSDAY, JULY 11

• Polar Park Town Takeover Day for Millbury. Tickets are \$15 to watch the WooSox take on the Red Wings at 6:45 p.m. For the third straight year, the WooSox will host a number of towns and cities from across the commonwealth at Polar Park for "Town Takeover" nights. Tickets purchased for each Town Takeover game will benefit a non-profit from that town. At the end of the season, the town with the largest turnout will be rewarded with a trophy and special recognition!

THURSDAY, JULY 18

• Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce will hold a Business After Hours from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm Street, Millbury. Admission is \$20 for members and \$30 for future members.

SATURDAY, JULY 20

• St. Patrick's Parish, 7 East St, Whitinsville Sat, July 20th, 5PM - 9PM! Dynamite Sandwiches, ice-cold beer, hot dogs, chips, soft drinks and frozen treats will be served prior to the Northbridge Fireworks. Take-out op-

tions will also be available. The rain date for this event is July 21. For more information, call 508-234-5656.

MONDAY, JULY 22

• Charlton City United Methodist Church is hosting Vacation Bible School (VBS) through July 25. VBS is from 6-8 p.m. come home from work and bring your bored kids to us! The kids will enjoy some fun time, but also learn about God and being a good person. Contact our director at karenlee830@charte.net or Pastor John at john@cc-umc.org for more information or to register your kids. CCUMC is located at 74 Stafford Street in Charlton.

SATURDAY, AUG. 3

• Collectibles, Cards, and Craft Show Coming to Charlton. Charlton City United Methodist Church (74 Stafford Street, Charlton) will once again host Dynamic Collectibles, Cards, and Craft Show from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Planned as a quarterly event, the show will be jam-packed with vendors and feature lunch, baked goods, and other goodies. The previous show, held in May, attracted over 150 people. Entrance is free, but purchases support a number of non-profit organizations partnered with Charlton City UMC. Partial proceeds will support Abby's House in Worcester, a heat fuel assistance program for Charlton seniors, and UMCOR (the Methodist disaster relief agency. Donations



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HAPPENINGS!
continued on page 19



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AUGUST 2 • 7PM

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AUGUST 3 • 1PM

GRACE POTTER
AUGUST 4 • 1:30PM

FACE 2 FACE
TRIBUTE TO
ELTON JOHN & BILLY JOEL
AUGUST 9 • 7PM

RIPE
AUGUST 10 • 1PM

The Beach Boys
ENDLESS SUMMER GOLD
AUGUST 11 • 1PM

RYLER HUBBARD LIVE
AUGUST 18 • 1PM

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A CELEBRATION OF THE NIGHT Y ZEP
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Little Feat
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LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUN 30 • 10AM
FIREWORKS CRUISE	JUL 3 • 7:30PM
SUNSET CRUISE	JUL 5 • 7:30PM
SUNSET CRUISE	JUL 6 • 7:30PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUL 7 • 10AM
SUNSET CRUISE	JUL 12 • 7:30PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUL 13 • 10AM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUL 14 • 10AM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUL 20 • 9:30AM
SUNSET CRUISE	JUL 20 • 7:30PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUL 21 • 10AM
YACHT ROCK DANCE PARTY CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS	JUL 27 • 6:30PM
SUNSET CRUISE	AUG 3 • 7:30PM
SUNSET CRUISE	AUG 10 • 7:15PM
CHILLIN IN THE 90'S CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS	AUG 17 • 6:30PM
BOOGIE NIGHTS/DISCO DANCE PARTY CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS	SEPT 18 • 6:30PM
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Representative Soter Supports Parental Equality Bill

State Representative Michael J. Soter (R-Bellingham) recently joined with his colleagues to approve legislation updating the state's parentage laws.

House Bill 4672, An Act to ensure legal parentage equality, was given initial approval by the House of Representatives on June 12 when it was engrossed on a vote of 156-0. The bill now heads to the Senate for its consideration.

Representative Soter said the House bill updates the state's laws by setting clear standards for establishing the legal relationship between parents and their children under several paths, including birth, adoption, assisted

reproduction, surrogacy, and other scenarios. He said this legislation will help to ensure equal treatment for same-sex couples and LGBTQ+ families by allowing them the same means of establishing parentage as heterosexual families and individuals.

Representative Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury), a co-sponsor of one of the bills that formed the basis for House Bill 4672, noted the House legislation will ensure that children in all families "are afforded the same protections, regardless of how they came into this world or who is parenting them."

According to Representative Soter, the changes contained in House

Bill 4672 are important because the ability to establish legal parentage allows individuals to play an important role in their child's lives by conferring on them the power to make decisions impacting their child's education and medical care.

The Massachusetts Parentage Act is based on the Uniform Parentage Act of 2017, which is model legislation issued by the non-partisan Uniform Law Commission that is recommended for adoption in all states to ensure uniformity in parentage protections.

House Bill 4672 sets an effective date of January 1, 2025 for implementing these changes.

HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 18

will also be collected at the door for Target ALS. Further information, including vendor inquiries: Joe Dupont. joedupont@dynamic-cardcollectors.com.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce invites members and prospective members for its signature event, "Steamers at Sunset" held at The Barn at Blissful

Meadows Golf Club, 801 Chockalog Road, Uxbridge. The event runs from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Lobster, steak, chicken or vegetarian options. Prices range from \$75 - \$110 for members, higher for prospective members. Passed hors d'oeuvres, choice of steamers or corn chowder. Garden salad, baked potato, summer vegetable and light dessert. Cash bar. RSVP by August 7.

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