

## Douglas Common Preservation group gets non-profit status

The Douglas Common Preservation Society's application for nonprofit designation as a 501c(3) public charity has been approved.

The official name is Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc.

The organization has been working to beautify and maintain the Common since 1996 and will continue to carry out that charity.

According to Lynn Paresky, president, that means that all donations from the group's supporters will be eligible to be tax deductible. The donations will continue to be used exclusively to beautify and maintain the Common. All Society members are volunteer workers.

The organization's status as a 501c(3) will provide a binding relationship with the town that has been ongoing for almost 30 years. It started with the gazebo being built, installation of the lanterns, planting a lawn, trees and flower beds on the banking and around the gazebo and putting in a number of benches where people can sit and relax while enjoying the Common.

The Common Preservation Society will continue to rely on do-

ndations from individuals and businesses to help pay for materials, supplies and expenses to keep the Common looking at its best through the seasons.

If you would like to make your tax-deductible donation to help with work at the Common, please send your check payable to: Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc., 76 NW Main Street, Douglas MA 01516. Donations may also be made by Venmo@Kathleen-Sugrue-Richards (please indicate that it is a donation and supply your contact information).

All sponsors receive recognition on the signs to be posted



at the Common. There will be two signs – one for donations received January through June and one for donations received July through December. Memorial donations will also be acknowledged on the signs.



From left: Kevin Hayes, Chairman, BVCC Board, Tom Belland, BV Hub, Workforce Development Consultant, Senator Mike Moore, Jeannie Hebert, Senator Ryan Fattman, Jen Darling Administrator, BV Hub, Joscelyn Young, VP, BV Hub, Ashley Bregman, ED BV Hub

## Hebert Hall Ribbon Cutting at the Linwood Mill Complex

Members and supporters of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC) gathered on June 5 for a ribbon cutting to officially open Hebert Hall in the Linwood Mill complex at 670 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville.

Hebert Hall is a beautiful new

space for the Blackstone Valley Hub for Workforce Development, a non-profit arm of the Chamber. The hall is a large open room of gleaming wood floors and rustic beams adjoining a new robotics and electronics lab. Outside by a deck, there's a one-of-a-kind view of the falls that powered the sprawling mills.

Named in honor of Jeanne Hebert, the ribbon cutting fittingly coincided with the fifth anniversary of the Hub for Workforce Development. Hebert spearheaded its creation and nursed it along until it became a reality – today serving 20 school districts and thousands of students, business partners, organizations and educators.

Hebert is the vital force of nature who has served as the President and CEO of the Blackstone Valley Chamber since 2008 and is currently President of the Blackstone Valley Hub.

She thanked the state legislators who believed in the workforce development project so much that they requested the BVCC take the project on when the original partner dropped out.

"It never is one person, it really does take a village," Hebert said. "I am very, very fortunate to be surrounded by talented and enthusiastic, dedicated and passionate individuals. This ensures

**HEBERT HALL**  
continued on page 2

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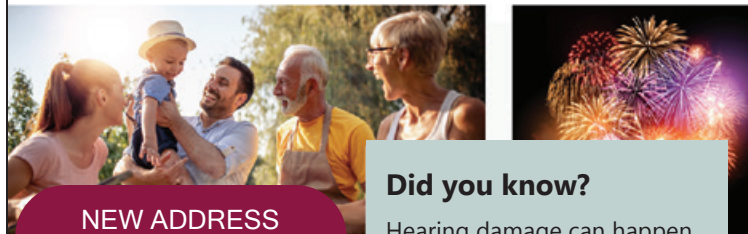
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## HEBERT HALL

*continued from page 1*

that when we shoot for the moon, which we do all the time here, we'll land among the stars. So thank you very, very much for this honor," she said, adding in her family and the Hub's board of directors.

The BV Hub was created to provide students with a work-based learning opportunity featuring technical skill training, employability, skill development and safety awareness.

It operates as the non-profit arm of the BVCC and is dedicated to serving the workforce training needs of the region, schools and businesses.

The goal is to create a workforce pipeline by giving students a centralized place to learn



**Blackstone Valley Hub President Jeannie Hebert (center) Vice President Joscelyn Young (left) and Executive Director Ashley Bregman (right) at the opening of Hebert Hall, Linwood Mill complex.**

technical skills while connecting schools, students and employers. Companies are also using the BV Hub to upgrade the skills of their existing workers. Industry-standard equipment such as TRAK CNC mills and lathes, Bridgeport mills, Universal Collaborative robots, Miller Augmented Reality welders, 3D printers and a 22 seat computer lab for all the training programs the BV Hub provides.

It's said that numbers don't lie and the BV Hub's numbers are certainly impressive. Eighty percent of students in the Advanced Manufacturing Career Pathway Program get matched with permanent job offers. The Youth-Works program, a state-funded youth employment program that

helps teens and young adults get the skills and experience needed to find and keep jobs, saw \$40,000 in direct payments to students and work-based placement employees in Year One.

There are 15,000 students in the Blackstone Valley and Central Mass. school districts eligible for the Connecting Activities program. And the students can look forward to benefiting from the 183 cumulative years of experience in the manufacturing industry and educator experience of the BV Hub instructors' team.

As the manufacturing industry struggles with worker short-

## HEBERT HALL

*continued on page 4*

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### Contact us:

Patty Roy, Editor: [proy@theyankeexpress.com](mailto:proy@theyankeexpress.com)

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Jen Schofield, Advertising Director: The Yankee Xpress, Blackstone Valley Xpress, Local Town Pages, Milford and Upton Mendon Free Press; [jenschofield@yankeeshopper.net](mailto:jenschofield@yankeeshopper.net)

Bill Cronan, Blackstone Xpress North and South (Douglas, Uxbridge, Northbridge; Millbury, Grafton, Sutton); [bcronan@theyankeexpress.com](mailto:bcronan@theyankeexpress.com)

Laura Gleim, Billing & Sales - The Yankee Xpress North and South (Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, and Webster): [lgleim@theyankeexpress.com](mailto:lgleim@theyankeexpress.com)

Susanne Odell Farber, Upton, Mendon, Hopedale: [sue@sodellconsult.com](mailto:sue@sodellconsult.com)

Kimberly Vasseur, Production Manager

Sally Patterson, Graphic Artist

Contributing Writers and Columnists: Tom D'Agostino, Christine Galeone,

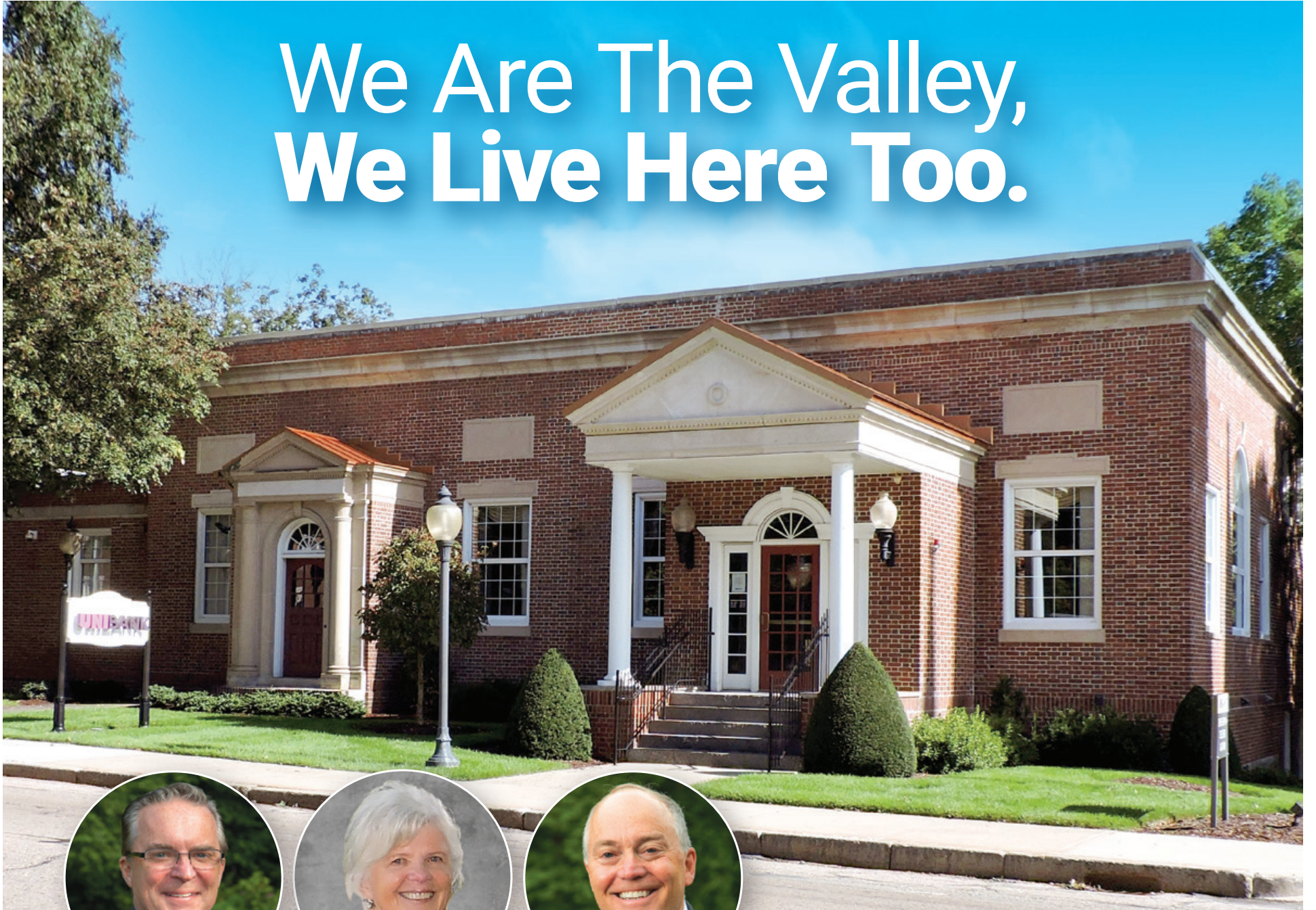
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## \$1.6 million in grants to Mass. fire departments

State Representative Michael Soter (R-Bellingham) is pleased to announce that the fire departments in towns of Uxbridge, Bellingham, Blackstone and Medway, have been selected to receive additional state funding from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) as part of the Department of Fire Service's (DFS) Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) and Senior SAFE grant program to support fire and life safety education for school-aged children and older adults.

