



## It's Time for Old Home Day

Old Home Day is an annual day of celebration held in Charlton on Labor Day weekend at the end of each summer. This year, it will be celebrated on September 1, 2024.

It's a tradition more than 120 years old, established in 1897. The event is a gathering time that brings friends, neighbors, family, and visitors together in a true community spirit, reminiscent of the get-togethers held by Charlton residents before the beginning of the fall harvest and the onset of winter. It offers a chance for folks to join and reflect on the important things required to be a citizen here in a small town in Massachusetts. This day honors the town, the people and the past, with fun for all.

The entertainment and many of the activities vary from year to year, but are free of charge. It is a

day filled with exciting entertainment, traditional events, friendship and fun for the residents of Charlton, neighboring towns, extended families, acquaintances and anyone who wants to know what Charlton is really all about!

All are welcome to enjoy the free entertainment and take part in the spirit of the community!

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 31 AT 6:30 P.M.

Concert by Dock 10 at 6:30 p.m. Fireworks to follow at 9 p.m. at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, 57 Old Muggett Hill Road, Charlton.

For a family night out, come and join in the celebration. Spread a blanket to sit on the grassy fields of Bay Path, chow down on hot dogs, hamburgers and popcorn, and do some street dancing while listening to the free entertainment.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Information - Gazebo on Common

### SOAP BOX DERBY

On Muggett Hill Road at 8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Mandatory car inspections and weigh-ins onsite at 7 a.m. on the morning of the race.

Two classes from ages 7 - 10 years and 11-14 years. New this year is an Adult class - for ages over and under 21 years. The first race cars were made out of wooden crates, sheet metal, wheels off a baby stroller and even real soap boxes. This event has been part of Old Home Day in Charlton for over 30 years.

The good thing about soap box

### OLD HOME DAY

*continued on page 2*

## Clap Your Hands for a Faeries Book Event

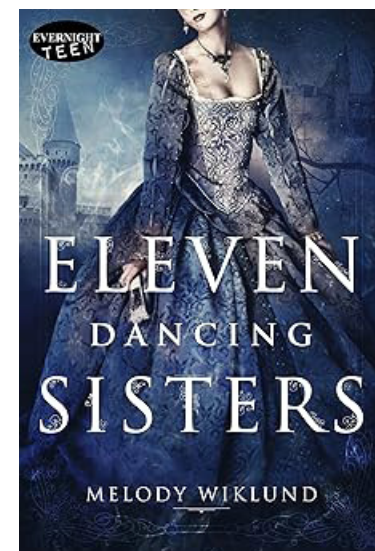
Booklovers' Gourmet in Webster is hosting a Faeries Book Event on Saturday, August 24, 3-5 p.m. Enter the ethereal realm of faeries as we welcome three local authors. Come chat about writing, publishing, and the world of magic! The event is free and open to the public. All books will be available for signing & purchase. Booklovers' Gourmet is located at 72 East Main Street, Webster. Call 508-949-6232 or visit [bookloversgourmet.com/](http://bookloversgourmet.com/)

- they defend the heroine against all odds. The heroines are capable, intelligent, and compassionate. She has a wealth of experience publishing books, having published books through a traditional publisher, a self publisher in print, and via ebooks in all shapes and styles. Lisa is also an artist and photographer and active member



events/ for more information.

Lisa Shea is a prolific, award-winning author of over 500 books. She writes medieval romance and modern murder mystery novels with heart. Her heroes are loyal



of The Blackstone Valley Art Association.

Cornish Pixie in Whitinsville Short Stories: It's hard enough being thirteen without dealing with stepfathers and too-busy mothers. Emily loses herself in the local library's books on magic and

### FARIES

*continued on page 3*

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## OLD HOME DAY

*continued from page 1*

acing is that you need to be both a good racer and a good builder. Kids should build their own cars. This means they can't just sit inside and watch while Dad does the work in the garage - but Dad or Mom can help! Soap Box Pre-Race Activity; there will be a mandatory derby car inspection.

Download the Soap Box Derby Application/Regulations Form (PDF) . Please contact Larry Pierce (978) 320-7958, Jerry Doble (508) 434-0297, Steve Koronis at 774-230-6647 with any questions.

The Road Race starts at 9 a.m. on the Common. Come run the 57th Charlton Old Home Day Road Race. It's a fun, yet challenging 5 mile, figure-8 race course that brings the runners back through the Common area and past the



spectators halfway through the course. Most participants consider it a challenging race due to the hilly nature of the course. Walkers are welcome! Bib pick up and same day registration, 7:30 - 8:50 a.m. in front of Town Hall or register

online at <https://charltonoldhomedayroadrace.com/>

This race is USATF sanctioned. Trophies will be distributed after the race.



## PARADE

Steps off from the Overlook Senior Living, 88 Masonic Home Road at 3:30 p.m.

