

Funds requested for temporary bridge

If approved, would give some traffic relief

A \$2.5 million federal funding request, presently in Congress, will pay for a temporary bridge to reopen the Brandon Road/Hill Street crossing over the French River, if approved.

Congressman Richard E. Neal submitted the funding request to the House Committee on Appropriations as an important community project in the Massachusetts First Congressional District.

If approved by the committee, the \$2.5 million Community Project Funding grant would pay for the installation of a temporary modular bridge that would be borrowed from MassDOT, until a permanent bridge is installed.

In his May 10, 2023, letter to the committee Congressman Neal wrote, "This is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds...its closure has restricted access between the towns of Dudley and Webster, resulting in traffic congestion, longer response times for emergency vehicles, and impacting local business. If funding for a temporary bridge is not found, it could be five or more years before the road reopens."

One rule of the Appropriations Committee is that each Representative may request funding for up to 15 projects for fiscal year 2025, recognizing that only a handful may receive funding. Responding to pleas from Dudley officials, Representative Neal selected the



Mill Race Bridge as one of his 15.

In a January 11, 2022, letter to Representative Neal, Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda wrote, "The Town of Dudley has an urgent need for infrastructure funding to pay for necessary

repairs on the Brandon Road Bridge."

Ruda went on to say the town

BRIDGE

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Charlton Business Alliance Welcomes New Members

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Newly formed in December 2023, the non-profit Charlton Business Alliance ("CBA") has received a great reception from local Charlton businesses. Engaging each business and growing quickly it seeks to benefit not only established organizations in the Charlton area but also to greet and include new commerce. Cara Holland is the new Vice President and Matt Power has taken the lead as President.

Its website boasts 17 current paid members and the group is growing rapidly. "There was a blank spot in the area," said Holland, "and we wanted hyper-local representation. I want to represent Charlton in the best possible light and have been with Edward Jones Financial Advisers for over two years in this

area. I grew up in Sturbridge and have lived in Charlton for over seven years. My husband is from Brimfield."

The group has a good-sized following on Facebook and they are open to anyone who wants to follow them. They've been working with some of the Charlton selectmen as well as Andrew Golas, the Charlton Town Administrator. "Mr. Golas has been very helpful in assisting us to organize," Holland stated, "and we've also been working with the Charlton Library utilizing their space for our monthly meetings (held on the first Monday of each month) and information tables before town meetings. We also have a monthly drawing during

CBA

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BRIDGE

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used state funding to pay for the design and engineering costs and therefore, the project is “shovel ready.”

“Several steps have been completed in advance of this funding request,” Ruda wrote, adding, “A site assessment with MassDOT and Tighe & Bond Engineers was completed. Then, an internal planning meeting took place to initiate and coordinate all of the project components, including the hydraulic/hydrologic report, initial geotech summary report, and identification of permitting. Additionally, a Flood Insurance Study request has been submitted to FEMA for information about the French River in Dudley and Webster.”

Dudley Town Planner William Scanlan said, “If approved, the funds will pay for a temporary bridge over the Mill Race and allow through traffic once more. MassDOT has included a complete, permanent new bridge over the French River and Mill Race in its bridge program, but it is many years away from construction.”

The bridge that spans the French River on the Dudley and Webster town line has been inaccessible since June 2021 because an adjoining dry bridge on the Dudley side, known as the Mill Race Bridge, was deemed unsafe by MassDOT, and ordered closed.

The combined bridges were a popular bypass for motorists seeking to avoid Main Street traffic when traveling to points in both Dudley and Webster. The Dudley approach on Brandon Road was closed at the intersection of Chase Ave. and barricades were placed on the Hill Street approach in Webster.

Dudley allocated state funding budgeted for routine road repair to demolish the bridge last spring,

while town officials sought funds to erect a temporary bridge and continued work toward a permanent fix.

The campaign to gain funding included appeals to federal and local reps for special funding and grants.

“Our community has been more than patient in waiting for federal funding for this project to be approved. We’ve checked all of the boxes,” Ruda said of the news that the funding request has reached committee.

The proposed permanent solution would eliminate the Mill Race Bridge by re-grading the area to replicate its primary purpose, which was flood control capacity.

In a January 2023 letter, MassDOT deemed the bridge work eligible for funding and approved the estimated cost of \$6,235,000. State and federal money would fund the \$6.2 million project, while Dudley would be responsible for the costly and time-consuming process of right-of-way acquisitions.

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 Patty Roy, Editor: proy@theyankeeexpress.com
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 Jen Schofield, Advertising Director: The Yankee Xpress, Blackstone Valley Xpress, Local Town Pages, Free Press; jenschofield@yankeeshopper.net

Bill Cronan, Blackstone Xpress North and South (Douglas, Uxbridge, Northbridge; Millbury, Grafton, Sutton); bcronan@theyankeeexpress.com
 Diane Galipeau, The Yankee Xpress North and South (Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, and Webster); dgalipeau@theyankeeexpress.com
 Susanne Odell Farber, Upton, Mendon, Hopedale: sue@sodellconsult.com
 Laura Gleim, Billing & Sales: lgleim@theyankeeexpress.com

Kimberly Vasseur, Production Manager
 Sally Patterson, Graphic Artist
 Contributing Writers and Columnists: Tom D'Agostino, Christine Galeone, Amy Palumbo-Leclair, Mark Marzeotti, John Paul, Janet Stoica, Christopher Tremblay

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CBA

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our meetings which are also noted and displayed on the digital sign in front of the library. We hope to be at the September Farmer's Market held on the town common in September."

On Tuesday, June 11, from 5-7 p.m., the CBA will hold a Networking Mixer at the Quarter Keg Pub on Route 20. The Mixer is open to members and non-members alike. Admission is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. There will be tasty appetizers and a cash bar. It'll be a great event for local folks to meet, greet, and talk about the importance of dealing with local businesses. "It's all about visibility and the benefits of joining our group," said Holland, "instant referrals are great when you meet in person. Our President, Matt Power, has spearheaded our efforts for development of our Charlton group. Matt has dived into and is truly interested in the success of Charlton and wants our town to be successful. We hope to bring our group to the next level.

Charlton Lions Club

The Charlton Lions Club recently held its annual election of officers to serve from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Steve Doucette was elected President of the Club. Other officers who were elected are: First Vice President - Dana Gould; Second Vice President - Patrick Husereau; Third Vice President - Shelley Yeager-Doucette; Recording Secretary - Cynthia Young; Reporting Secretary - Carole Duquette; Treasurer - Michele Piergalini; Lion Tamer - Nora Kubaska; Tail Twister - Kathy Gallant; Membership Chair - Jennie Frisella. Dennis Tucker is the Immediate Past President. The Board of Directors will be Debra Ciesluk, Rhonda Tetreault, Nora Kubaska, and Helene Doucette.