The announcement, made by the Healey-Driscoll Administration on June 3, unlocks a total of \$1.6 million in grant funding to be distributed to 214 municipal fire departments across the Commonwealth.

The Uxbridge Fire Department is receiving \$4,700, Bellingham Fire Department is receiving \$5,679, the Blackstone Fire Department

is receiving \$4,700, the Medway Fire Department is receiving \$4,700. This program is designed to teach children the importance of recognizing the dangers of fires and safety behaviors. These towns are also receiving grants for the Senior SAFE program to be used to teach and improve fire safety in senior housing: \$2,200 to Uxbridge, \$1,865 to Bellingham, \$2,200 to Blackstone and \$2,200 to Medway.

Since 1995, the DFS's SAFE grant program has delivered fire safety education to kids and teens across the state. Since the beginning of these programs, the number of child fire deaths in Massachusetts have dropped significantly and in 2021 the state reached a two and a half-year mark without a child fire fatality, the longest period in the history of the Commonwealth. In 2014, the DFS launched the Senior SAFE grant program, to offer similar fire safety trainings to the state's most vulnerable population.



Rep. Soter commented, "I am extremely grateful to learn that our district has been selected to receive this funding." He added, "The opportunity for the students in our district to learn the importance of fire safety is crucial to their safety and educating our district on the many preventative measures that can be taken will be beneficial to the safety of our community as a whole."

Rep. Soter further emphasized the importance of fire safety education for all ages, especially for our children and seniors.

### HEBERT HALL

*continued from page 2*

ages that can limit growth and productivity, getting younger people into manufacturing is crucial. The BV Hub initiated the Blackstone Valley Manufacturing Career Program to attract high school students directly into the workforce by offering training opportunities for well-paying jobs with plenty of opportunities for advancement.

The program is one of many that BV Hub can has developed or connected with for students who were unable to gain access to vocational training.

Eighteen year old Elijah C. is a recent graduate from Goodrich Academy in Fitchburg and signed up for the Job Corps program.

"I wanted to be a welder, but the closest training was in Rhode Island," he said. "It seemed pretty cool here, so I ended up coming

on down."

On average it takes about eight months to earn the primary credentials and then comes some extra work like a robotics class for soldering, Elijah said.

"There's also a work-based program because Blackstone works with job boards. So I'm a job board student. One of their partners, Algonquin has a six week job program where you get paid \$18 an hour for 35 hours a week. It's to get some extra money in our pockets before we leave Job Corps - so if someone needs to save up to get a car or a big purchase."

A lot of people who come to Jobs Corp don't have the ability for get those things on their own outside, Elijah pointed out and he's happy to take full advantage of the program.

The Jobs Corps training program is free. There is on-campus housing Monday through Friday and on weekends, you're free to go home. The housing is separated into male and female wings, serving persons aged 16-24. Three meals a day are served without charge and basic necessities are also included such as bed, sheets, blankets, pillows.

"Even if you need a toothbrush and soap, they get them to you," Elijah said. "You also get a basic living allowance - \$40 every two weeks - it's enough to get yourself things that you need. I love it here."

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# What to know before ‘reversing’ your retirement



Mark Freeman

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If you’ve retired, you may have thought you closed the book on one chapter of your life. But what happens if you need to “reverse” your retirement?

Due to higher inflation and rising interest rates, many retirees are taking out more money from their retirement accounts than they had originally an-

ticipated. As a result, some are headed back to the workforce. If you’re thinking of joining them, you’ll need to consider some factors that may affect your finances.

First, if you’ve been taking Social Security, be aware that you could lose some of your benefits if you earn over a certain level, at least until you reach your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. Specifically, if you are under your full retirement age for the entire year, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefit payments for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit, which, in 2024, is \$22,320. In the year you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above a different limit, which, in 2024, is \$59,520.

Social Security will only count your earnings up to the month before you reach your

full retirement age, at which point your earnings will no longer reduce your benefits, regardless of how much you earn. Also, Social Security will recalculate your benefit amounts to credit you for the months your payments were reduced due to your excess earnings. Social Security also allows you to pay back early benefits received if you withdraw your application within 12 months of starting benefits. This move could help you receive substantially higher benefits at full retirement age.

Your Social Security isn’t the only benefit that could be affected by your earnings. Your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums are based on your income, so they could rise if you start earning more money. Also, your extra income could push you into a higher tax bracket.

Nonetheless, you can certainly gain some benefits by returning to the working world.

Obviously, you’ll be making money that can help you boost your daily cash flow and possibly reduce some debts. But depending on where you work, you might also be able to contribute to a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. And regardless of where you work, you’ll be eligible to contribute to an IRA. By putting more money into these accounts, you may well be able to strengthen your financial position during your retirement years. You might also be able to receive some employee benefits, such as group health insurance — which could be particularly valuable if you haven’t yet started receiving Medicare.

In addition to the potential financial advantages of going back to work, you might get some social benefits, too. Many people enjoy the interactions with fellow workers and miss these exchanges when they retire, so a return to the workforce,

even if it’s on a part-time basis, may give you an emotional boost.

In the final analysis, you’ll want to weigh the potential costs of going back to work against the possible benefits. There’s no one right answer for everyone, but by looking at all the variables, you should be able to reach a decision that works for you.

If you would like to discuss your personal situation with a financial advisor contact:

Mark Freeman  
Edward Jones Financial Advisor  
77 West Main Street,  
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## Uxbridge school budget passes

BY PATTY ROY

After voters at the June 18 special town meeting overwhelmingly approved the town's school budget for the upcoming fiscal year, voters are able to relax, knowing that the crucial funding is set.

"Having a budget means a great summer for everybody," said Town Administrator Steve Sette.

"I'm very happy; I think we have a budget that's going to allow the school to do a lot of things."

The 12 percent increase in the school budget was initially turned down in a squeaker at the annual town meeting in May, by a vote of 221-216. That meant no money for staffing, programs or main-

tenance; essentially, all schools would have closed.

It was thought at the time, that voters mistakenly believed that the town could fund the schools with a "one-twelfth budget," or spending an amount equal to one-twelfth of last year's school budget each month until a new budget could be hammered out. However, the state allows that option only to regional school systems, not to individual municipalities.

By contrast to the lackluster support at the May town meeting, enthusiasm ran high for the \$27.4 million budget that voters approved at the special town meeting, with 1016 voters giving the go ahead and 186 voting against. The vote required a two-thirds majority since it occurred at a special town meeting.

The amount asked at the special town meeting was trimmed from the initial \$27.6 asked originally and was recommended by the Select Board, Finance Committee and the School Board.

"I was delighted to see the budget pass," said Dr. Mike Baldasare, Superintendent of Uxbridge Schools. "With 1200 people in attendance at the town meeting, we earned over 1000 votes!"

The good news came with minimal cuts to the previously proposed budget, he said.

He continued, "So, I am proud to say that we will be able to

preserve the work that we've done in 2024 and continue to grow, modernize, and improve in 2025."

According to the town meeting warrant, 70 percent of the budget increase is due to compensation factors, while the district is also facing increased costs for transportation, coupled with the inability to use revolving funds (fee supported funding) to offset operating expenses. There was also a \$538,086 bump in regional school payments to Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School and Norfolk Agricultural School due to increased enrollment.

Homeowners can expect taxes to go up this year, but it will vary according to property assessments.

According to Sette, the majority of homeowners will see an increase from \$350 to \$400, he said, with the average home in town "assessed somewhere in the neighborhood of \$450,000."

"We know that at the high end of people's valuations, taxes won't go up more than \$650 annually," he said.

The town has a slight split between residential and commercial tax bases, Sette said. The tax rate currently stands at \$12.98/ \$1000 for residential properties.

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# Elvis is in the House

Plummer Place was rockin' this week as seniors and older adults enjoyed a live music concert from award-winning Elvis tribute artist Dan Fontaine! This was Elvis's third visit to Plum-

mer Place and the concert-goers enjoyed a phenomenal tribute to the King's musical legacy. The dance floor was crowded as seniors sang and danced to hits such as Burning Love, Blue Suede Shoes, Suspicious Minds, Love Me Tender, Heartbreak Hotel, and the Hawaiian Wedding Song! A Memphis-themed BBQ lunch was provided



nization that has partnered with Plummer Place to bring handmade blankets to children in foster care. "I enjoyed the concert thoroughly and Dan was better than ever!" declared Joyce Brill one of the attendees. The concert was sponsored by the Friends of Northbridge Elders, Inc. (FINE) which provides support for Plummer Place. For more information on Plummer Place or FINE please call (508) 234-2002.



mer Place and the concert-goers enjoyed a phenomenal tribute to the King's musical legacy. The dance floor was crowded as seniors

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# Daughters of the American Revolution honors Dr. Healy

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), Captain Job Knapp Chapter (East Douglas, MA) recently honored one of its members with a special DAR Community Classroom pin and certificate in recognition of her Excellence in Nursing- and her role as adjunct faculty at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

The DAR Community Classroom pin and certificate of recognition was presented to Dr. Adelina Healy, DNP, MSN, RN of Dudley and past Regent Noveline Beltram and past Regent Anne Marie Safae.

Dr. Healy, an adjunct faculty at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in Charlton, said her work with Practical Nursing students brings her joy. Dr. Healy is the faculty

lead for most community outreach activities as Health Screenings at Middle schools, on-site medical care at Show Choir Competition, and Volunteer Judges at SkillsUSA State championship.

Some of her work as a member of DAR has been identifying Revolutionary patriots in her hometown of Dudley, placing markers at grave sites, and welcoming newly naturalized US citizens in Worcester.

Dr. Healy said, "we have been involved in distributing small American flags to new citizens at the Mechanic's Hall in Worcester, two to three times a year. "We passed out over 549 flags," shared Dr. Healy. "We have identified at least 15 Revolutionary Patriots who are direct ancestors." Dr. Healy

mentors practical nursing students and has recently been asked the honor of pinning a candidate for 2024 graduation and pinning ceremony. She had been the inspirational speaker at several National Technical Honor Society Induction Ceremony held at the Douglas Orchard and Farms.