**Decorated Power Wheels / Doll Carriages / Bikes / Wagons:** This is especially fun for younger children! Encourage your child to decorate their doll carriage, bike, wagon (or other vehicle) and join the parade.

**Floats:** Organizations (including churches) will enter floats - floats may be as elaborate as a decorated flat-bed or as simple as any interesting, decorated vehicle. The more colorful, the better. A little music is always nice.

**Marching units:** Perhaps your organizations could form a special drill team for the occasion.

**Equestrian units:** Horses help to make a parade. Lets see more of Charlton's finest!

**Automobiles:** If you have an interesting older or classic car, show us! Perhaps you would like

to provide transportation for a dignitary.

**Costumed characters:** If you are not afraid to entertain the citizens of Charlton by appearing in a special costume, come and walk the parade!

Patsy Rydlak, Parade Organizer, 774-922-7022

## ALL DAY

Keep an eye out for booths and games set up on the Common by Charlton non-profit organizations.

Grizzly Adams Photos on the Common near the Gazebo

Scottish Highland Games include heavy events like stone puts, weight throws and hammer throws and tossing the caber and the sheaf on the Field behind Library. Visit [www.townofcharlton.net/DocumentCenter/View/1284/Highland](http://www.townofcharlton.net/DocumentCenter/View/1284/Highland)

## OLD HOME DAY

*continued on page 3*

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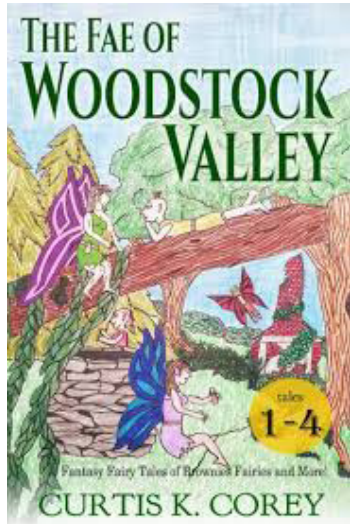
**FAIRIES**

*continued from page 1*

fantasy. Then she comes across a book of Cornish poetry which changes her life forever.

Melody Wiklund is an author of fantasy and occasionally romance. In her free time she enjoys reading, knitting, watching Chinese and Korean dramas, and sometimes drawing.

Eleven Dancing Sisters: Erin has a good reason for sneaking into a fae castle: her sisters—princesses of Erdhea—have been



secretly visiting it for months, and she just knows they're in trouble. Unfortunately that's not an excuse she can give fae lord Desmond when she gets caught. Because Erin is a princess too, and whatever schemes Desmond has, Erin wants no part of them. Instead, she tells him she's a simple war nurse, and offers no excuse at all.

Desmond can't have humans wandering in and out of his castle, not when the Fae's presence in Erdhea must remain hidden. He needs to know how and why Erin

sneaked in. But before long, his concerns about Erin are blooming into interest, then fascination, then something else altogether. Under the eye of a lovelorn fae lord, can Erin keep her secrets? Will she even want to?

Curtis K. Corey has always had an active imagination. It was not until later in life that he found an outlet for his imagination. He loves bringing his characters to life through his writing and illustrations. Sharing them with children of all ages has become one of his greatest joys.

Currently Curtis has three children's chapter books and six illustrated children's books published with many more in the works.

The Fae of Woodstock Valley The Fae of Asteria lived a peaceful life in tune with nature. When human development devastates the village, forcing the Fae from their homes, they split up in search of a new home. Follow a small group of young Fae as they band together heading into the unknown.

**OLD HOME DAY**

*continued from page 2*

Game-Rules-PDF

**OLD HOME DAY AWARD CEREMONY TO TAKE PLACE AT 1 P.M. ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024, IN FRONT OF THE LIBRARY**

Each year the Charlton Old Home Day Committee seeks nominations for Community Service Awards for Charlton businesses or residents. The awards are intended to recognize the volunteer work in the community, schools and service to fellow citizens. The awards are not intended for those, who during their traditional occupation complete their tasks, but for those who perform the good deeds purely out of volunteerism and civic duty.

Whatever the endeavor, these people deserve to be recognized and applauded for their efforts. Nominations were due by July 31.

**Youth Community Service Award** – Established in 2011, this

award is intended to recognize the positive contributions of a young member of the community who has altruistically pursued humane efforts in improving the world in which we live. Such an award is to establish an example for others of a young age to follow.

**Individual Community Service Award** – This award is given to those who have made contributions which have brightened our little corner of the world.

**Business Award** – This award is intended to recognize local businesses, who on a regular basis, support community events, groups or activities.

**Honorary Parade Marshal** – This award goes to longtime residents who, during their lifetime here in Charlton, have consistently improved our quality of life.