Lions Clubs are made up of service-minded volunteers providing services and programs to make our communities better places in which to live. We support eye research and treatment and diabetic camps for local children. Peace Poster and speech competitions are supported for local children, and holiday gifts for families in need and scholarships are provided for our schools. All funds raised from our community activities are 100% put back into the community.

The Charlton Lions Club meets the second and fourth Wednesday evenings, except July and August, at The Overlook. If you would like to join us, or would like more information, please contact us at thecharltonlions@gmail.com, or by mail to PO Box 1072, Charlton City, Charlton, MA 01508. Visit us at www.thecharltonlions.com or www.facebook.com/CharltonLions.

We invite all local businesses to come to our June 11th event to check out our group. We're open to any small business looking to network and to work together. We want to give back to our community, to represent ourselves locally, and to operate locally and encourage folks to attend a meeting to see what we are all about to be part of our alliance. Our meetings are held on the first Monday of each month from 6:30 - 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted on our website. (No meeting in July due to the holiday.) We're all excited to keep the momentum going and hope to grow and be a great representation for all local businesses in the greater Charlton area."

Contact: Matt Power, President, at (774) 268-0398.

More information can be found on their website www.charltonbusinessalliance.com

Charlton has Recount for Selectman's Seat, Fire Substation Funding Vote Passes

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Charlton's town elections were held on Saturday, May 4, however the race for the second seat for Selectman was very close with David Singer receiving 867 votes and Karen Spiewak garnering 866 votes.

Karen Spiewak requested a

recount which was held on Friday, May 17, with results remaining the same. Alise Cunningham, Charlton's Assistant Town Clerk, also noted that the May 4 ballot question for the funding of the new fire substation did pass the 2/3 vote needed at the town meeting with ballot question wording as follows: Shall the town of Charlton be allowed to exempt from the

provisions of Proposition 2-1/2 the amount of \$13,100,000 along with interest, issued in order to pay costs of designing, constructing, equipping, and furnishing a new Fire Department substation, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto. There were 247 Yes votes and 66 No votes.

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SPORTS

Craig Gajewski Takes Over the Baseball Reins at Bay Path

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

For the past six seasons, Craig Gajewski was the junior varsity head baseball coach at Bay Path. This season he has taken over the reins of the varsity squad and is hoping that he can continue the program's success. At the time of this writing, the Minutemen were 8-6; were ranked 21st in Division 2, fourth in Central Mass and fourth in Vocational schools.

"Coming into this year my goal was get the team to qualify for the states, win our league (the Colonial), get to the District and Vocational Tournament," the first-year varsity coach said. "Over the last 25 years, the previous coach had 300 plus wins, won the Vocational Title last year and finished fifth in the Division 2 State Tournament."

Gajewski went on to say that the

Minutemen baseball program has had a relatively strong team over the past 5 or 6 seasons, but as they opened up the 2024 campaign they were without four starters from last year's team. Bay Path not only graduated 2 pitchers, but their catcher and right fielder; some pretty big holes to fill this spring. Midway through the season, the pitching has been getting to the point the new coach has been looking for, the outfield has gotten better with each game, and the catching position, which was the team's biggest issue has been getting with two seniors rotating.

On the mound the Minutemen have junior Dale Nussey as the team's number one hurler and junior Jake Devalle as the number two. Nussey is currently 3-2 with a 1.47 ERA and Devalle has had a rough start going 1-4 posting a 4.69 ERA. According to the Coach,

he has unfortunately been dealt all the tougher teams. Senior Nolan Libby has put up stellar performances going 4-0 thus far.

"Dale has been pitching since his freshman year and has been the team's number three and four pitcher over that time frame and was the more proven pitcher so he rolled into that number one spot this year," Gajewski said. "Dale and Jake are similar types of pitchers that both throw hard and have good curves, but Dale is quicker and uses his curveball more." While Devalle and Nussey have been providing the top of the rotation pitching for the staff, Libby has shown a different side of his game this season. Getting his first year on the varsity roster last spring he didn't get the ball all that much with the talent that was ahead of him. This year he seems to be making the most of his chances.

"He was on the junior varsity team for his freshman and sophomore year and although on the varsity team last year, he really didn't get a chance to pitch," the coach said. "This year he has been a pleasant surprise and has gotten better with each game. He has been relying on his curve ball a lot and in addition to his 4-0 start he has a 1.34 ERA with 40 strikeouts."

The Bay Path skipper noted that in order to accomplish the goals they set out to achieve, the pitching staff is going to be key and will need to keep the team in the games, while the defense goes out and plays error free and the offensive gets that timely hitting. Bay



Path is currently not hitting the ball and only batting .280, which is not all that good for a high school baseball team. However, the coach said things are starting to turn around at the plate.

Hitting the cover off the ball is junior left fielder Hunter Davis who is batting at a .458 clip, while Nussey, who plays shortstop when

he's not on the hill, is batting .423. Juniors Josh Hemmingway (right field / DH) and Kaiden Brochu (third and first base) are currently hitting .364 and .370 respectively.

Bay Path's previous catcher Dylan MacDonald, had a great arm, was very good defensively and was able to call the game respectively. His departure left the team with a rather large hole. Seniors Wyatt Daoust and Logan Powers have been sharing the catching duties behind the plate for the Minutemen through the midway point of the season. Daoust has a stronger arm and has been a pleasant surprise as to how fast he slings the ball down to second.

As the duo continues to hold down the position Gajewski knows it's going to be a completely different story come next season.

"Next year we are going to have to find a new catcher," he said. "Currently, we have a couple of juniors who are being groomed to fill the position, but after that (season) we'll be back to square one with nothing and will have to start all over again."

Filling in the vacancies with success thus far this year, the Minutemen are still on course to achieve all of their goals and once in the state Tournament anything can happen.

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Mondays – 9:30 a.m. Fitness with Jen; 10 a.m. Cribbage; 1 p.m. Diamond Dots

Tuesdays – 9 a.m. Sew What Group; 9:40 a.m. Floor Yoga in the library; 10 a.m. Billiards; 12:30 p.m. Mahjong; 1:15 p.m. Line Dancing

Wednesdays – 10:30 a.m. Penny Drop; 12:30 Scat; 1 p.m. Tai Chi

Thursdays – 9:40 a.m. Floor Yoga in the library; 10 a.m. Corn Hole; 12:30 p.m. Pitch; 1:30 Silver Needles in the library

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Thursday, June 11 - 10:30 a.m. GAC meeting; 10:30 Ed Spater, Independent Insurance Agent with Medicare Marketplace Advice; 6 p.m. Bonfire

Wednesday, June 12 – 9 a.m. Foot Clinic; 10:30 a.m. Next Chapter Book Club discussion of last month's book and passing out our next book entitled "The Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman; 10:30 a.m. Crafts with Kathy: make a fun garden craft or flag day craft! 12:45 p.m. Bingo

Tuesday, June 18 - 10:30 a.m. Join Judi Jones in some hula hoop extravaganza!