Dr. Healy completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at Quinnipiac University. The curriculum for the Doctor of Nursing Practice degree builds on traditional master's programs by providing education in evidence-based practice, quality improvement and systems leadership. She earned her Master of Science in Nursing Administration from Regis College and Bachelor of Science in Nursing

at Worcester State University. She is a registered nurse with close to 50 years of experience in the classroom as full-time faculty, managerial as Director of Nursing Services, and as an adjunct at Worcester State University. She has held teaching positions at Northeastern University, Wachusett Community College, Quinsigamond Community College, and Regis College. A Hyatt Scholar Dr. Healy is recognized for outstanding scholastic aptitude and motivation. Dr. Healy was a member of Dudley Board of Health for 18 years, nine of those years as Chairman.

About DAR: The Daughters of American Revolution is a women's service organization dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education, patriotism and honoring the patriots of the Revolutionary War. For more information visit [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org)

About Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy: Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers a 40-week, (10-month), full-time, Monday through Friday, evening program. The program begins mid-August and is completed in late June. Graduates receive a Practical Nursing Certificate and are eligible

to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam. The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is fully approved by the: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Human Services of Public Health Board of Registration in Nursing 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108 617-973-0900 <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/board-of-registration-in-nursing> The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is accredited by the: Council on Occupational Education 7840 Roswell Road Building 300, Suite 325 Atlanta, GA 30350 Telephone: 800-917-2081 [www.council.org](http://www.council.org) Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School is fully accredited by the: New England Association of Schools and Colleges 209 Burlington Rd, Suite 201 Bedford, MA, 01730-1433 781-271-0022 [www.neasc.org](http://www.neasc.org)



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# Whitinsville Social Library

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www.northbridgemass.org/  
whitinsville-social-library/pages/  
about-us

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, JULY 24, JULY 31**  
2-3 p.m. The Historian Is In Stumped on a local history or genealogy project?  
Drop by the library for assis-

tance from Northbridge Historical Society member Carol Brouwer

**TUESDAY, JULY 23**  
11 a.m. – noon Jigsaw Puzzle Showdown.  
Grab a team of 2-6 puzzle experts and compete in a timed race to complete a 500 piece puzzle. Ages 9-99 years. Refreshments will be served and frivolous prizes awarded. Pre-register.

**THURSDAY, JULY 25**  
6-8 p.m. Book Club for Introverts  
Join fellow book lovers to read and relax – no assigned readings. Bring your own book or borrow one of the library's. Drinks and snacks are provided. Meeting starts at 6 p.m. Small talk is not required. Pre-register.

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### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Proven writing experience, preferably in journalism or related field
- Strong research, interviewing, and storytelling skills
- Ability to meet tight deadlines and manage multiple assignments
- Excellent grammar, punctuation, and attention to detail
- Familiarity with AP style is a plus
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Knowledge of the local area is highly desirable

If interested, please submit writing samples to [proy@yankeeshopper.net](mailto:proy@yankeeshopper.net)

## Simon Fairfield Library

290 Main St., Douglas  
 Douglas@cwmares.org  
 Monday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Tuesdays 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
 Wednesday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Thursday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
 Saturday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**MONDAYS JULY 15, 22, 29**  
 Summer Storytime  
 10 a.m. Ages 15 months – 3 years  
 1 p.m. Ages 3- 5 years  
 3 p.m. Ages 4 – 7 years  
 Tuesday, July 16  
 6:30 p.m. SciFi Book Club  
 Wednesday, SR Program

### 1:30 A.M. JULY 17 "HANDS ON NATURE" LEARN ABOUT ANIMAL CAMOUFLAGE

Come learn about animals which are able to vanish in plain sight! Discover ways in which animals are able to blend like magic into their environment. Learn about how both predators and prey disguise themselves to increase their chances of survival. Then become a nature detective and see if you can spot the hidden animal, in various nature scenes... it's not as easy as you think! Includes a fun camouflage

project to take home.

"Read Renew Repeat" is sponsored by your local library, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. This project is funded in full by the Douglas Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Call or email Debbie (dsoderman@cwmares.org or 508-476-2695) at the library to register.

### 10:30 A.M. JULY 24 READING IS MAGIC WITH ED THE WIZARD

Are you looking for a fun, energetic, program that uses many volunteers and encourages reading? Reading is Magic is all that and more. Inspired by Albus Dumbledore, "Ed" decided to become "Ed the Wizard." Using his own collection of magic books and visiting his local library, Ed began to teach himself the art of prestidigitation. Today, Ed the Wizard travels the Northeast performing for schools, libraries, fairs, and private parties. Reading is Magic demonstrates how inspiration can be found in a book; how a story can change one's life. Offering his own life story as inspiration to others, Ed the Wizard promotes and encourages the building of reading skills to all of his audience members.

Reading is Magic is a hands-on 45 minute performance that uses many volunteers. The audience is challenged with questions throughout the performance followed with a brief Q&A session.

This program is suitable for all age and grade levels as each performance is adapted for the audience at that time.

A "Read Renew Repeat" program. Call or email Debbie (dsoderman@cwmares.org or 508-476-2695) at the library to register

mals and hear interesting stories and information about them. Controlled petting and touching is allowed at the discretion of the guide.

A "Read Renew Repeat" program. Come learn about animals which are able to vanish in plain sight! Discover ways in which animals are able to blend like magic into their environment. Learn about how both predators and prey disguise themselves to increase their chances of survival. Then become a nature detective and see if you can spot the hidden animal, in various nature scenes... it's not as easy as you think! Includes a fun camouflage project to take home.

"Read Renew Repeat" is sponsored by your local library, the Massachusetts Library System, the Boston Bruins, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. This project is funded in full by the Douglas Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Call or email Debbie (dsoderman@cwmares.org or 508-476-2695) at the library to register.

### THURSDAY, JULY 25 5:45 P.M. FIBER ART FRIENDS

Saturday, July 27  
 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Picnic at the Park

Martin Road Park, 115 Martin Rd, Douglas,

If you are coming to Picnic at the Park on July 27, visit the Library booth to bowl for books! We will also be available to create new library cards (or renew expired ones), show you how to use Libby, and place holds on any of the books we have displayed on neurodivergence.

Full event details for Picnic at the Park can be found on the event's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094091176773](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094091176773)  
 This is a sensory friendly event.

### JULY 31 10:30 A.M. ANIMAL ADVENTURES

Eight to 10 animals will be presented. Come meet the ani-

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# QCC Spring Dean's List and Merit List

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.

**Charlton:** Joshua Bond, Hayden Davis, Victoria Gaudette, Jordan Goulas, Elliott Hunt, Abigail Joesten, Kellen Kinnes, Seth Lawendowski, Kevin McManus, Meghav Patel, Demerice Wolfenden, Marina da Paz de Barros

**Dudley:** Christian Bowlin, Luke Curtis, Marc Dinary, Valeria Ellison, Christa Griffing, Thalia Hernandez, Ryan Herriage, Aaron Jackson, Emily Kolodziejczak

**East Douglas:** Brennan Jones, Joshua McCullen, Hannah Rosenkrantz, Alyssa Williston

**Northborough:** Tracy Ferro, Cole Jones, Katherine Lee, Imtiaz Rahman, Yame Rodrigues-Sousa,

David Soboyejo, Cullen Walsh, Nicholas West, Kaitlyn Whelan

**Northbridge:** Aaron Bishop, Nicholas Cleary, Leah Connell, Dianna Lyness, Jacob Marinell, Timothy Vander Hart

**Uxbridge:** Christian Core, Rachel Demrest, Madison Departie, Carl Nathan Gallawan, Justin Meola, David Morse, Jared Peniche, Melissa Sabourin, Kaylee Tavares

**Webster:** Ashley Denham, Elaina Dunbar, Hlaing Htoo, Garrett Mann, Dakota Moore, Trisha Powers, Sean Sweeney, Diego Taborda, Tyler Verrier, Alexandria Wilson

**Whitinsville:** Hunter Fabri, Joseph Gauthier, Elizabeth Kramer, Joshua Poquette

## 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.

**Charlton:** Quinn Beck, Molly Cloutier, Alyssa Delgado, Christine Falardeau, Courtney Fowler, Joseph Gallant, Loriauna Graika, Joseph Heywood, John Jalbert, Chloe Jolin, Cheyenne Kelly, William Kinnes, Sophia Lynch, Kieya

Santerre, Rebecka-Dawn Walley

**Charlton City:** Melissa Blanchette, Jennifer Stevens

**Douglas:** James Freeman

**Dudley:** Patricia Battista, Danielle Boilard, Daniel Brunelle, Xavier Collazo, Shelby Cotton, Tyler DeWitt, Holly Dolan, August Eaton, Danielle Manas, Laurelyn Mayen, Sophia McClay, Grace Nixon, Luis Pacheco, Angelina Ramirez, Michelle Reilly, Edward Ribeiro, Christina Richert, James Riordan, Clarice Smith, Natalia Sudyka, Cameron Therrien, Ashley Westgate


**East Douglas:** Courtney Barch, Abigail Bonneau, Gina Kalkounis, Joseph Lavallee, Melanie Lundstedt, Dana Markey, Nina Waiswa

**Northbridge:** Krystal Bonafilia, Matthew Conary, Dylan Mahoney, Edgar Nalbandyan

**Uxbridge:** Tanya Allen, Eric Anderson, Nathaniel Burket, Tyler Butler, Inna Embden, Amanda Flynn, Alicia Gauvin, Katie Parker, Edrick Pereira, Nolan Ray, Brandon Roux, Klaiton Thomason

**Webster:** Sean Alger, Sarah

Barr, Izabella Bezak, Tanairi Caraballo, Javery Crawford, Brandon Davenport, Jessica Davis, Jolin Etpison, Meredith Forman, Jake Franklin, Jasmine Jaber, Mallory Jakubiak, Chime Lama, Nichole Lambert, Rena McGeary, Juan Medina, Jordan Miller, Maribel Reyes Ortiz, Patricia Rose, Justin Smith, Panagiotis Vlahos, Rachael Watterson, John Zamoider




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# Douglas Open Space Committee

The Douglas Open Space Committee is hoping to have the Community Preservation Act placed on the November 2024 Presidential Election Ballot. Municipalities that adopt the act get matching state funds that add between a 1 to 3 percent surcharge to their taxes. The funds are generated by the Massachusetts Registry of Deeds.