**Citizen of the Year** – This award would be of the highest honor with consistent presence and repeated acts of major impact.

**Posthumous Award** – given to a departed citizen who gave much to the community.

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# Small Stones Festival of the Arts call for submissions

The 2025 Small Stones Festival of the Arts is scheduled for January 25, 2025 through February 2, 2025, when it will return to its wonderful new location, the Brigham Hill Community Barn, 37 Wheeler Road, North Grafton, thanks to the courtesy of Community Harvest Project. This year's Art Call for the Festival will open from September 15 through October 15, 2024.

The Festival is a collaboration of the Worcester County Camera Club and the Blackstone Valley Art Association, now in its seventh year. It exhibits fine art painting and fine art photography.

Work chosen for the juried in-person exhibition as well as prize winning entries will be selected by

an independent panel of distinguished jurors. Once they are announced, the selections can be read about on the Festival's website, [www. smallstonesfestival.org](http://www.smallstonesfestival.org).

Art work exhibited at the Festival will be selected from approximately 500 submissions and will include 144 fine art paintings (including drawing, sketches, ink and other 2D productions) and fine art photographs (including film based, digital, infrared and alternative processes). There are strict restrictions on the size of work that can be exhibited. Works chosen for the exhibition will be published in the annual hard-bound catalog. All submissions will appear in the Web Gallery.

The prizes for both photography and paintings are as follows: First



Place - \$500; Second Place - \$250; Third Place - \$100; Juror's Choice - 3 Ribbon Awards; Popular Choice - Ribbon Award.

There is a nonrefundable submission fee of \$10 per entry. A

maximum of five entries per artist. Up to two may be selected for in-person exhibition by our jurors. You must submit a high-quality photo of your work, suitable for inclusion in the catalog.

For more information on registering and submitting your work, visit [smallstones2025.artcall.org](http://smallstones2025.artcall.org)

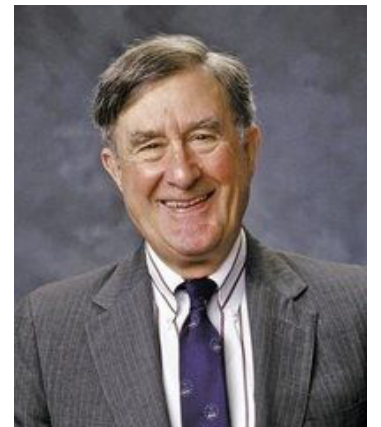


On Saturday, July 27, Dudley Police and AAA joined up for a food drive at Park n Shop in Dudley from 10 a.m. - noon. The goal was to stuff cruiser # 206 with supplies to support our local Webster/Dudley Food Share, located at 4 Church Street, Webster. Here, Officer Byron Lara and Maggie McMenemy were on hand to help out. Thanks to all who supported this successful effort. From Dudley Police Facebook

## Blackstone Heritage Corridor Seeks Nominations for John H. Chafee Heritage Awards

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (BHC) is seeking nominations for the John H. Chafee Heritage Awards, which honor individuals or groups that have worked on projects, programs, and institutions that promote cultural heritage, the preservation of natural areas, and/or those who strive to enrich the quality of life in the Blackstone River Valley.

BHC established the award to honor the late Senator John H. Chafee and recognize citizens and organizations whose work in



the Blackstone Valley embodies Chafee's vision and ideas. Recipients include community leaders, preservation heroes, business partners, environmental advocates, and students whose achievements resulted in public benefit.

To nominate someone for the award, submit a nomination form citing their accomplishments. There is a separate category for students. Find the form at [BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org/john-h-chafee-heritage-awards](http://BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org/john-h-chafee-heritage-awards). Nominations must be received by September 15, 2024, and can be mailed to the BHC office at 670 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, MA, 01588, or emailed to Devon Kurtz at [dkurtz@blackstone-heritagecorridor.org](mailto:dkurtz@blackstone-heritagecorridor.org).

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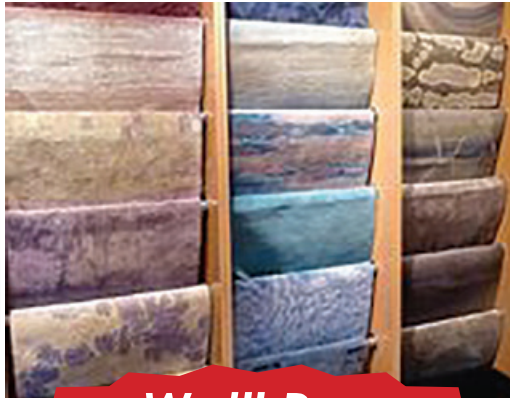
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# Shiver Me Timbers.....Bats in my Belfry

BY JANET STOICA  
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

It was a beautiful morning in July as I sat reading peacefully in my living room. Suddenly my two tuxedo cats were racing back and forth from corner to corner in my kitchen with their eyes focused on the ceiling area. I briefly saw a black fluttering bird hovering near the ceiling. It flew quickly around the room. I thought Oh, the poor bird! How did it get into my house? I'll have to hurry and open a window for it to fly out. As I ran to the kitchen to see how to rescue the innocent creature, I suddenly saw that it was definitely not a bird and besides it wasn't making any bird noises. I was now dealing with a bat. My 3-three-day nightmare

had just begun.