Thursday, June 20 – 10:30 a.m. Cornhole Tournament on the Common. Pick your team! 10:30 a.m. Father's Day Coffee and Crafting, followed by a BBQ Cookout at 11:445 a.m.; 1 p.m. Bemis Farms Flying Flower Café for Butterflies & Hummingbirds. Must sign up in advance \$15.00 Charlton Residents \$20 for out of town guests.

Wednesday, June 26 – 10:30 a.m. MK Skin Care SPF and Skin Care presentation by Mary Kay Rep.

Thursday, June 27 – 10:30 a.m. Birthday Party with entertainment by Bill McCarthy; 12:15 p.m. Movie Matinee "Dear John" starring Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried.

Dudley Senior Center

Wednesday, June 12: Is Brown Bag Lunch with a choice of turkey or German bologna sandwiches. The cost is \$3 per person. Please RSVP for this event so we may order your sandwich and condiments. Call 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley senior center.

Thursday, June 13: the Dudley Senior Center will be celebrating June birthdays. After the Tri-Valley lunch we will have cake and ice cream. Please call if you are interested in having us order a Tri-Valley meal, or bring your own lunch,

have cake and ice cream with us.

Thursday, June 20: Memory Café from noon to 2 p.m. Please come and celebrate Father's Day with us. We will serve Italian grinders, tuna and chicken finger sandwiches, macaroni salad and tossed salad. We will have a game of name that tune! The cost for this event is \$5. Please RSVP for this event by calling 1 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley senior center.

Wednesday, June 26: We will serve a Potluck Lunch meatloaf, mashed potatoes, carrots, and a variety of desserts at noon. The cost

for this event is \$5. Please RSVP for this event by calling 1 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley senior center.

Activities at Dudley Senior Center: Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Pitch League. Wednesday at 1 p.m. the Dudley Senior Center Knitting group. Tri-Valley lunches served Mondays and Thursdays.

Note the Dudley Senior Center is closed Thursday, June 6th through Monday, June 10th, for voting and on Wednesday June 19 for Juneteenth.

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Community Cat Connection Celebrates 20 years

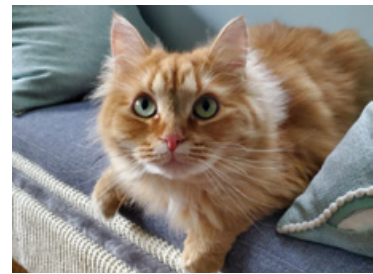
BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

The non-profit local cat shelter, Community Cat Connection (“CCC”), is thanking all of their volunteers past and present by celebrating 20 years of caring on Sunday, June 9, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at its 289 Thompson Road Webster loca-

tion. “This is to thank all of our volunteers, supporters, and donors who have made our non-profit center a success,” said Barbara Hassett, one of the shelter volunteers. “We just want to thank anyone and everyone who has made any kind of donation, large or small, for being there for us in our mission to save the cats and kittens of our local community.”

From the humble beginnings of the organization back in 2004 when it was located in the Webster Main Street area near the French River to its current location on Thompson Road since 2015, the center has gone through many stages to find its current home benefitting all types of furry and loving felines. “We have volunteers from all walks of life,” said Hassett, “students, retirees, full and part-timers. Our volunteers work multiple shifts cleaning in the mornings and the late nights when they are feeding our kittens and adult cats, cleaning their cages and litter boxes; fostering our medically-challenged charges that are older but so good; and even transporting them for their medical appointments for spaying, neutering, or other needs. We just want to thank everyone for all that they do. We want to thank all the local businesses that have donated supplies and funds to help us. We are so grateful and this is our way to thank one and all.”

The CCC’s volunteers always seem to be there when they are needed. All help is so greatly appreciated and more volunteers are always needed. If interested in helping, applications can be found on-line. Helpers are needed for transportation including pickups and drop-offs. Helping to prepare for their various fundraisers is



also greatly appreciated. When the CCC is open for adoption hours, volunteers are needed in this area as well. “We really need assistance to help with staffing our table at events where we want to tell others about us and what we have here in Webster,” said Hassett, “we try to attend events and are grateful for organizations like the Pet Rock Festival, a non-profit that raises funds for animal welfare groups like us; Long Subaru’s Love a Pet; Greyhound Rescue; and Second Chance Animal Shelter. We have spaghetti dinners to raise funds as well as raffles. We’ve held a Pampered Chef fundraiser online and also had the assistance of Little Caesar’s Pizza, and the Clara Barton House activities. We very much appreciate all their help.”

Barbara also stated that after every shift, volunteers will help to socialize the cats in their care where they might make a connection with one of the feral residents who

might’ve been injured before they came to the CCC and may be afraid of human contact. “Our volunteers work wonders with our cats,” said Barbara, “sometimes they make that special connection and it’s a great success for both our volunteer and our cats.”

“This special event on Sunday, June 9, is our way to say ‘thank you’ to everyone who’s ever donated, visited, or helped us. There will be raffles, food, and beverages. We certainly can’t do this all ourselves. We have to thank Trudy Charette, our founder, and Gerald and Marilyn Fels for their wonderful generosity and who remain our steadfast supporters.”

Community Cat Connection, 289 Thompson Road, Webster MA 01570. (508) 949-0779. Open to the public Thursdays and Fridays 12 noon – 3:30 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. www.thecommunitycat-connection.org

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Webster Police Body Cameras Provide Dual Protection

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Since March of this year, Webster police officers have been using body cameras. “We were able to obtain a \$54,000 state grant to get the program started,” said Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw, “and the new equipment has been used well for the past two months. We discussed obtaining the new equipment in 2023 when our police union’s collective bargaining was in process of negotiation and the union agreed to consider the cameras. A couple of our sergeants did their research and then wrote up a policy. The union came to an agreement about it and we are now using the body cameras successfully.”

Chief Shaw mentioned that the cameras are very beneficial in reducing complaints about officers although there has never really been any serious complaint issues. “A few years ago, I wasn’t really in favor of the body cam use,” he said, “but after reviewing and speaking with our officers and hearing no push back, I saw that our group was accepting of it. We show footage on our social media sites so anyone can observe our body cam information.” Using body cameras protects not only the people

being recorded but also the police officers.