The Open Space Committee is proposing a 1.5 percent surcharge with some exemptions. The funds can be used to rehab underused buildings, provide affordable housing and develop recreational opportunities.

A committee has been organized and volunteers are needed. The committee will seek to get this option onto the November ballot through a Ballot Petition Question and needs help getting signatures.

Anyone interested in helping can contact open-space@douglas-ma.gov or call Sue Perkins at

508-476-2872. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on Thursdays at the Douglas Municipal Center.



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# Uxbridge Free Public Library

## MONDAY, JULY 15

### 11:30 – NOON BABY STORYTIME

Have fun with your children during our weekly storytimes, as you engage in songs, rhymes, stories, and movement. This encourages language development, social, and listening skills. For ages 0-2 years. When registering, please include both adults and children in the count. This will be held outdoors if weather permits. Registration is required. contact: Uxbridge Free Public Library 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmares.org

### 6-6:30 P.M. BLOSSOMING YOUTH YOGA

In this ongoing class, learners will take time to relax their minds and bodies through stretch, yoga and meditation led by Yoga instructor Pauline Estey. Ages 6 + Registration is required. Sponsored by the Board of Trustees.

Contact: 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmares.org

### 6-7 P.M. BUILD WAVE

Build Wave is a one-hour STEAM enrichment program that combines the spirit of an art program, the materials of a building workshop, and the framework of a video game. For ages 5-18. Registration is required. Sponsored by the Board of Trustees. Contact: 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmares.org

### 6:30 P.M. KNIT-N-STITCH CIRCLE

Do you love to craft? Do you have an interest in knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or other fiber arts? Are you looking for a crafting community? Then join our craft circle! Bring your crochet, knitting, or other craft project to work on and take the time to relax and learn from others. Our drop-in Knit-N-Stitch

circle meets weekly on Mondays at 6 p.m. Contact: 508-278- 8624 uxbridgelibrary@cwmares.org

### 7 P.M. GENTLE FLOW YOGA

Join Michelle Forest, a 200HR registered yoga teacher, for a gentle yoga class at the library! Michelle's yoga class combines creative and balanced movements which connect to a theme to help you deepen your practice. Beginners are encouraged and always welcome to attend! Registration is required, please visit our website calendar to register. This class is sponsored by the Board of Library Trustees.

This class currently has a waitlist.

Contact: 508-278-8624 uxbridgelibrary@cwmares.org

## TUESDAY, JULY 16

### 11 A.M.-NOON BABY BUMBLE

Socialization playgroups are for families to help children develop social skills at their own pace, to build their child's emotional confidence, and to encourage physical activity and creativity. For ages 0-2 years. When registering, please include both adults and children in the count. Registration is required.

Contact: 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmares.org

### 3:30 P.M. HISTORICAL FICTION BOOK CLUB

At the July meeting of the Historical Fiction Book Club, we will be discussing "The Gown" by Jennifer Robson. Copies are available at the Library.

Contact: Chris Powloka 508-278-8624 x101

### 4:15 - 5:15 P.M. INK TILE ART

We will create abstract art on tiles with alcohol ink paint and blowdryers. Ages

8-12 Registration is required. Generously sponsored by The Friends of the Library Wednesday, July 17

### 10 - 11 A.M. READ AROUND UXBRIDGE

Amanda Gallerani will be presenting a fun and interactive program on dolphins and their lifestyle. Follow the link We will create abstract art on tiles with alcohol ink paint and blowdryers. Ages 8-12 Registration is required. Generously sponsored by The Friends of the Library. The event will be cancelled if it rains.

*Read Around Uxbridge is a collaboration between Beginning Bridges/CFCE, Uxbridge Library, and the Uxbridge Schools.*

### 10 A.M. – 5 P.M. CRAFTY WEDNESDAYS

Get crafty and creative with your kids every Wednesday! Improves coordination, fine motor skills, and encourages creativity. Alternatively, we will have some crafts ready to go as Take-Homes. Crafts will be available from 10am until they run out. For ages 1-8. Contact: 508-278-8624 x 04 scampbell@cwmares.org

### 12:30 - 1:30 P.M. LEGO CHALLENGE BUILD

The library will provide all materials for the kids to do the Challenge Build or to do a free-build to help exercise their imagination, creativity, social skills, and sportsmanship. We will display the creations for 1 week when it will be rotated back to the bins to create again the following week. Ages 5-10 Registration is required. Contact: Uxbridge Free Public Library 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmares.org

### 2:30 - 4 P.M. BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN

Need help downloading e-books and audiobooks on your tablet, using online

databases, or setting up an email account? Do you want to access our microfilm collection and get a glimpse of Uxbridge in the past? Book up to thirty minutes with a librarian for tech assistance. Registration is required, please contact the library at 508-278-8624 x100 or visit our website calendar to register.

Contact: Christopher Powloka cpowloka@cwmares.org cpowloka@cwmares.org

## THURSDAY, JULY 18

### 6-7:30 P.M. CLAY TIME: PAINT YOUR OWN POTTERY

Clay Time Studio from Shrewsbury will be offering each youth a bowl, plate, or cup to paint using a special paint medium. They will then be taken back to the studio to be fired in the kiln and will be ready for pick up from the library in about a week. For ages 8-19. Registration is required. Generously sponsored by The Board of Trustees.

Contact: 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmares.org

Location: Library Back Lawn

### 6:30 P.M. THE POLLINATOR GARDEN

Pollinators are the life blood for good garden production. In this gardening program led by Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens, we will explore ways to attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other beneficials to your garden. Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens offers lectures on a variety of gardening topics throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Registration is encouraged.

Contact: 508-278-8624 uxbridgelibrary@cwmares.org

## FRIDAY, JULY 19

### 10 A.M. – 1 P.M. LAWN GAMES &

## WATER TABLE

Stop by the library on Fridays (weather permitting) to play some fun outdoor games & splash splash in the water table! We'll have Cornhole, Jumbo Jenga, Wooden Ring Toss Game, and Mulkky. Lawn Games are fun for all ages and everyone is welcome to come and play!

## 11:30 – NOON TODDLER/PRE-SCHOOL STORYTIME

Have fun with your children during our weekly storytimes, as you engage in songs, rhymes, stories, and movement. This encourages language development, social, and listening skills. For ages 2-4 years. When registering, please include both adults and children in the count. This will be held outdoors if weather permits. Registration is required.

Contact: Uxbridge Free Public Library 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmares.org

## MONDAY, JULY 22

### 6-6:30 P.M. BLOSSOMING YOUTH YOGA

In this ongoing class, learners will take time to relax their minds and bodies through stretch, yoga and meditation led by Yoga instructor Pauline Estey. Ages 6 + Registration is required. Sponsored by the Board of Trustees.

Contact: 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmares.org

### 6-7:30 P.M. THE UKULELE SHOW

Look, listen, learn & laugh at The Ukulele Show, an educational concert where Dave Maloof of MusicPlusComedy.com will

## UXBRIDGE LIBRARY

continued on page 13



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## UXBRIDGE LIBRARY

*continued from page 12*

perform a ukulele concert – singing and playing various ukes to music including Beatles, Rock 'n' Roll, Vintage Pop, World, Country, Comedy, Kids – maybe even a little... Classical?! He'll also show various ukulele sizes, shapes and tunings, demonstrate different playing techniques, and explain a bit about ukulele origins and parts. And everyone can try out some of the ukes that Dave will bring!

*This program is supported in part by a grant from the Uxbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency.*

Location: Library Back Lawn

### 6:30 P.M. KNIT-N-STITCH CIRCLE

Do you love to craft? Do you have an interest in knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or other fiber arts? Are you looking for a crafting community? Then join our craft circle! Bring your crochet, knitting, or other craft project to work on and take the time to relax and learn from others. Our drop-in Knit-N-Stitch circle meets weekly on Mondays at 6 p.m.

Contact: Uxbridge Free Public Library 508-278-8624 uxbridgelibrary@cwmares.org

### 7 P.M. GENTLE FLOW YOGA

Join Michelle Forest, a 200HR registered yoga teacher, for a gentle yoga class at the library! Michelle's gentle yoga class combines creative and balanced movements which connect to a theme to help you deepen your practice. Beginners are encouraged and always welcome to attend! Registration is required, please visit our website calendar to register. This class is sponsored by the Board of Library Trustees.

### 11 A.M. – NOON TODDLER TUMBLE

Socialization playgroups are for families to help children develop social skills at their own pace, to build their child's emotional confidence, and to encourage

physical activity and creativity. For ages 2-5 years. When registering, please include both adults and children in the count. Registration is required.

Contact: Uxbridge Free Public Library 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmares.org

### 4:15 – 5 P.M. MOSAIC TILE ART

Create a mosaic tile art on a wooden base to bring color and shine to your room. For ages 4-7. Registration is required. Generously sponsored by The Friends of the Library.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

### 10-11 A.M. READ AROUND UXBRIDGE

Blackstone Valley Tech (BVT) Robotics Team will be co-hosting an interactive robotics demonstration for kids. There will be mini-robots to navigate through an obstacle course controlled by you! Can you do it?! It will take place in the parking lot behind the library just before the Unibank parking lot. Registration is required.

Please register by following the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20FOA4BAAA72EA3FF2-49608460-bvrobotics#/>

The event will be canceled if it rains.

*Read Around Uxbridge is a collaboration between Beginning Bridges/CFCE, Uxbridge Library, and the Uxbridge Schools.*

### 10 A.M. - 5 P.M. CRAFTY WEDNESDAYS

Get crafty and creative with your kids every Wednesday! Improves coordination, fine motor skills, and encourages creativity. Alternatively, we will have some crafts ready to go as Take-Homes. Crafts will be available from 10 a.m. until they run out. For ages 1-8.