I did not scream out, I did not think to get a broom or other long-handled device to swat it down, and I certainly did not call for help.....yet. I did, however, cover my head so the black & sinister thing wouldn't land on my head and tangle up into my hair (a common fallacy that is not true but I guess I was having one of those duck & cover reactions). It was every woman and cat for itself! It flew everywhere and finally into my bathroom where I saw it land on my freshly-washed window curtains. Quickly, I slammed the door and then started hyper-ventilating.

What should I do? Who should I call? Where did it come from? What the.....

I called the local police station, where the animal control officer is based, and learned that she was unavailable at the time. She would be notified of my dilemma and, hopefully, would contact me as quickly as possible. She phoned soon after and stated that she would arrive within the hour. After her entry into my bathroom closing the door behind her to search for the creature as it was nowhere to be seen, she exited and advised me that she could not find the vermin and left. I was advised to have my cats vaccinated for potential rabies. It was then that I phoned my former handyman, Danny, who visited with a high-powered flashlight, towels (for capturing the animal), and sturdy gloves. He went into the forbidden zone and, of course,

clicked the door shut behind him. I sat in the kitchen and prayed for his hunting success. I could hear the toilet tank cover being clunked down, my linen cabinet door shutting closed, and my shower doors bumping shut. I mean, let's face it, all I needed was some deep sinister organ music like Bach's Toccata & Fugue in D minor (think Dracula movies of old) to add to the drama. My heart raced and terror filled my brain. Surely, Danny would find the crazy little creature. Danny soon opened the bathroom door and pronounced that he had looked everywhere possible and found absolutely nothing. He thought that maybe the pointy flying object had squeezed itself under the baseboard heating pipes and was now resting comfortably under the bathroom floor. I was devastated that he hadn't found the creature.

About 6:00 p.m., a pest-control friend arrived after his workday was over. If anyone could locate this terrifying creature, it most definitely would be him. He entered the room and also exited after 10 minutes of futile searching. Zip, nada, nope, negatori, zilch. He thought batman had gone between the walls where there was a small opening. He advised me to continue to keep the door closed and to look for bat droppings on the floor the next morning. Oh great, just what I needed. Cleaning up Mr. Bat's poop sounded disgusting. I stuffed a towel under the door, fed my two kit-cats, and then proceeded to look up bat information on the internet. I learned that bats don't aim for your head, that it was probably more scared of me than I was of it, and that I should pray that it doesn't have rabies.

Also, since the animal control lady advised me that my two felines needed rabies shots, I knew I had to call the local vet. After phoning three area veterinarians who had no appointments available, I was off to Shrewsbury to the 24/7 vet emergency group on Route 9. An excellent facility with excellent staff that accommodated me quickly where I was in and out in one hour after spending \$500. My brother and sister duo, Mikey and Maria,

were very quiet in their crates as I drove home. Maria had serenaded me the entire trip to Shrewsbury but now she was eerily quiet adding to my worries. (Today, both felines are in their usual great states.)

That night, about 8 p.m., Mr. Bat decided to cause another ruckus. I was watching TV and out of the corner of my eye I saw him fly. This time he used his flying prowess and sonar to navigate the living room. I jumped out of my chair and opened the door to the front hall and then the door to the outside. I hoped with every fiber of my being that he would find his way out the front door. After 15 minutes of holding the outside door wide, I decided that my visitor must've flown the, er, coop. I closed and locked the doors and wished that he was gonzo forever. After much memory-jogging, I finally determined that the bat had gotten in when a window screen had tilted open on my sun porch and had been wide open all night. Then, when I opened my back door to go out, it must've flown into my home.

The next day I avoided the hallway like the plague. Never went near the doors. The next morning, however, as I grew braver, I opened the hall door and walked slowly into the hall. What was that?!? A little black lump on the rug. Was that the scary creature who had brought me so much grief? Well, yes it was. It was belly up. I slammed the door and quickly ran for my Tupperware and placed it over the poor thing. Of course, because I was still creeped out, I also placed a gallon paint can over the Tupperware just to be safe. Then I made a quick phone call to the animal control officer. The bat was picked up and was to be sent to the State lab for rabies testing. Four days later, the animal control officer phoned me to advise that the bat tested negative for rabies. What a great relief as I had prayed that it would be a negative result so I would not have to suffer the consequences of getting my own rabies shot. Shiver me timbers! What a horrifying experience!