One of the major issue for body cameras is having enough storage for the audio/video which is simply solved by using cloud storage

instead of a server rack which takes up physical storage space in-house. Eventually, replacement of service racks is necessary and cloud storage takes care of the service rack expense. The body cameras are

always on and when a situation arises for the officer to approach a service setting, they turn on the audio which is of major importance in establishing a true record. Cloud storage is always secure and can only be accessed by the Webster Police Department.

“The audio/video recording is very useful for every call whether it’s use of force, driving under the influence, or any other officer intervention,” stated Chief Shaw, “statements can be taken on scene from citizens and witnesses without their need to visit the police station. We use the body cameras every day and refer to them on a regular basis.” Recently officers stopped a vehicle for drug possession and the audio/video was instrumental in showing that all officer activity was lawful and within the scope of their authority. Statements are issued about the audio/video being in use and a red light flashes from the body camera making it obvious that a recording is in progress. “The use of our body cameras will also show all the good activity that our officers do including situations like the recent event of the location of the 3-year-old autistic child found at the French River,” said the Chief. (The French River occurrence happened before the use of body cameras began.)

The Police Department budgeted for 33 body cameras within the scope of the grant’s award.

Additionally, at the recent Webster town meeting in May, the department will be funded for 3 new police cruisers, replacement of 10-year-old devices in the areas of 10 portable hand-held radios, outdoor building cameras, and their antiquated phone system. Information technology is of paramount importance as well. “We’re a pretty young department,” said Chief Shaw, “and we’re always incorporating our officers’ insight and feedback. Having their input is very important. Soon, we’ll be starting a drone unit using asset forfeiture from drug dealers. Using the proceeds from the cash confiscated from drug deals has enabled us to begin the new drone program. Each drone is valued at \$15,000. We are also looking forward to a second police dog for narcotics detection, have a new officer beginning policy academy training in July, and have two officers in field training at present.” Other programs that the Webster Police officers take part in are community policing, a basketball program, and the National Night Out which is one of the most popular community events with a barbecue at Memorial Beach.



From left: Officer Steven Cacciapouti, Officer Robert Rockwood, Chief Michael Shaw, Officer David Brooks

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LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

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

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

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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

to relax before the poop will come out."
 "He'll be fine." Daddy detached

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

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, 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 homebuyers are making right now.



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

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.

LUKE

continued from page 8

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 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 amyclair@hotmail.com*

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SUMMER READING 2024 IS HERE!!

READ, RENEW, REPEAT

Registration begins Thursday, June 13 & runs through August 11!

Summer Reading Kickoff Ice Cream Social with Ice Cream Pharm!!
Thursday, June 13, 1:00

GENTLE YOGA

Mondays in June
10:00-11:00 in the Fels Community Room
Join Jia Borgia, certified yoga instructor, for traditional "on the mat" yoga class with 15 minute relaxation at the end. Bring your own

mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class.

MOVIES AT THE PEARLE!!

Tuesdays in June at 1:00
June 4: Anyone But You
June 11: Mean Girls
June 18: Wonka
June 25: Night Swim

MAHJONG AT THE PEARLE

Wednesday, June 5, 12 & 26
10:00-12:30 Fels Community Room

Mahjong made its way over to the U.S. from China in the early 1920s. It was marketed as an ancient Chinese game, but it was actually created in the nineteenth century. The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy.

Everyone welcome, registration not required.

YOGA

Thursday, June 6
6:00-7:00 in the Fels Community Room

Join Jia Borgia, certified yoga instructor, for traditional "on the mat" yoga class with 15 minute relaxation at the end. Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class.

ONCE UPON A CRIME BOOK CLUB- WHILE IDAHO SLEPT

By: J. Reuben Appelman

Friday, June 7
11:00-12:00

Adult Reading Area
Do you have a passion for true crime and examining the details of each case? This book club is for you!

The "Once Upon A Crime Book Club" meets the first Friday of every month in the adult reading area. All books will be pre-ordered and available for pick up at the circulation desk.

HERBAL INFUSED OILS & SALVES

Monday, June 10
6:00-7:30

Fels Community Room
Learn to create a healing balm that has endless possibilities for the skin and body.

Practice the process of infusing an oil and turning it into a topical salve using calendula, comfrey, and other beneficial herbs.

Presented by Christine Leo, M. Ed. Certified Traditional Herbalist and Dudley resident.

This program is sponsored by the Dudley Agricultural Commission & the Town of Dudley.

Registration required

CRAFTERNOONS WITH LENA

Paper Roll Bird
Tuesday, June 11
2:00-3:00

Fels Community Room
Spend the afternoon with our experienced and enthusiastic instructor, Lena. You'll leave with a one-of-a-kind creation to enjoy!

Registration is required.

RESUME REVIEW WITH NICHOLS COLLEGE CAREER CENTER DIRECTOR LIZ HORGAN

Tuesday, June 11
11:00-1:00 Adult Reading Area
Do you need help updating your resume?

A Nichols College Career Center representative will work with you individually to strengthen your resume.

Please bring an up-to-date resume draft along with a job description of interest.

This service is free and open to all. Registration is required.

CRAWFORD LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

Monday, June 24
6:00-7:30

Book: My Life
By: Golda Meir

Author: Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion. No registration required.

*Meeting fourth Monday of each month.

INTRODUCTION TO BIRDS & BIRD-WATCHING

Thursday, June 27
6:30-7:30

Fels Community Room
Find out what makes birds unique within the animal kingdom, where and how to locate birds in different settings, and basic bird biology and behavior.

This presentation is facilitated by Mass Audubon and funded by the Hugh W. & Harriet K. Crawford Endowment Fund for the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library.

No registration required.

PICKING PARLOR JAM

a "mostly" Bluegrass Focused Jam Session

1st Saturday of every month
10:00-12:00 in the Fels Room

This is an unplugged acoustic jam. All talent levels welcome... beginners on up! Don't want to play? No problem, listeners are welcome too!

QUILTING GROUP

Wednesdays @ 1:30

All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

KNIT & CROCHET GROUP

Thursday 5:30-7:30 and Friday 10:00-12:00

All stitchers are welcome for this informal group

FRIENDS OF THE PEARLE L. CRAWFORD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Big Y Community Bag Program! The Big Y Store Leadership Team has selected

Friends of the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library as June 2024 Community Bag Program Nonprofit Partner.