Contact: Uxbridge Free Public Library 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmares.org

### 1 P.M. EMBROIDERY 101: AFTER-NOON CLASS

Join Uxbridge-based artisan and instructor Madonna Terlizzi for this introductory embroidery workshop. This class will build on techniques from prior classes, but beginners are welcome! All supplies are provided. Registration required. This class

has a waitlist.

Contact: Uxbridge Free Public Library 508-278-8624 uxbridgelibrary@cwmares.org

### 2:30 – 4 P.M. BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN

Need help downloading e-books and audiobooks on your tablet, using online databases, or setting up an email account? Do you want to access our microfilm collection and get a glimpse of Uxbridge in the past? Book up to thirty minutes with a librarian for tech assistance. Registration is required, please contact the library at 508-278-8624 x100 or visit our website calendar to register.

Contact: Christopher Powloka cpowloka@cwmares.org

### 4:15- 5:15 P.M. KINDNESS SPEAKS

Stephen Mandile will be reading books and doing art & crafts with youth to spark discussions to encourage small acts of kindness in hopes of it becoming widespread wherever youth may go. Ages 5-12 Registration is required.

Contact: 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmares.org

### 11:30 A.M. POPUP LIBRARY AT THE SENIOR CENTER

Coming now to the Uxbridge Senior Center... is the PopUp Library! Stop by during the lunch meal program to sign up for a library card, browse an assortment of books, and learn what your librarians are up to! Please contact the Senior Center at 508-278-8622 to reserve your lunch that day.

6 p.m. Embroidery 101: Evening Class

Join Uxbridge-based artisan and instructor Madonna Terlizzi for this introductory embroidery workshop. This class will build on techniques from prior classes, but beginners are welcome! All supplies are provided. Registration required.

Contact: 508-278-8624

uxbridgelibrary@cwmares.org

### 6-7 P.M. HENNA BY JEN!

Henna, a plant-based dye that safely stains the skin for 1-2 weeks, is a popular art form

found in many cultures. Jen will turn your hands into a work of art using an all-natural henna paste. The henna design will last approximately 1-2 weeks. Ages 10+ Registration is required. Parents have to sign a permission form to allow youth under 18 to attend the program if they are not attending with their parent(s) or can email permission to Sonya at scampbell@cwmares.org. Sponsored by the Board of Trustees. Contact: Uxbridge Free Public Library 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmares.org

### FRIDAY, JULY 26

### 10 A.M.-1 P.M. LAWN GAMES & WATER TABLE

Stop by the library on Fridays (weather permitting) to play some fun outdoor games & splash splash in the water table! We'll have Cornhole, Jumbo Jenga, Wooden Ring Toss Game, and Mulkky. Lawn Games are fun for

## UXBRIDGE LIBRARY

*continued on page 14*

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**UXBRIDGE LIBRARY**

*continued from page 13*

all ages and everyone is welcome to come and play!

**11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. FAMILY CANDY BAR BINGO**

How much do you know about Dogs? Come test your skills and luck to win large candy bars or boxes of Sour Patch Kids! Ages

6+ When registering, please include both adults and children in the count.

Contact: Uxbridge Free Public Library 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmar.org

**MONDAY, JULY 29**

**6 P.M. TEEN MAGIC & HERBS**

There's more than meets the eye when it comes to herbs and spices in your kitchen. We can open our minds to the world of intention and manifesting with just a few ingredients from our kitchen.

In this interactive workshop with Sha Blackburn, we will create "intention powder" made from spices and herbs in our kitchen which we can use to manifest positive intentions. You will learn the myth and medicine of these simple ingredients, and you will learn how to focus your positive vibes within yourself to help you reach your goals.

Come prepared to hear some stories from folklore and gain a new understanding of

some simple plants like corn and mustard! Every participant will receive a portion of the completed intention powder to take home.

Generously sponsored by The Board of Trustees.

**6:30 P.M. BLOSSOMING YOUTH YOGA**

In this ongoing class, learners will take time to relax their minds and bodies through stretch, yoga and meditation led by Yoga instructor Pauline Estey. Ages 6 + Registration is required. Sponsored by the Board of Trustees.

Contact Uxbridge Free Public Library 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmar.org Location: Library Back Lawn

**6:30 P.M. BOOKIES BOOK CLUB**

At the July meeting of the Bookies Book Club, we will be discussing "North Woods" by Daniel Mason. Copies will be available at the Library.

**6:30 P.M. KNIT-N-STITCH CIRCLE**

Do you love to craft? Do you have an interest in knitting, crocheting, embroidery, or other fiber arts? Are you looking for a crafting community? Then join our craft circle! Contact: Uxbridge Free Public Library 508-278-8624 uxbridgeli@cwmar.org

**7 P.M. GENTLE FLOW YOGA**

Join Michelle Forest, a 200HR registered yoga teacher, for a gentle yoga class at the library! Michelle's gentle yoga class combines creative and balanced movements which connect to a theme to help you deepen your practice. Beginners are encouraged and always welcome to attend! Registration is required, please visit our website calendar to register. This class is sponsored by the Board of Library Trustees.

CONTACT: Uxbridge Free Public Library 508-278-8624 uxbridgeli@cwmar.org There is a waiting list for this class.

10 – 11 a.m. Read Around Uxbridge Enjoy a police story and take a tour to learn about the inner workings of the Police Department. Check out the police cruisers! 275 Douglas St Uxbridge. Registration is

required.

Please register by following the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4BAAA72EA3FF2-49886584-ux-bridge#/>

*Read Around Uxbridge is a collaboration between Beginning Bridges/CFCE, Uxbridge Library, and the Uxbridge Schools.*

**10 A.M. 5 P.M. CRAFTY WEDNESDAYS** Get crafty and creative with your kids every Wednesday! Improves coordination, fine motor skills, and encourages creativity. Alternatively, we will have some crafts ready to go as Take-Homes. Crafts will be available from 10am until they run out. For ages 1-8.

Contact: Uxbridge Free Public Library 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmar.org

**2:30 PM – 4 P.M. BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN**

Need help downloading e-books and audiobooks on your tablet, using online databases, or setting up an email account? Do you want to access our microfilm collection and get a glimpse of Uxbridge in the past? Book up to thirty minutes with a librarian for tech assistance. Registration is required, please contact the library at 508-278-8624 x100 or visit our website calendar to register.

Contact: Christopher Powloka cpowloka@cwmar.org

**4 - 5 P.M. LEGO CHALLENGE BUILD**

The library will provide all materials for the kids to do the Challenge Build or to do a free-build to help exercise their imagination, creativity, social skills, and sportsmanship. We will display the creations for 1 week when it will be rotated back to the bins to create again the following week. Ages 5-10 Registration is required.

CONTACT: Uxbridge Free Public Library 508-278-8624 x 104 scampbell@cwmar.org

LOCATION: Children's Department



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ValleyCAST's mission is to foster a creative and engaged community in the Historic Blackstone Valley that is inclusive and supportive of all people with and without disabilities. ValleyCAST is the arts & culture arm of Open Sky Community Services.



- Art Gallery Exhibits
- Sculpture in the Plaza
- Theater Performances
- One Act Play Festivals
- Art Workshops & Classes
- Free Summer Concert Series
- Art & Music Makers Festivals

*and much, much more!*



## Take Down the Wall Presents: OPEN MIC NIGHTS

TDTW Open Mic is an inclusive opportunity for musicians and poets of all abilities - **ALL are welcome!** Have fun with monthly themes, meet new people, and share your talent in this encouraging environment. **Performers, please come early to sign up!**

**Doors open at 6pm**

**July 13 Freedom Rocks**

**Aug. 10 Grill at The Mill**

**Sept. 14 Magic Mania**



## Volunteer Opportunities

### Volunteers needed for our monthly Open Mic Nights:

- set up/breakdown crew
- stagehands
- concessions assistant
- set design
- and more!

Interested? Please contact [michelle.benjamin@openskycs.org](mailto:michelle.benjamin@openskycs.org)

## Are you the next Club 21 Discovery Member?

We are seeking members of the community to partner with individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and mental health challenges as Discovery Members in our Club 21 program.

- Do you enjoy meeting new people and building friendships?
- Do you need more fun in your busy life?
- Are you interested in getting to know your community?
- Do you want to make a difference in someone's life?

If you said "Yes" to any of these, contact us at [club21@openskycs.org](mailto:club21@openskycs.org) for a no obligation informational meeting.

For more information about these opportunities and more visit [openskycs.org/communitymembership](https://openskycs.org/communitymembership)



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# Blackstone River Valley Guided Recreational Hikes

All programs are free and open to the public. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. Registration is not required. Wear sturdy footwear. Dress for the weather. Bringing sunscreen, bug spray and water is

encouraged. Call 508-278-7604 for up-to-date information or visit our website at [bit.ly/blst\\_updates](http://bit.ly/blst_updates). For more information on accessibility or reasonable accommodations, please call 617-645-0358 or email [moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov](mailto:moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov).

mild inclines. "West Hill Junior Rangers" can earn credit.

Upcoming programs for Summer 2024 at the Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, located at 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge. Weekly hikes are on-site as well as in Upton State Forest, Douglas State Forest and Purgatory Chasm State Reservation.

**KIDLEIDOSCOPE**

10:30 – 11:30 p.m. Join us each week. We will read a book, then do an activity and craft that relates to the story. Each week has a different theme, so stop by often. Appropriate for ages 3 – 6, siblings welcome. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

**FARM TO FACTORY TOUR**

Saturdays, 11 – 11:30 a.m.  
Explore the story of the Blackstone Valley and its communities from pre-European style agricultural development, industrialization and into today. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. Building the Canal Tour  
Fridays and Saturdays, 1-2 p.m.  
Come with us on a guided walk along the Blackstone Canal. Find out about the canal's historical and cultural significance and its role in the farm to factory transformation of the Blackstone Valley. About two miles walk. Appropriate for ages 12 and up.

**SPARROW AND GROUSE LOOP**

Sunday, July 14, 2-4 p.m.  
Upton State Forest  
Meet at the CCC parking area, 205 Westboro Road, Upton  
About three miles over a graveled surface with moderate inclines.