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# Charlton Welcomes New Senior Center Director, Michelle Drumm

BY JANET STOICA  
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

The town hall space devoted to Charlton's distinguished senior population has a vibrant and new Senior Center Director, Michelle Drumm, who has introduced herself with a flourish.

"It's a beautiful country ride through the hills and dales of surrounding towns to reach my Charlton destination," said Drumm, "and it was time for me to return to municipal government. My ride to Charlton from my home in northeastern Worcester County is half-way to my family located in western Massachusetts. It's a calming and great environment. Charlton is a beautiful community in a rural area and I'm in my element."

Ms. Drumm's credentials include a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psy-



chology with a minor in Sociology. She is also a Certified Dementia Practitioner, a title she has held for the past four years. Before arriving in Charlton, Drumm held positions in assisted living centers located in Westboro, Ashland, and Grafton.

"My dear grandmother played a strong role in my upbringing," she said, "and close to the end of her life she suffered from Alzheimer's and in my taking care of her I learned that my time spent with her made me a better professional. She was such a great lady and shared so much with me. I've also come to see that right here there is a wonderful community of kindness and support for each other. There is laughter, love, music, camaraderie, silliness, and good educational features. Right now, we are working on getting in some great speakers and entertainment. We have classes in exercise, line dancing, Tai Chi, and crafting. Trying to keep events educational and inspirational is the key. Even having speakers come in like a death doula who talks about end-of-life preparations while providing emotional, physical, and spiritual

support to people who are dying or to their loved ones will be part of our upcoming programs. On Thursday, August 29, we will have an elder law attorney here to speak about advanced directives.

Director Drumm has indicated that they are working on getting grants for their supply needs and always welcome donations for supplies, craft, and exercise activities. Suggested donations would include Amazon gift cards, Michael's gift cards, and similar cards. Hot meals are served Monday and Wednesday through Tri-Valley with a suggested donation. This writer has personally experienced the excellent meals that Tri-Valley's caterer has provided and can attest to their nutritional quality as well as their adherence to state and Federal guidelines. The meals are delicious. The local kitchen also plays a role in providing hot meals to the

town's seniors.

The center really hops with many activities such as the Silver Moon Gypsies on August 12, Senior Citizen Day with a history presenter on August 21 along with tenor Michael Goodwin singing Broadway tunes later that same day, a Fit Minds class on August 26. The place is bursting with great activities and events.

As with most active community sites, the Charlton Senior Center appears to be growing rapidly and perhaps soon will require more space. Best wishes to all who gather there to enjoy each other's company! The center's entrance is at the rear of the town hall located at 37 Main Street, Charlton MA 01537. Hours are 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Thursday. Phone: (508) 248-2231. Find them on Facebook or check out their newsletter and activities on the town's website.

## August sizzles with events at the Dudley Senior Center

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

Brown Bag Lunch – choices will soon be announced. Please RSVP by calling 508-949-8015 and leave your phone number for us to call and let you know your choices. Cost is \$3 per person.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

Memory Café from noon – 2 p.m. Live entertainment by Sandy Allen. We will have a Luau with an assortment of Hawaiian foods,

sweet and sour kielbasa, Hawaiian Ham sliders with assorted salads and dessert. The cost for this event is \$5. Come celebrate with us in Dudley. RSVP by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center.

### INDIAN PRINCESS CRUISE ON WEBSTER LAKE

We are taking reservations for an Indian Princess cruise on Webster Lake. The cost of the cruise is \$25.

We are also signing up for lunch after the cruise in Samuel's Waterfront Room. The cost for the cruise and lunch is \$50. We are planning this for a Wednesday or a Thursday in September. Please stop by or call 508-949-8015 to let us know if you are interested.

### THE DUDLEY SENIOR CENTER IS STARTING A BOOK CLUB!

Our first book is *The Paris Wife*, by Paula McLain. Sign-up sheet in

the Senior Center or call 508-949-8015. The library needs to know how many books and whether you want regular print, large print or audio. We will be starting this as soon as the books arrive.

### ACTIVITIES AT DUDLEY SENIOR CENTER:

Tuesdays 1 p.m. Pitch League,

Wednesdays 1 p.m. The Dudley Senior Center Knitting group, Tri-Valley lunches served Monday and Thursday.

### NOTE

The Dudley Senior Center is closed August 29 through September 3 for State Primary early voting.

## 1000 Books Before Kindergarten



Summer reading has been a real page-turner for some of the youngest readers at the Pearle L. Crawford Library in Dudley. From left to right: Avery May, and Reese have completed the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge. Congratulations!

The 1000 Books Foundation's mission is to promote reading to newborns, infants, and toddlers and to encourage parent and child bonding through reading. The 1000 BBK challenge at the Crawford Library is funded by the Friends of the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library.