This means the Friends will receive a \$1 donation for every \$2.50 reusable Community Bag sold during June 2024 at: Big Y, 505 East Main Street, Southbridge MA

YOUTH PROGRAMS:

Hatch the Chicken Tuesday, June 4: All Day

Children's Room
Hatching eggs will be set up in the children's room for families to come in and watch as we incubate chicken eggs and watch them eventually hatch!

Guest Reader Story Time - Monday, June 3

6:00
Join our guest reader for a fun story along with activities.

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Dudley Middle School students launch the DMA Anita

An Empowering Student Citizen Scientists: Miniboat Program for Global Ocean Stewardship

Twenty-six sixth and seventh grade DMS students embarked on a seafaring journey with faculty members Claudette Eagleton, Dena Kobel and Stacy Lynch. The project was funded by a MIT Sea Grant through their STREAM Grant program, which supports coastal education and community science. The DMS launch was inspired by the Thompson Middle School miniboat project, the TMS Sea Challenger. DMS students met with the TMS miniboat crew and University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography staff at the 2023 Ocean Race Stopover in Newport.

This project, led by DMS science teacher Stacy Lynch, was accomplished during an after-school program utilizing the Educational Passages Miniboat Program, which creates inclusive learning experiences for the DMS community. Through building, deploying,

and tracking a miniboat at sea, students connected with their local environment and community, as well as with communities around



the world.

Organized into teams – launch, cargo, deck, hull & keel, sail, media & tech – fifth and sixth grade students helped build, manage tasks, and track progress, while the seventh and eighth grade students equipped the boat with satellite transmitters and sensors for data collection. The project aimed to

foster ocean literacy and engagement, and promote understanding of ocean currents, climate change impacts, and global cultural connections.

The DMS crew built and delivered DMS Anita to the URI School of Oceanography Research to be boarded upon its vessel the RV Endeavor. They have graciously agreed to deploy Anita during their next research trip, which sails on May 17, 2024. The Endeavor will be conducting research

just past the continental shelf and will deploy Anita toward the end of their trip. Once set adrift, Anita will begin sending back to the students GPS positioning, air temperature and surface water temperature data.

Where Anita will find land, nobody knows. But once she does set ashore, finders will discover a

time capsule of sorts in her cargo hold containing donated items that were selected by the students to represent the Dudley community. They include a Mason Road School winter hat; lanyards from

Dudley's four public schools, a Town of Dudley coffee mug and

notecard; a Boston Red Sox t-shirt; Dippin' Donuts business card, and a DMS shirt.

Follow Anita's progress during its 13-week voyage at <https://educationalpassages.org/boats/dmsanita/>

DUDLEY LIBRARY

continued from page 10

We are excited to welcome our guest readers!

Toddler Storytime - Ages Tuesday, June 4 & 11

10:30-11:00

Storytime Room

Join us for a story and activity.

For ages 0-3.

PreK Storytime

Wednesday, June 5 & 12

10:30-11:15

Storytime Room

Join us for a story and activity.

For ages 3-5.

Young Scientist STEM Program - Tuesday, June 4

11:15 - 12:00 Storytime Room

Children, ages 3-6, will learn STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) concepts through hands-on activities, story time, challenges, and simple experiments in this weekly STEM series facilitated by STEM Beginnings. Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to help their child and join in the fun during each class! Siblings are welcome and must be supervised.

Registration required.

YMCA Family & Community Partnership is funded by the Massachusetts Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) Grant and awarded to the YMCA of Central Massachusetts by the Department of Early Education and Care.

Dungeons & Dragons Game Thursdays, 6:00-7:30

Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama?

Come play the world's number one role playing game.

This program geared towards kids that are looking to learn more about playing and some short adventures!

Chillin' at the Library with Miss Courtney - Thursday, June 20 & Thursday June 27

6:00-6:45

Children's Room

Courtney will introduce something a little different every week including journaling - blackout poetry - doodling - diary - and even haikus.

This weekly program is all about fun and surprising "writing" focused creative expression for kids 8+. Registration is required.

Poop Museum - Saturday, June 22

10:00-11:00

Fels Community Room

The Poop Museum is a children's program all about the serious science of poop and pooping,

delivered with the silliness that you might imagine accompanying a program about poop for kids. It is the perfect combination of fun, and fabulous, fascinating facts, so that kids (and parents) never forget what they learned.

Aimed at the 5-10 age group, the program engages kids as young as 3 and as old as 12. Parents love it too! Registration is required.

Take a Tromp Through the Swamp! Concert with Tom Sieling - Thursday, June 27

1:00-2:00

Fels Community Room

"Take a Tromp Through the Swamp!", Tom's 2024 Summer Reading program, is designed around the "Read, Renew, Repeat" theme. Tom's programs also include lots of encouragement about reading, library usage, and the kids making music a big part of their lives if that sounds good to them. No registration required.

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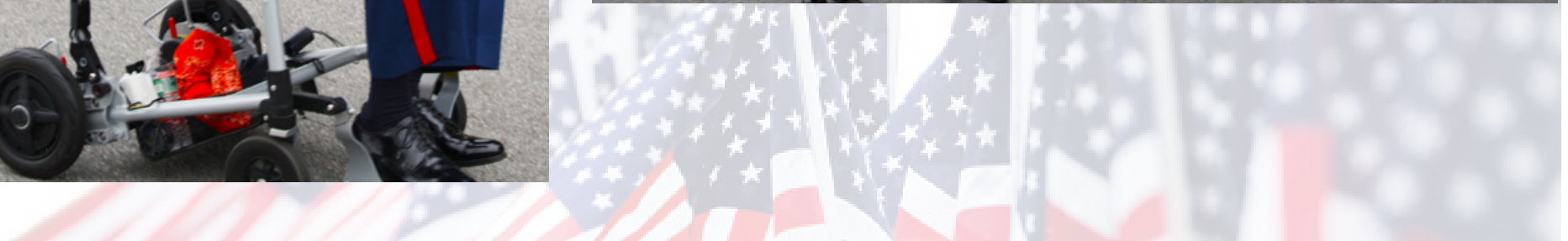


Memorial Day *Tribute*



In spite of a sprinkle of rain, the annual Dudley/Webster Memorial Day Parade on May 27 went off in good order with marchers and parade watchers keeping dry under umbrellas and awnings.

Photos clockwise from below: First Baptist Church marchers; Color guard; Loughlin Belcher; Webster Cub Scout Pack 274; Webster-Dudley VFW Post 184 Commander Dick Norton; Webster Fire Department vintage fire engine





The Charlton Lions Club participated in Charlton's Annual Earth Day Cleanup on Saturday, April 27, 2024. The Club was assigned to clean up Bond Road and members did an exemplary job picking up trash and litter along the road. About 15 bags of debris was sent to the dumpster, helping make our community a better place in which to live.