**GRAND TRUNK TRAIL LOOP**

Sunday, July 21, 2-4 p.m.  
Douglas State Forest  
Meet at the Carter's Field parking area.  
About three miles over a compacted gravel surface with mile inclines.

**WEST HILL DAM HIKE**

Sunday, July 28, 2-4 p.m.  
Meet at the West Hill Dam parking area, 508 East Hartford Avenue, Uxbridge.  
About two miles over graveled and rugged forest surfaces with

**RIVERS AND WATERWAYS WALK**

Sundays, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Walk along the length of the Blackstone Canal and learn about the life that it supports. We'll be looking for signs of wildlife as we discuss the ways we keep our watershed clean. About two miles, and appropriate for ages six and older. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**TREK THE BLACKSTONE WALK**

Thursday, 1-2 p.m.  
Take a walk with us along the Blackstone Canal. We'll follow the tow path on this recreational walk and point out any items of interest along the way. Appropriate for ages and six and up. All children must be accompanied by an adult. The walk is about two miles.

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# Blackstone Heritage Corridor Launches 1.3-Million-Dollar Legacy Campaign

On May 30, 2024, a group of interested people gathered in Blackstone at the latest bikeway segment under construction. Dennis Rice, Volunteer-Chair, and the Board of Directors of the Blackstone Heritage Corridor announced the public launch of a 1.3-million-dollar "Legacy Campaign: Reimagining Our Future." The four-year campaign will support four key initiatives that will allow the Corridor to expand

its efforts to preserve, promote, and celebrate the Valley's historic, natural, and recreational resources. During the first year, private individuals, family foundations, and corporations contributed \$390,000, with an additional \$130,000 donated so far this year.

Key Initiatives include:

**Creating New Attractions** The Blackstone Heritage Corridor has kept the history of the Valley alive using wayside exhibits, interpretive

signs, and heritage center displays. Now, after nearly 40 years, they are starting to show their age. It is time to replace, update, and create new ones. Recently, new signage was placed at the trail heads along the Blackstone River Greenway in Blackstone, Millville, and Uxbridge. A project coordinator will be hired to oversee the 200 signage projects in the region.

**Recruit, Train, and Support Volunteers** The Blackstone

Heritage Corridor manages the Volunteers-In-Parks program, a highly respected program of the National Park Service. On any given day, you will find volunteers in a wide variety of places doing amazing presentations, activities, and programs from leading bike rides, historic tours, bird-watching hikes, and even cemetery conservation. According to Dennis Rice, "This new funding will allow us to increase training opportunities, improve programs, invest in uniforms, and increase recruiting materials. Today, we have 250 volunteers, and by the end of the Campaign, we'll have over 300."

Wm. Eric Breitreutz, Superintendent of Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, emphasized the importance of the Blackstone Heritage Corridor. "The tremendous impact of the Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) Program greatly benefits the Valley through its many activities. The Corridor's partnerships with tribes, municipalities, state agencies, and other nonprofits are game changers when it comes to leveraging scarce resources and maximizing outreach that celebrate and educate residents and visitors to this nationally and

internationally significant story of the Blackstone River Valley."

**Invest in the Partners** There are over 50, mostly small, non-profit organizations working separately to protect and appreciate the beautiful and historic Blackstone River Valley. "Just think of the positive impact for our 25 communities, if we unite our 50-plus partner organizations and coordinate our actions and resources with a common vision," said Dennis Rice. Through the expansion of our Partner Grant Program, we can improve our partner's amenities, storytelling, access, and enjoyment for our visitors and our communities.

Advocate for the Blackstone River Valley Bikeway/Greenway Championing for the completion of the 48-mile Bikeway/Greenway/Multiuse Trail from Worcester, to Providence, RI. Dennis Rice imagines, "taking a ride on a beautiful spring day from Worcester to Providence, with many stops to explore nature, discover history, and have ice cream. The Rhode Island portion is about 85 % complete; Massachusetts is unfortunately a bit

## CAMPAIGN

continued on page 19



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**CAMPAIGN**

*continued from page 18*

behind. But progress is happening right here in front of us, connecting Blackstone to Woonsocket. But miles to go before we're finished, it will take sustained advocacy by a passionate public, and we need the help from all of you!" This ambitious project will take sustained advocacy to see it completed. The Blackstone Heritage Corridor is creating a new position, Bikeway Advocate, to work with cities and towns, individuals, and state agencies to see this project done.

Michael F. Debroisse, Director of Planning and Development for the City of Woonsocket, RI, is an active user of the Blackstone River Bikeway/Greenway. "For many years, we've appreciated the help of the Blackstone Heritage Corridor and their continued advocacy for the completion of the Bikeway/Greenway. The Blackstone River Bikeway/Greenway has been an important driver of tourism, and its economic impact has benefited the residents of Woonsocket, RI," he said.

Long celebrated as the Birth-place of the Industrial Revolution, the Blackstone River continues to power economic, cultural, and environmental advances. Executive



Dennis Rice (L) and Devon Kurtz (R) enjoy a ride along the Blackstone Heritage Corridor

Director Devon Kurtz highlighted the three I's of the Valley: Invention, Innovation, and Industry. "These driving thoughts have long made the Blackstone River Valley a truly amazing place. Through preservation, promotion, and celebration, the Corridor champions the myriad stories that continue to build our understanding of the past, present, and future of the region," Kurtz said.

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LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

# Luke Visits Armsby Farm

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

Two things came to mind during my first visit to Armsby Farm, Sutton. First, I wanted to find a natural based body lotion for my skin. Second, I thought about my pup. Oh, how Luke would love it here! “BAA!” The goats welcomed me with blatant enthusiasm. Their calls echoed a time of innocence and childhood storybooks. Wide eyed and curious, a few stretched their necks from the edge of the pen. Others, unimpressed, chewed on hay.

“BAA!”  
Check out our lotions!  
“BAAAAA!”  
We have unscented!  
“BAA!”

We are milked two times per day by hand!

Twelve years ago, if you told Misha Brigham, a former banker from the Czech Republic, that she'd be milking, bottling and freezing the milk of seven healthy goats, she'd have told you, you're crazy. Yet here she is in the small town of Sutton living a dream built on devotion, hard work, and unconditional love for goats who, ahem, expect to be milked in the same order. Misha and her husband, Justin, brought home seven two-week old female goats during the spring of 2022 with a vision to, first, care for goats and, next, create something more. The goats were a birthday present to Misha. Little did she know that she was about to receive a gift even greater.

The couple bottle-fed the goats immediately so that they would easily transition from mother's teat to bottle nipple. Two years later (late January/early February 2024), Misha found herself camping out (for five days) in the barn to await the births of goats she had come to know and love. She facilitated the births of sixteen healthy goats. “I kept visiting the barn to see when

it was going to happen. I couldn't wait and it seemed as though they knew I was supposed to be there. One goat had a kid unexpectedly and it caused chaos. Goats like their routine to stay the same. Every single birth was a different experience. Each of the goats did it differently and had her own little things that worked to deliver healthy babies. The experience was stressful, joyful and overwhelming. I wouldn't have it any other way,” she shared. “To witness a living thing being born was indescribable.”

The day had come for Luke to visit the goats of Armsby Farm. He couldn't believe his nose.

“It smells like a goat was here!!” Nose planted to the ground, and with Misha's permission, he pranced into the barn on a mission to greet new friends. “BAA! BAA!” He sensed Misha's acceptance for him and nestled beside her. “Go ahead, Luke. Come on up.” She tapped on the counter of the kids' wooden pen. “I can watch them up close?” He rested his front paws on the wood and reveled in the sight

of so many goats. “You remind me of a dog with a long neck. Your eyes are so big!” He twitched his nose and smiled with the charm of an entitled pedigree golden retriever.

“BAA!” The goats responded with cautious approval. Misha went on to share a story that's become a folktale, told and retold to Armsby Farm clients who take home a piece of Misha's goat-love—sold in a two-ounce, four-ounce, or eight-ounce pump bottle.

“I've never done anything like this before,” Misha admitted. “It was something unbelievable. I had so many emotions and cried a bit. The goats and I take morning strolls through the meadow each morning before being milked. They are trained to stay together and stay by my side.”

Luke listened with a leonine grin and looked up at Mother Goat. “But how about play time? Do your kids like to play?” A natural animal-person; Misha scooped up a goat and set her down outside of the pen to greet a rambunctious Luke. “BAA!! Who let the dog out? I'm not comfortable! I'm not comfortable!”

The freed goat darted and hid between Misha's legs as though auditioning for a Scooby Doo episode. Luke respected the kid's wishes with a hyper air of charm. “Don't let my big head fool you. I'm afraid of my own shadow at times. See ya!” Then he galloped out of the barn and romped up the



Luke faces a goat

meadow hill, alongside the fence border.

“The girls are a handful, aren't they?” Malcolm, the bearded stud of Armsby Farm, stood tall and wise at the top of the hill where he eyed Luke. Despite some early “reluctance” to do his job, he became a proud father of sixteen goat kids (Misha ending up keeping four babies). Intoxicated by the farm; Luke lied on his back and rolled around foolishly, as though to brand the meadow with a lotion titled Luke's Scent.

“Luke, please!” I scolded my pup. Good behavior on the grounds of the Billy Goat of my childhood seemed reasonable. Luke snapped to a seated position. “Can I have a sleep-over?” A piece of straw hung like a pipe from the corner of his mouth.

We decided to lock Luke up in his own pen quarters while I took more notes about the lavish Armsby Farm. “Am I in a time-out? The hay in this prison cell smells soooo good!” He sniffed and smiled and sniffed some more. “Any chance I could get a glass of water?” Misha grabbed a bucket, filled it with water, and set it down. Luke's eyes bloomed. “That water bowl is so big!”

We chatted some more about Misha's lotions and soaps, and she shared with me her love for the creative process of concocting lotions that are as lustrous as they are varied. She sells lavender, pink mimosa, hickory and suede, coconut paradise, sage and lemongrass, and clover and aloe, among several others. Misha and Justin, additionally, plan on progressing to a small farm operation; growing vegetables, seasonal items, and eggs. “We hope to add to the already thriving farms

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LUKE

continued on page 21



REAL ESTATE

# How Long Will It Take To Sell My House?

**Y**ou want your house to sell fast. And you may be wondering how long the whole process is going to take. One way to get your answer, work with a REALTOR! They have the expertise to tell you how quickly homes are selling in your area and what's impacting timelines for other sellers. That way you have realistic expectations and can work together to come up with a plan that's based on today's market. One of the factors a great agent will walk you through is the supply of homes for sale and how that impacts your process.