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SPORTS

# Friends on the Softball Field

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Growing up, Taryn Gerber and Dakota Vaudreuil both got involved in the Webster town softball program at a young age and it was here that the two girls became friends on and off the field. Now over a decade later, the two will be entering their senior year at Bartlett High School where they will also be participating on the Indians softball team for their fourth and final season.

The duo have been playing softball together since the second grade. They always are together and according to Vaudreuil, they have been sports friends from the beginning.

Early on, the two girls were on the same path before Gerber eventually veered off and took her softball career in a different direction. Vaudreuil joined travel ball and then found herself playing for the CMASS Crusaders before she left for the Firebirds, out of Milford for the past four seasons. Gerber also found herself playing travel ball for the Crusaders but left due to not having a place to play after one year. After the single season with the Crusaders, she would join the Rhode Island Rampage.

"I was originally picked by the Crusaders to join their team and it was a great feeling knowing that

I had talent to play the game," Gerber said. "But after one year, I was told that they didn't have a place for me on the team; they had told me that they wanted me to improve my game but were unwilling to help me, so I left. Leaving the Crusaders was the best thing that I could have ever done."

Once with the Rampage, the Ocean State-based team helped her to work on her game to where she is now a prominent player on the Bartlett High School team.

Vaudreuil continued to play with the Crusaders where she emulated her mother and aunt, both who had played softball themselves growing up. Having an aunt who played catcher, Vaudreuil decided that was what she wanted to do.

"With my aunt being a catcher, I wanted to be like her and follow in her footsteps," she said. "It was a great experience and I made a lot of friends in the process."

While playing with the Crusaders, Coach Keith Girard saw something in the young athlete that would forever change her softball life. Girard could see that Vaudreuil could pitch and he moved her into the position, a position that the young softball player loved.

"He saw that pitching was my thing. I love being in charge and a leader," she said. "Other teams started to take notice of my pitch-



Bartlett High School pitcher/ catching duo Dakota Vaudreuil and Taryn Gerber during their junior year season. Photo submitted

ing skills as well." The Firebirds were one such team and eventually asked the Webster native to join their team. During their eighth-grade year in middle school, the girls' softball team didn't have a catcher and were on the verge of not having another season of softball. "We had already lost our seventh-grade season due to Covid and we were in danger of losing our eighth-grade season as well," Gerber said. "Without a catcher we were not going to have a season so I decided to volunteer to play the position so we had one season at

the middle school." Much like her friend, she found the switch rejuvenating and a position that she not only quickly picked up, but one that she enjoyed immensely. Following middle school, the duo was looking forward to getting into high school and playing on the varsity level for the Indians. While both girls made the cut to earn a spot on the varsity squad, neither would play their original position that inaugural season. Gerber was blocked by a senior shortstop and the Bartlett team had many pitchers that year, while her

friend Vaudreuil unfortunately was injured and found herself in and out of physical therapy and unable to pitch. "It was a very big disappointment not being able to pitch," Vaudreuil said. "But I was playing as a left fielder, a position that I never really played too much before, but at least I was part of the team." While Vaudreuil was playing on a regular basis and enjoyed being able to help the team, Gerber's season was just the opposite. "My freshman year was not that enjoyable for me as I was not playing that much," she said. "And although I did get to play the outfield and pitch on occasion, it just wasn't my favorite."

Their freshman season on the varsity squad may not have started as they had hoped it would, but come their sophomore campaign things would become a lot better for both girls. Both girls had to overcome road blocks that first year, but Coach Courtney Stawiecki saw potential in the two athletes. "Dakota was dealing with a shoulder injury and couldn't pitch that season, so I put her in left field where she was awesome and had herself a great season. She knew her limitations, especially if she ever wanted to pitch again," the Bartlett coach said. "Taryn, on the other hand, had a top shortstop in front of her and there wasn't too



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The Charlton Recreation Commission invites you to a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Showcasing Adam Rydlak's Eagle Scout Project: Tennis & Pickleball Courts at Charlton Middle School on Saturday, August 10 at 10 a.m. at Charlton Middle School, 2 Oxford Road. This Eagle Scout Project in collaboration with Charlton Recreation Commission and Charlton Middle School created a public pickleball court and an upgrade to the tennis courts, too, for the residents of Charlton that will also be integrated into the middle school's Physical Education program. With special thanks to Amazon, Sue and Peter Maly, and all those who generously donated to the project.

## SPORTS

continued from page 8

much room for another pitcher so she would have to find another position if she wanted to get onto the field. She became the back-up catcher knowing the position would be open during her sophomore season."

Knowing that positions would open during their sophomore season, both worked hard in the off-season to secure those positions. Vaudreuil, determined to prove herself as a high school pitcher on the varsity level, worked with a personal trainer following the freshman season, while Gerber took catching lessons to work on her blocking skills and strengthening her arm.