Lions Clubs are made up of service-minded volunteers providing services and programs to make our communities better places in which to live. We support eye research and treatment and diabetic camps for local children. Peace Poster and speech competitions are supported for local children, and holiday gifts for families in need, and scholarships are provided for our schools. All funds raised from our community activities are 100% put back into the community.

Pictured from left to right: Lions Michele Piergallini, Shelley Yeager-Doucette, Cindy Young, Patrick Husereau, Kathy Gallant, Dana Gould, Carole Duquette missing from photo: Lion Jim Stoddard and Steve Doucette

Alzheimer's Support at the Charlton Public Library

June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, and Charlton Public Library, in collaboration with Dementia Friendly Charlton, offers support for those living with Alzheimer's or another dementia. Our friendly and helpful staff are all trained Dementia Friends and ready to welcome you to our Library.

MEMORY SUPPORT COLLECTION

Charlton Public Library is pleased to offer a Memory Support Collection specifically designed for those with memory-related issues as well as their caregivers, family and friends. The collection consists of Memory Kits (books, games, puzzles, and other materials on a set theme), as well as individual books (for all ages), videos, music CDs, even a couple of "companion pets" (batteries included!)--all designed to provide comfort, spark reminiscence, and encourage conversation. The items are available for checkout with a valid library card!



MONTHLY CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

This monthly Dementia/Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group is held on the 3rd Thursday of every month from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room. It is facilitated by Tri-Valley and the Alzheimer's Support Network of South Central Massachusetts. Led by an experienced professional, attendees will obtain information, resources, and strategies specific to caring

for someone with Alzheimer's and other dementias at all stages along with support for transitioning to different care settings. This is a drop-in group and pre-registration is not required. For more information, contact Alzheimer's Support Network at 1-800-286-6640 extension 3123, or info@alzsupportnet.org.

Milford Regional to Host Free Webinar for Parents on How to Best Support LGBTQ+ Youth

Milford Regional Medical Center's Community Benefits Committee is sponsoring a free webinar, "Opening Doors to Youth Mental Health: How Parents Can Best Support Their LGBTQ+ Child." The webinar is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12 at 7 p.m.

The latest in a series of youth mental health panel events, this webinar will feature clinical profes-


sionals' expert guidance and provide resources to provide positive mental health. A parent will also join the panel to discuss her lived experience.

Registration is required. To register, visit milfordregional.org and select "Classes and Events" on the homepage and then view "Webinars." A link will be sent 24 hours prior to the webinar to complete registrations. Registration closes on

June 11.

Direct questions to Milford Regional Public Relations and Community Benefits Manager Michelle Sanford at 508-422-2827 or msanford@milreg.org.

Milford Regional's Community Benefits Committee is dedicated to the improvement of the community's health through its leadership and local partnerships.




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THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

Low milage, the brakes suffer

Q. I drive a 2003 Pontiac Bonneville SSEI with just 49,000 miles on it. The headlight assemblies are cracked and need replacement. My mechanic allows me to buy the parts and charges for labor to install. He wants \$220 for the labor to replace the two assemblies, saying it will take at least two hours. Is this reasonable? It seems to me that a few bolts are all that hold the assemblies in place and the wiring harness looks to be easy to disconnect and connect to the new assemblies. Should it really take two hours plus for a mechanic to make the swap?

A. It will take about 1.2 hours to remove the old lamp assemblies and about another 30 minutes to properly align the new headlights. I would say that two hours' labor is not excessive and even though the car has extremely low miles, it is 21 years old and there may be some stubborn or rusted fasteners to deal with.

Q. I have a 1971 Ford Mustang and I am thinking of switching all the exterior lights to LEDs. I have read that you have warned owners of newer cars not to do this, because

it could damage the computer system. Since my Mustang does not have a computer can I change out these bulbs?

A. I certainly have seen many older cars change all the bulbs to LEDs, but I have also seen some cases of overheating sockets and melted housings. The headlight bulbs that I have seen use a one-piece design with multiple bulbs in the lamp. Prior to installing any bulbs read the packaging that it is legal for on-road use. Personally, I would just replace the stock bulbs with new bulbs (the new ones will be brighter) and replace the headlights with a quality halogen bulb.

Q. The trim molding that is right up against the rear side window of the car has peeled and rusted. I scraped off the rest of the peeling black paint and used sandpaper to remove most of the rust and now has an even surface. My intention is to spray it with Rustoleum

flat black combination paint and primer. Should this give me lasting results?

A. Just like all painting as long as the surface is prepped properly it should be fine. The more time you spend on prep the better chance of a good outcome. I did something similar on the wiper arms of my car where the paint just sand blasted off over time. The wiper arms were flat black, I looked around the house and I had some black stove paint. I lightly sanded the wiper arms, used a primer and then the stove paint. The end result was quite good and as a conversation starter, heat resistant to over 1000 degrees. The Rustoleum flat black should be fine and give you long-lasting results.

Q. We have three cars in our family and one of them I am only driving 1000 miles per year now and my brakes have suffered. The rotors rust very quickly, and I have had to replace rotors and pads three times in the past seven years and maybe 10,000 miles in total. The last time the calipers needed to be replaced because it was claimed were 'frozen' and not working at all, although the car seemed to stop fine, even when making simulated emergency stops. Is there anything that can be done about this ongoing and expensive issue?

A. Brakes get rusty and the best thing you can do is drive the car a little each week. Even just a few miles will exercise the brakes and wear off any rust. Yes, it is possible the caliper slides were frozen, but they may have been able to have been cleaned and lubricated. Although depending on the age of the car, replacing the caliper may have been money well spent. As a side note we have a 09 VW Beetle convertible that has sat on Cape Cod (so salty air) and my wife just went home for a week and she said the rotors were very rusty, but the brakes worked fine. After about 50 miles of driving to visit family and then to a local AAA Approved Auto Repair shop for a state vehicle inspection, the brakes cleaned up nicely and were free of rust.



BY JOHN PAUL

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

Financial Tips for Widows and Widowers

Lossing a spouse is one of the most painful experiences anyone can have. Unfortunately, widows and widowers have to deal with more than just



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

the emotional trauma — they also must consider a range of financial issues. If you've recently been widowed, what financial moves

should you consider?

For starters, don't rush into any major decisions. If you're still in the grieving process, you are unlikely to be in the best shape to make significant choices affecting your finances and your life.