Over the past few months, the number of homes for sale has increased. This is good news when you move because it means you'll have more options as you search for your next home. But it also means buyers have more

to choose from, so if your house doesn't stand out – it may take a bit longer to sell. Available inventory is made up of new listings (homes that were just put up for sale) and active listings (homes that were already on the market but haven't sold yet). And if you look at data from Realtor.com you would see a good portion of the recent growth is from active listings that are sticking around.

Think of the homes on the market like loaves of bread for sale in a bakery. When a fresh batch of bread is put out, everyone wants the newest and hottest one. But if a loaf sits there too long, it starts to get stale, and fewer people want to buy it. The same goes for homes. New listings are the freshest and most sought-after. But if a home isn't priced correctly, doesn't show well, or it doesn't have an effective sales or marketing strategy behind it, it can sit on the market and become less appealing to buyers over time.

A REALTOR will help your house stand out and sell quickly. Timing is important to you. You want to get this done, fast. By leaning on a pro, they'll make sure your listing is fresh and doesn't stick

around long enough to go stale. As the National Association of Realtors (NAR) explains: "Home sellers without an agent are nearly twice as likely to say they didn't accept an offer for at least three months; 53 percent of sellers who used an agent say they accepted an offer within a month of listing their home."

Your agent will factor the recent inventory growth into their plan and create a customized selling strategy for your house. The supply of homes for sale can vary a lot by area. So they'll do things like share their valuable insights into what's happening with supply in your market, help you price your home correctly, and create a marketing plan that gets your home noticed. Don't let your listing get stale, reach out to a REALTOR or real estate professional today to make sure your listing is fresh and appeals to buyers from the start. It makes a big difference. If you want your house to sell fast, you need to work with a REALTOR at The Marzeotti Group. Connect with a local agent, so you've got someone who understands the current market trends and how to build a strategy around those factors, so your house is set up to sell quickly.



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

**LUKE**  
*continued from page 20*

in the community.”  
A sense of gratitude for the circle of life came over me during the drive home from Armsby Farm. I thought about the goats, first being loved and bottle fed, then growing to become nurtured mothers who provide rich milk for the well-being of others. Where would we be without a Mother's Love? Meanwhile, Luke popped his head out of his travel crate, grinned, and watched the cars go by. I couldn't help but imagine the bumper sticker of Luke's car,

should he learn how to drive.  
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TALES FROM BEYOND

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# Abram's Rock

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

This story is from our upcoming book, *Ghosts of King Philip's War* due out on July 22, 2024. The book is filled with legends, ghosts stories, and haunted places from the war and subsequent skirmishes that took place years after the last treaty was signed. If you are looking for a nice small hike with a lot of history and perhaps a ghost, Abram's Rock is the perfect place to visit.

At the outset of King Philip's War, several tribes chose to remain neutral for various reasons. Most of the converted, or praying Indians sided with the English. Members of the warring tribes often dissented and pledged their allegiance to the colonies much like the Tories of the American Revolution pledged their allegiance to the throne instead of fighting for independence from the mother country. This is the legend of one of those dissenters during King Philip's War called Abram by the English.

Abram was a renegade Christian praying Indian who deserted the Wampanoags during the conflict in favor of siding with the English.

Abram became very close friends with the English, so much so, that there were rumors circulating among the Wampanoag that he even had an English girlfriend. This made Philip, whose real name was Metacom, very angry as Abram knew much of Philip's plans and strategies regarding the proposed annihilation of the enemy. Philip sought to take Abram back and sent a search party out to find him.

In the meantime, Abram had found a towering rock he used as a hiding place and lookout. The west side of the large boulder had a natural room formed by other large boulders. This was where he lived in seclusion for several months until he was found and captured. Philip, being merciful at the time, gave him a chance to live. Abram was given the choice of leaping from the massive formation three times or instant death. Abram chose to take a chance and leap from the rock. Some historians argue Abram voluntarily performed the act as a testament of his loyalty to Philip.

Tradition says he successfully completed the first and second

leaps unscathed, but the third one became his demise. Legend has it that his ghost can be seen leaping from the rock, then appearing again at the top for another leap. The third time the ghost attempts to leap, he vanishes. Perhaps he is still trying to complete the task he failed. Sometimes a dark silhouette, alleged to be the ghost of Abram, is seen at the top of the rock looking down as if contemplating whether to leap or not off the precipice. The shade then suddenly vanishes into thin air.

Whether a hike out to the rock reveals a ghost or not should not deter one from soaking up the history and atmosphere of the place.

Abram's Rock is in Village Park behind the Swansea, Massachusetts Town Hall and Library complex at 81 Main St. The trail leading to the rock is easy and there are signs to follow. One trail heads straight toward the site while another takes hikers past the cemetery in a more circular route that is both pleasant and scenic. The natural room formation is still there and is called "Abram's Bedroom" as that is where he allegedly lived during his months of hiding.

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SPORTS

# Pushed into Running, Now a State Champion

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Running never seemed to stimulate the interest of Douglas' Dominic Rossi. However, having an older brother who was a sprinter and doing well, his mother thought it would be a good idea to push her younger son into doing the same. At the time, the younger

winter season, he participated in a decathlon, for the fun of it or so he was told.

"Originally I think the coach brought it up as a joke; telling us it was the last thing that we could do after the season. He told us that it was a laid-back type of event," Rossi recalls. "I figured that my body could take the beating and gave it a try."



Being a very competitive person, Rossi put everything he had into the decathlon and despite cramping up in the 1500 was still able to finish sixth. The amazing feeling that he had after the competition was more than the exhilaration that Rossi was looking for more. During his senior indoor season, he decided to move to the pentathlon instead, where he figured there were more events that catered to his strengths. Once again, he felt things were moving along smoothly in the competition until he once again cramped up in the 1000 meters. Despite not finishing in the top echelon

Rossi was more focused on playing soccer and basketball and taking part in a running event wasn't what he was looking for.

Eventually, Rossi found himself bored in the spring and looking for something to do, gave in to his mother's request and decided to try out for the track and field team during his sophomore year. That season he took to throwing the shot put and discus.

"Things took a bit to get used to," he said. "But eventually things started to fall into place and I was getting the hang of it and began to love what I was doing. My hard work was starting to show up in the results and I wanted to improve as the season went on."

During that inaugural season Rossi throw the shot put 30 plus feet and the discus 80-90 feet; distances that were not too bad for a first-time thrower. It wasn't long after that when the fire sparked and he was passionate about the sports and the results he could achieve.

Following his sophomore

times, I was more focused this time and carried around a gallon of water with electrolytes in it to stay hydrated," he said. "I believe it helped to keep my body fit and ready to take on all five events."

Staying hydrated was probably a big factor in his performance that day as the Douglas athlete won the Division 6 Pentathlon Championship. Taking part in the five events all in one day Rossi was able to high jump 5' 8.9", run the 100 m hurdles at 16.68 seconds, post a jump of 18' 9 1/4" in the long jump, throw the shot put 39' 6.4 "and close out with running the 1500 with a time of 5:04.44. All accumulated Rossi would score 2913 points in the five events, 167 points more than his closest competitor. The 2913 points set a new Douglas school record.

"I was a bit nervous going into the last event - the 1500," Douglas Coach Jeff Thayer said. "He had to work really hard to hold onto his lead."

Prior to beginning the day Rossi believed that it was always a possibility swirling around in his head that he could win the 5-event competition.

"I do believe in faith and this was the path that was set out for me," he said. "I needed to go this way (cramping up the previous two times) to be successful. It was a lesson, one that whooped me twice before I figured it out."

Rossi went onto say that he is unsure of what the path in front of him is or what it holds, but he is not worried about it. He does know that up next in college, where he will be taking part in both indoor and outdoor track for Assumption University in Worcester.

The Assumption coach took notice of Rossi at a camp that he was attending and struck up a conversation with the athlete after watch-

ing him run. Rossi was invited to the school for an overnight visit and that was it, he was hooked.

"During the visit in the fall it seemed as though everyone was together and they all cared about

one another," he said. "I wanted to be part of that atmosphere. I'm looking to keep working hard and represent the school, while hoping to get onto the podium as much as I can."

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he was able to set personal bests in both the shot put and hurdles.

When his senior outdoor season came to an end this year, Rossi once again took to talking on the pentathlon challenge; this time he was going to be prepared.

"After cramping up the last two

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# Phone problem with Lexus - a Bluetooth issue?

**Q.** I have a 2019 Lexus 350 with less than 20,000 miles. When I try to make a call, I get a voice message saying “the phone book is being loaded, please try again later”. I unpaired my phone and re-paired it and it did not fix the issue. I went to my dealer and paid for analysis, and they could not find anything wrong. They are saying something is wrong with my phone (iPhone 13). I contacted Apple and they checked all my settings, and they are fine. The car’s phone app shows all my contacts are loaded. My dealer had no idea what the issue was. They said it may be an Apple update that caused it. This issue did not happen after any updates. John, do you have any ideas/suggestions?

**A.** Seems as if the dealer should know more than me, but I would try the simplest fix first. I would remove the car from the phone and the phone from the car. Not just unpair them but delete the settings entirely. Now start fresh and see what happens. I agree with the dealer, and I have seen some Bluetooth compatibility issues as the software is updated. As of the date of this column the latest IOS software version is 17.5.1. perform the update and then start the pairing process from scratch. The other possibility is when you load multiple contacts, it doesn’t overwrite the contacts but just duplicates them which maxes out the memory of the car.

**Q.** So, the other day that I spotted one of those Tesla Supertrucks, it was coming out of the parking lot of

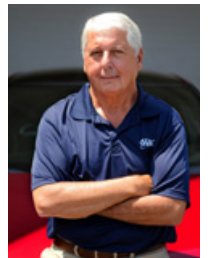
a local restaurant. It is certainly a strange looking thing, what are your thoughts on this, and have you driven one?