The duo would not only make the starting rotation for the Bartlett varsity squad, but they'd also become a tandem as Vaudreuil found herself pitching to her friend and teammate positioned behind the plate.

"It was really awesome being able to work with Taryn," Vaudreuil said. "We became a great duo, one that could read each other's minds and understand what each wanted to do in a certain situation."

Gerber echoed her friend's sentiment about playing together.

"We really know each other well and what type of pitch should be called," she said. "Most of the time we agree, but occasionally she'll shake me off. Together we believe that we can put this team in the right position to be successful."

Now as their junior season has concluded the two friends are both looking forward to their senior season next spring. Both girls are hoping that Bartlett can have themselves a better season. Individually,



Gerber is looking to throw out a lot more runners during her final season, while Vaudreuil is hoping to break the school record for strikeouts. During her sophomore year she recorded 100 K's and last year fanned 162 giving her 262 for her career.

When their senior season comes to an end at Bartlett, both are hoping that they can continue playing softball on the collegiate level. At this time, neither girl has an offer,

but they both have some ideas where they want to play; unfortunately, it will not be together.

"Playing with Taryn has definitely been a great experience and to be able to stick with the same person has been a blessing," Vaudreuil said. "I would love to continue playing with her on the collegiate level, but it doesn't matter where we each go, we should both be able to succeed."

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

# August Events at the Charlton Public Library

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

## MOVIES @ THE LIBRARY

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

August 13 : AUGUST RUSH. 2007. Rated PG. Runtime 114 minutes. With Freddie Highmore, Keri Russell, Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Terrence Howard, and William Sadler.

August 20 : WHALES OF AUGUST. 1987. Rated TV-PG. Runtime 90 minutes. Featuring Lillian Gish, Bette Davis, Ann Sothorn, Vincent Price, and Harry Carey Jr.

August 27 : TEAHOUSE OF THE AUGUST MOON. 1956. Not rated. Runtime 123 minutes. Starring Glenn Ford, Marlon Brando, Eddie Albert, Machiko Kyo, and Paul Ford.

## THREADED TOGETHER FIBER ARTS GROUP (FORMERLY SILVER NEEDLES KNIT & CROCHET GROUP)

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

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

## BOOK FLOWER CRAFT

Wednesday, August 14, 2:00-3:30 - Community Meeting Room

Our summer reading theme is "Read, Renew, Repeat"! For this hands-on craft program we'll be making beautiful flowers out of old

book pages and creating a statement display piece with them. For adults and teens ages 13 and up. Registration is required.

## AN EVENING WITH NEUROLOGIST/NEUROSCIENTIST/AUTHOR DR. ANDREW BUDSON: WHY WE FORGET AND STEPS TO MANAGING MEMORY, ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE, AND DEMENTIA

Tuesday, August 13, 6:00-7:30 - Dexter Hall - Registration Requested

Dr. Budson will discuss managing issues with memory, language, vision, behavior, driving, incontinence, sleep, and more. Also learn how to distinguish changes in memory due to Alzheimer's versus normal aging, what medications, diet, and exercise regimes can help, and the best habits, strategies, and memory aids to use. Learn some tricks and techniques that everyone can use to improve their memory. This talk is part of the Dementia Friendly Charlton initiative. Registration is requested.

## BETTER READ THAN DEAD BOOK CLUB - THE LESS PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT US BY AXTON BETZ HAMILTON

Wednesday, August 14, 11:00-12:00 - Sibley Reading Area - No registration required

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

## ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Thursday, August 15, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

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

## RESPECT YOUR ELDER' AN HERBAL WORKSHOP

Tuesday, August 20, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - Registration required

From Elder flower tea to Elderberry syrup, come learn why this potent plant, and several others, are easy herbs to know and use. This hands-on workshop will explore practical skills, facts, folklore, tips and tricks! Learn to naturally support yourself and your

family when hit by colds and flus. Presented by Christine Leo, M.ED. Certified Traditional Herbalist. Registration required.

## CULE (CHARLTON UKULELE LEAGUE & ENSEMBLE)

Thursday, August 22, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

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

## CORNERSTONE CONCERT SERIES: HUNGRYTOWN

Thursday, August 22, 6:30-7:30 - Dexter Hall - No registration

Rebecca Hall and Ken Anderson have crafted Hungrytown into a true artistic hybrid, able to hold Celtic and Americana, ballads and psychedelia, sunshine and darkness, joy and despair. Registration is not required. This concert series is generously sponsored by Cornerstone Bank.