But once you feel ready to look at your situation objectively and make appropriate choices, consider the following steps:

- **Review your finances.** Look at your entire financial picture — your assets, investments, debts and income. If you and your spouse had communicated well about your finances, and you shared decisions, you hopefully won't encounter any big surprises. But if your spouse was the partner who mostly handled financial matters, you may need to get up to speed quickly on what you have and what you owe. And if your spouse had provided a large amount of your household income, you will also need to determine what changes you may need to make to your lifestyle.

- **Address insurance issues.** If you will receive a death benefit from your spouse's insurance policy, what will you do with the money? It may prove helpful in funding your own retirement or meeting other financial goals. But

you'll also want to be clear about what other beneficiaries, such as your children, might receive. And while you're looking at insurance, you also might want to look at your own policies — do you need to change beneficiaries?

- **Review your Social Security options.** If you are at least 60 and you were married at least nine months, you may be entitled to Social Security survivor benefits. (If you remarry before age 60, you typically cannot receive survivor benefits, but you can reinstate them if this subsequent marriage ends.) The amount of your survivor's benefits depends on your age and the age of your deceased spouse. You can't claim your deceased spouse's benefits along with your own retirement benefits, so if you qualify for survivor and retirement benefits, you'll receive the larger amount. Depending on your situation, you might come out ahead by delaying your retirement benefits, giving them the chance to grow, while you accept survivor benefits. For more details on receiving Social Security benefits, visit the Social Security Administration's website at www.ssa.gov.

- **Review your estate plans.** The death of a spouse can certainly affect your family's estate plans. So, it's a good idea to review these plans to see what changes, if any, need to be made. When conducting this review, you'll benefit from working with an estate-planning professional.

Finally, keep in mind that you don't have to go it alone during this difficult time. If you're already working with a financial professional, they can help. If you aren't currently working with one, now might be the time to start. By looking at your finances and your family situation holistically, a financial professional can

provide guidance that can help ease the stress you are naturally feeling.

Few events are as sad as losing a spouse. But when you feel ready, start taking the steps necessary to continue forward on your life's journey.

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

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Upcoming Events @ Charlton Public Library

Visit our website (charltonlibrary.org) for a full listing of programs and events or to register.

MOVIE MATINEES @ THE LIBRARY

All showings are on Tuesdays at 1:00 in Dexter Hall. No registration required. Free popcorn!

June 4: Poor Things. 2023. Rated R. 141 minutes.

June 11: The Color Purple. 2023. Rated PG-13. 140 minutes.

June 18: Ordinary Angels. 2024. Rated PG. 116 minutes.

June 25: Wish. 2023. Rated PG. 92 minutes.

SILVER NEEDLES KNIT & CROCHET GROUP

Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 - Upstairs Reading Room - No registration required

Bring your current project and relax with friends. All are welcome regardless of skill level.

BETTER READ THAN DEAD BOOK CLUB

TILL DEATH DO US PART by Vincent Bugliosi

Wednesday, June 5, 11:00-12:00 - Sibley Reading Area - No registration required

A monthly meetup to discuss true crime books. Books available from circulation prior to discussion.

Shamrocks in Cyberspace: Irish Genealogy Databases presentation by Mike Brophy

Thursday, June 6, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - Registration requested

Information about our Irish ancestors is exploding on the internet. The best websites for Irish research are explored and analyzed. Michael Brophy is a nationally known, professional genealogical researcher, heir search specialist, and lecturer from the Boston area.

PAINTING WORKSHOP WITH GREG MAICHACK

Tuesday, June 11, 2:00-4:00 - Community Meeting Room - Registration required

Greg will guide participants through pastel painting a stunning jellyfish. This workshop is for adults and teens 18+ beginners to advanced painters and materials are included. Supported in part from a grant from the Charlton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

VIRTUAL BOOKTALK WITH "LEADING MEN" AUTHOR CHRISTOPHER CASTELLANI

Tuesday, June 11, 6:30-7:30 - via Zoom (visit the Library event calendar for link)

Go behind the scenes of Christopher Castellani's critically-acclaimed novel, Leading Men, which dramatizes the tempestuous relationship between Tennessee Williams, his longtime partner Frank Merlo, and their protégé, an aspiring Swedish actress named Anja Bloom. Set in 1950s Italy as well as contemporary Boston, the novel features a collision of fiction and reality that Castellani will illuminate with a brief reading as well as archival photos and audio.

CPL BOOK DISCUSSION

THE TATTOOIST OF AUSCHWITZ by Heather Morris

Thursday, June 13, 6:00-7:00 - Community Meeting Room and via Zoom - No registration

Books are available for checkout at the adult circulation desk one month prior to discussion. Visit the Library event calendar for Zoom link.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM STARTS!

Monday June 17, 9:30 Sharp! (Runs through August 2)

This year's theme is "Read, Renew, Repeat" and promises something for everyone! Adults, Teens, and Children all have fun programs and prizes to offer. Stop by to sign up and spin the prize wheel!

RAINBOW WALL HANGING

Tuesday, June 18, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room

We're crafting a cheerful wall hanging made of painted wooden beads and fluffy pom poms! This program is for adults and teens ages 13 and up. Registration is required.

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, June 20, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

Led by experienced caregivers

and offers information, resources, and strategies specific to caring for someone with Alzheimer's and other Dementias along with support for transitioning to different care settings. No registration. Co-sponsored by Tri-Valley and Charlton Public Library.

SUCCULENT GARDEN WITH BEMIS FARMS

Friday, June 21, 2:00-4:00 - Community Meeting Room - Registration and Copay in person required

Tina Bemis from Bemis Farm Nursery will lead the group in creating a succulent driftwood "planter" that can be hung on the wall. This class is limited to 20 participants and requires a non-refundable copay of \$10.00. Please visit the adult circulation desk to register and pay.

COMPOSTING 101

Tuesday, June 25, 6:30-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - Registration required

Did you know you can recycle all your kitchen scraps and yard waste, and turn it into beneficial food for your plants? Yep. We've got it all covered, from the "how to" to the "how much". The experts from Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens will be here to walk us through the process.

CULE (CHARLTON UKULELE LEAGUE & ENSEMBLE)

Thursday, June 27, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

Experienced musicians and newbies all welcome. Questions? Email Cule5632@gmail.com

CRITICAL THINKING DISCUSSION GROUP

PHILOSOPHICAL INVESTIGATIONS by Ludwig Wittgenstein

Friday, June 28, 1:00-2:00 - Sibley Reading Area (Main Floor) - No registration required

No experience with critical thinking discussion groups is necessary. Books/materials are available for checkout one month prior to discussion. Questions? Email saga3@charter.net.