**A.** The Tesla Cybertruck when first teased was to cost, less than \$40,000, have 400-500 mile range, phenomenal acceleration and off road capability. According to Tesla’s website the starting price for the rear-wheel-drive model is \$60,000 and the advertised range is 250 miles. The Cyberbeast, the most expensive and powerful model with all wheel drive is about \$100,000 and has 320 miles of range and can accelerate to 60 miles per hour in 2.6 seconds. To date I have not driven one, but on paper it looks like a pretty competent truck, decent cargo space, secure storage (front and rear) and great towing ability. Right now, the design seems a bit more novelty than work/play/commuter truck and I also wonder if people spending upwards of \$100,000 for a vehicle are happy with no factory color choices.

**Q.** I am looking for at least five-person (although three row would be preferred) luxury SUV. I looked at the Acura MDX, Lincoln Aviator and Infiniti QX60. Which would you choose and why?

**A.** I recently evaluated the Infiniti QX60 and was quite pleased with the ride, handling and comfort. The Acura MDX is always a solid and reliable choice. The Lincoln Aviator has more horsepower and a bit more room. The three vehicles are pretty closely matched and really come down to personal preference. Historically the Acura holds its value better and typically a bit more reliable, but all are good choices.

**Q.** I have a 2012 Mercedes GLK350 with 140,000 miles, which I bought new (picked it up in Germany). The check-engine light came on



BY JOHN PAUL

about a month ago, which showed faults in two systems; Intake Manifold Tumble Flap is binding and needs replacing. Also, Air Injection System Diverter Valves needs replacing. I had a diagnostic done at local shop. I also got a second opinion from a shop specializing in German cars. Same diagnostic results. Repair costs are \$3,000 - \$4,500. I like the GLK very much and usually keep my cars to the end. But do I want to put this kind of money into an almost 13-year-old car, when the chances of something big breaking down with the usual high cost of repairing a Mercedes. The check-engine light remains on, which doesn’t bother me, knowing what the problem is. What are the risks of continuing to drive it in its current condition? The car continues to drive great.

**A.** Putting \$4000 or so into this car is a bit of a gamble since the transmission and all-wheel drive systems seem to be a weak spot as these vehicles age. Also, at 12 years old, electronics can start to get a bit finicky. The intake system is designed that the air tumble flap defaults to open, this will have an effect on vehicle emissions but little else. Readers with Audi’s and Volkswagens with similar

CAR DOCTOR  
continued on page 25

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# On the Move for Open Sky Community Services

**W**orcester-based nonprofit human services agency Open Sky Community

ship Tour saw more than 300 participants walking, running, and rolling through the Blackstone Val-



Services raised more than \$115,000 during its 39th Annual Valley Friendship Tour on June 1 to support its programs for children, adults and families throughout Central Massachusetts.

ley on June 1, benefiting Open Sky Community Services, a nonprofit dedicated to behavioral health and human services.

The fundraising event starts and ends at Alternatives' Whitin Mill and is a highlight of the year. Open

## CAR DOCTOR

*continued from page 24*

systems have told me they have gone years without any real problems. Still the check engine light is on for a reason and should be repaired.

**Q.** My car, a great running Toyota, has a recommended oil change interval or 10,000 miles or once per year. What are your thoughts on this long oil change interval?


**A.** Long oil change intervals are fine as long as you are vigilant about checking fluid levels. All cars will burn oil and over 10,000 miles even

a great engine can use several quarts of oil. Running an engine with low oil can certainly accelerate wear. If you don't regularly look under the hood, changing the oil every six months or 5000 miles might make the most sense.

*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@aaanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on Facebook at mrjohnfpaul.*

Sky Community Services supports nearly 150 programs that offer assistance to children, adults, and families dealing with mental health issues, developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injuries, homelessness, and other challenges. This year's event raised more than \$115,000, contributing to the millions of dollars the tour has garnered over nearly four decades for Central Massachusetts individuals and families.

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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

**SATURDAY, JULY 13**

• Santana's musical wizardry coming to the Grange! Love salsa-tinged rock & roll? Then pack your lawn chair and come on down to Dudley Grange Saturday, July 13 from 5-8 PM to groove the evening away with Supernatural. Formerly known as Abraxas, they're a tribute to one of the guitar wizards – Carlos Santana and his famous melding of rock, jazz and Latin rhythms. In case of rain, Supernatural will perform July 20. Dudley Grange is next to Nichols College, 139 Center Road, Dudley. Shows are free and sponsored by the Dudley and Massachusetts Cultural Councils. Bring a picnic (no alcohol) or get some snacks from the bake table and enjoy!

**MONDAY, JULY 15**

• Join Taft (Mendon) Librarian Tara and

Ranger Viola on Monday day July 15th for Bird Watching in the Woods, Wetlands and Grasslands! Meet us at the West Hill Dam office, near the main parking lot, 518 East Hartford Avenue, Uxbridge at 10:00am. Bring binoculars, water bottle, wear sturdy shoes and come play along the river banks, wetlands and in the forest and grasslands . . . . as birds will unfold around us while going about daily survival and foraging for food. For more information we post updates on Facebook and Ranger Viola is happy to take your calls at (978)318-8417. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a water bottle, dress for the weather, be prepared to walk about a mile, round trip. Recommended ages 5 and up, registration is required, some trails do not work for strollers or wagons, and expect downed trees and logs etc. (walking or hiking stick will be helpful). Expecting a range of ages, so under the age of 5 this is highly not recommended. Binoculars, field guides and restrooms will be available. Eagles have been sighted passing through to nearby avian zones along the Blackstone River. Registration required at www.taftlibrary.org for options how to register. Cancelled for heavy rain.

**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 Beer and Dynamite Blast Come celebrate America with St. Patrick's Parish, 7 East Street, Whitinsville from 5-9 p.m. on Saturday, July 20. They will be serving dynamite sandwiches and cold beer prior to the Northbridge fireworks. The menu will also include hot dogs, chips, soft drinks and frozen treats. Take-out options will also be available. The rain sate for this event is July 21. For more information, call 508-234-5656. Payment by Venmo or cash. • Join Upton Library, Ranger Viola and Upton State Forest partners on Saturday July 20th for Treking in the Woods! Salamanders, toads, frogs, black raspberries, wild grapes, snakes, beavers, woodpeckers and whatever joins us on this trek . . . Meet us at the Civilian Conservation Camp Museum, at the main parking lot, Upton State Forest at 10:00am. You might even hold snakeskin or a toad or nibble a few black raspberries, but the wild grapes won't be ripe yet. For more information we post updates on Facebook and Ranger Viola is happy to take your calls at (978)318-8417. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a water bottle, dress for the weather, be prepared to walk about a mile, round trip. Recommended ages 5 and up, registration is required, trails do not work for strollers or wagons, and expect downed trees and logs etc. (walking or hiking stick will be helpful). Expecting a range of ages, so under the age of 5 this is highly not recommended. Binoculars, critter viewing jars (with lids) and magnifying

glasses for all to share! So many national parks and our state and federal forests were built by these great family men from the Civilian Conservation Corps, come explore this incredible resource here in your Big Back Yard! Cancelled for heavy rain.

**SUNDAY, JULY 21**

• The New England Country Music Club Dances with live classic country bands - Progressive Club, 18 Whittin St., Uxbridge Sunday July 21, Oldies dance with DJ Paul Doors open at 12:15, live music 1-5pm Snacks may be brought in, cash bar for beverages. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub

**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@charter.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.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 24**

• Ed the Wizard's "Reading is Magic" perfor-

**HAPPENINGS!**  
continued on page 27

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 AUGUST 10 • 12:15PM	 AUGUST 11 • 1PM	 AUGUST 18 • 1PM	 AUGUST 23 • 7PM	 AUGUST 24 • 1PM	 AUGUST 31 • 12PM	 SEPTEMBER 7 • 1PM	 SEPTEMBER 22 • 12PM	 SEPTEMBER 29 • 1PM

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LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUL 13 • 10AM	SUNSET CRUISE	AUG 10 • 7:15PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUL 14 • 10AM	CHILLIN IN THE 90'S CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS	AUG 17 • 6:30PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUL 20 • 9:30AM	MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE	AUG 29 • 6:30PM
SUNSET CRUISE	JUL 20 • 7:30PM	SUNSET CRUISE	AUG 30 • 6:45PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUL 21 • 10AM	SUNSET CRUISE	AUG 31 • 6:45PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUL 25 • 4PM	SUNSET CRUISE	SEP 6 • 6:45PM
MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE	JUL 26 • 6:30PM	BOOGIE NIGHTS/DISCO DANCE PARTY CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS	SEP 18 • 6:30PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	JUL 27 • 10AM	MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE	SEP 26 • 6:30PM
YACHT ROCK DANCE PARTY CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS	JUL 27 • 6:30PM	HALLOWEEN BOOS CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS	OCT 18 • 6:30PM
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	AUG 2 • 4PM		
LAKE TOUR CRUISE	AUG 3 • 10AM		

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**HAPPENINGS!**

*continued from page 26*

mance will appear at the Simon Fairfield Public Library on Wednesday, 24 July, starting at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy this family friendly interactive magic performance full of comedy and suspense as Ed the Wizard weaves together the importance of building and maintaining one's reading skills. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Douglas Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

**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. Dona-

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

• Get a dose of a wider range of classic rock from the Great Garage Band Reunion from 5-8 p.m. (Rain date: Aug 17.) Dudley Grange is next to Nichols College, 139 Center Road, Dudley. Shows are free and sponsored by the Dudley and Massachusetts Cultural Councils. Bring a picnic (no alcohol) or get some snacks from the bake table and enjoy!

**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.

**THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH**

• Coin Show at the VFW Post 1385. 13 Cross Road, Uxbridge. 3-7 p.m. Free Admission, Free Appraisals

**Attention Friends**

The Douglas Historical Society, Inc. is seeking volunteers to help with events from now to the end of December 2024. If you are able and willing to lend your time and skills, please get in touch with: Ursula Levi, Secretary to the Board of Directors, Douglas Historical Society, Inc.

Contact: cell 508-723-3484 or enjenckes1833@gmail.com



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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*

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