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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 mas-

sive 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 lin-

ger 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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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.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

• Please join us for our Annual Community Yard And Plant Sale! As we've done in the past, we will rent spaces and tables, plus we'll do all the advertising and remember,

our prime location can't be beat! Spaces Are \$25 For Non-Members. Tables Are Available To Rent For \$5 Each. Last year our Community Yard Sale and Plant Sale was so successful that we had to implement a wait list! We anticipate the same level of interest again this year, so don't delay in reserving your spot. We are very excited at the thought of gathering, again, with our church family and our neighbors on the church's front lawn. Call the church office, 508-832-2845, to reserve your spot! All are welcome! First Congregational Church of Auburn, 128 Central Street, Auburn.

• Annual Church and Community Yard Sale Soorp Asdvadzadin Armenian Church, 315 Church Street in Whitinsville holds its Annual Church and Community Yard Sale on the front lawn facing Church Street on Saturday, June 8th from 8:00am to 2:00pm.

Vendor space is available for a donation of

\$15 per spot so if you were contemplating your own yard sale but don't have the space you can't been the green lawn, tree shade and great traffic exposure along Church Street. Since this is an outdoor event, please provide you own tables, tarps and canopies if desired. Admission to the buying public is free with plenty of parking along both sides of Church Street or behind the church. For details and reservations, please email Jeff at katama@gmail.com.

• On Saturday, June 8th at 2:30 p.m. come hear Fred Gerhard read from his new poetry book, *Drifting to "Hello"* (Khotso Publishing) at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, Webster, MA. His poems have also appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies. A 2023 winner of Poetry in the Pines, he writes from Ashburnham, MA, where he leads monthly poetry workshops. The event will also include an open mic portion. To sign up to read, please call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com. Space is limited.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

• The Sutton Historical Society, Inc. will be hosting the Annual Sutton Town-Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, June 15 from 8 am to 1 pm. The Society publishes a map of locations throughout town including limited spaces for rent at the M. M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop, 6 Singletary Avenue, Sutton. Registration fee is \$10

OUR ANNUAL BOOK SALE IS FAST APPROACHING AND WE NEED HELP!

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to be listed on the participating location map. Map will be posted on Facebook and uploaded to suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org prior to the event. Registration forms are available at suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org. Questions can be directed to sutton1704@gmail.com. Don't want to have a yard sale, but have items to donate? Members

of the Society will pick up your donations. Contact Brian Stevenson at 774-708-0582 or email us at sutton1704@gmail.com.

HAPPENINGS!
continued on page 19

INDIAN RANCH

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

OVERLOOKING WEBSTER LAKE
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 JUNE 9 • 1PM	 JUNE 15 • 7PM AUGUST 23 • 7PM	 JUNE 22 • 1PM	 JUNE 23 • 1PM	 JUNE 29 • 1PM	 JUNE 30 • 1PM
 JULY 7 • 1PM	 JULY 14 • 1PM	 JULY 20 • 12PM	 JULY 21 • 1PM	 JULY 25 • 7PM	 JULY 27 • 1PM
 AUGUST 2 • 7PM	 AUGUST 3 • 1PM	 AUGUST 4 • 1PM	 AUGUST 9 • 7PM	 AUGUST 10 • 1PM	 AUGUST 11 • 1PM
 AUGUST 18 • 1PM	 AUGUST 24 • 1PM	 AUGUST 31 • 12PM	 SEPTEMBER 7 • 1PM	 SEPTEMBER 22 • 12PM	 SEPTEMBER 29 • 1PM

MORE SHOWS TO BE ANNOUNCED!
FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE AND TICKETS, VISIT WWW.INDIANRANCH.COM

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INDIAN PRINCESS

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LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUN 9 • 10AM
SUNSET CRUISE	JUN 14 • 7:30PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUN 15 • 3:30PM
MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE	JUN 21 • 6:30PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUN 22 • 10AM
BOAT SCOOTIN' BOOGIE CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS	JUN 22 • 6:30PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUN 23 • 10AM
SUNSET CRUISE	JUN 28 • 7:30PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUN 29 • 10AM
AWESOME 80'S CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS	JUN 29 • 6:30PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUN 30 • 10AM
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
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
HALLOWEEN BOOS CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS	OCT 18 • 6:30PM

FOR FULL CRUISE SCHEDULE AND TICKETS VISIT WWW.INDIANRANCH.COM/CRUISES
CRUISING WEBSTER LAKE • 200 GORE ROAD, WEBSTER, MA

Strawberry Festival coming to Dudley Grange

For the 69th year, the whole community is being invited to the Dudley Grange Strawberry Festival at 129 Center Road on Thursday, June 20. The festivities begin at 4 PM and last as long as the strawberries do.

Included in the day's fun are music from the Old Fiddlers' Club of Rhode Island, "The Living Statue," Dudley Fire Department's smoke house, petting zoo animals, a frog jumping contest, handmade french fries, tables from community groups and more, all in a place of good humor and community. As usual, neighboring organizations are also putting on events, including tours of the Black Tavern.

If you have time the day before, we also need people to hull the strawberries. That's also at the Grange starting at 9 AM on



Wednesday, June 19, and volunteers will get snacks.

Come on down and help us hold and have fun at an old-fashioned lawn party next to Nichols College!

HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 18

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 the Suttonfourth.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.

HIKES WITH BLACKSTONE VALLEY HERITAGE CORRIDOR HIKES

Led by volunteer Trail Ambassador Phil.

Phil's hikes begin at 10 a.m.

Saturday, June 15: Douglas State Forest Hike, Douglas

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE TUTTLE POST

88 Bancroft Street, Auburn

May 24 at 7:30 p.m. Ed Sullivans

May 31 at 7:30 p.m. Steven George Karaoke with Brian at 8 p.m. every Friday night in the Tuttle Lounge.

THE NEW ENGLAND COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB

Dances with live classic country bands - Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge
 Sunday, June 9, "Rustic Country"
 Sunday, June 23, "Angela West & Show-down"

Doors open at 12:15, live music 1-5pm
 Snacks may be brought in, cash bar for beverages. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub



On Saturday, May 4, 2024, representatives of local Town government and the Veterans' Council of Webster and Dudley, proudly participated in this year's annual Little League Parade. The Little Leaguers were escorted onto the ballfield where they were greeted by many happy and proud parents and friends who were eager to enjoy their first game of the season. This was a special day for the veterans as well as it is the beginning of the Memorial Day events that are taking place throughout the entire month of May. Thank you to all who came out to support the children for the Dudley Little League. Have a safe and happy summer!

Pictured here from left: VFW Post 654 Commander Richard Norton; Dudley Selectman Mark Landry; Webster and Dudley District Veterans Services Officer Stephen Rogerson

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