## CRITICAL THINKING DISCUSSION GROUP - EUCLID'S ELEMENTS BOOK 1 (DEFINITIONS, POSTULATES, COMMON NOTIONS)

Friday, August 23, 1:00-2:00 - Sibley Reading Area (Main Floor) - No registration required

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

## EDIBLE WILD PLANTS AND FUNGI OF AUTUMN

Thursday, August 29, 6:30 - 8:00 - Dexter Hall - Registration required

Learn how to identify, sustainably harvest, and prepare the wild foods of autumn, from acorns through minty wintergreen leaves, including golden honey mushrooms and maitake, the "dancing mushroom". Join The 3 Foragers as they teach the edible plants and fungi of autumn with their original photos and recipe ideas in an educational slideshow. The 3 Foragers are a family from southeastern Connecticut and they have worked with over 150 libraries, nature centers, summer camps, garden clubs, land trusts, and private citizens to learn the wild edible plants and fungi of Southern New England since 2016. All are welcome. Registration required.



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# Charlton Senior Center August Events

37 Main Street  
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TownofCharlton.net

**Wednesday, August 21** is National Senior Citizens Day. The Charlton Senior Center is proud to present Framingham State University Professor Jon Huibregtse at 10:30 a.m. who will discuss "Senior Accomplishments in History, Arts, Science, Entertainment and Sports." Come in for lunch and stay for the ice cream truck!

**Also on August 21** at 1 p.m. Michael Goodwin presents "The Golden Age of Musical Theater." This amazing tenor invites you to

sing along!

**Monday, August 26** at 1 p.m. Fit Minds. Want to keep your mind sharp? Come to class with Michelle, Certified Cognition Coach and Dementia Practitioner. Cognitive Stimulation for all abilities. Stimulate each lobe of your brain with fun activities that create new neural pathways and keep your brain as active as possible. Charlton is the first municipality in Massachusetts to offer this wonderful program. Please sign up in advance.

**Tuesday, August 27** at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy coffee or tea and listen to a presentation by representative

Robin Putnam from Mass. Consumer Affairs who will speak on preventing fraud and identity theft.

**Thursday, August 29** 10:30 a.m. End of Life Preparation Day. Death Doula Carol Valcourt and Hospice Presentation—Advance directives also discussed. Bring your questions at 1 p.m. Morrill Funeral Home and Atty. Gary Bridgman are here with a presentation and to answer your questions.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS:

**Monday, August 12** 10:30 a.m. Toss and Talk Ball Fun 1:00 p.m. Silver Moon Gypsies are the Elder Ethereal Dance Troop—Belly

Dancing!

**Tuesday, August 13**, 10:30 a.m. Golden Age Club Meets ; Dr. Andrew Budson Speaks at Library at 6 pm. Neurology and Alzheimer's Discussion

**Wednesday, August 14** Foot Clinic by Appt.; Book Club meets at 10:30 a.m. "Giver of Stars" by Jojo Moyes; 12:45 pm Bingo

**Thursday August 15** at 10:30 a.m. Cactus Rock Project with Kathy. Sign up in Advance. No charge.

**Monday, August 19** at 1 p.m. Creative Writing Class with Michelle. Sign up in advance. No charge.

**Thursday, August 22** at 10:30 a.m. August Birthday LUAU Party with Entertainer Roger Tinknell, courtesy of a grant from the Cultural Council! Join the conga line! Movie at 12:30 p.m. "Mama Mia!"

**Wednesday, August 28** at 10:30 a.m. Button Shadow Box Craft. Cost is \$10.00. Sign up in advance. Space is limited to 18..

There will be produce pick up available, courtesy the Sheriff's Department. We will put an announcement on the Charlton Senior Center Facebook Page when we have been notified it is coming!

# Programs & Events at the Pearle L. Crawford Library

40 Schofield Avenue, Dudley  
508-949-8021

Join us for one of our programs at the Pearle!

To register go to [www.crawfordlibrary.org](http://www.crawfordlibrary.org) or call 508-949-8021

#### GENTLE YOGA

Monday, August 12, 19 & 26  
10:00-11:00  
Fels Community Room  
Join instructors Erin & Jia, for traditional "on the mat" yoga class with 15 minute relaxation at the end.

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

#### MOVIES @ THE PEARLE!!

Tuesdays in August at 1:00  
August 6: The Persian Version  
August 13: Challengers  
August 20: IF  
August 27: The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare

#### MAHJONG AT THE PEARLE

Wednesday, August 14, 21, 28  
10:00-12:30 Fels Community Room

The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy.

Everyone welcome, registration not required.

#### CRAWFORD LIBRARY BOOK GROUP

Monday, August 26

6:00-7:30

Book: Master Slave Husband Wife  
By: Ilyon Woo

Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion.

No registration required.

\*Meeting fourth Monday of each month.

#### COMMUNITY ART UNVEILING

Monday, August 12  
4:0-6:00

Fels Community Room  
Let's celebrate our COMMUNITY ART PROJECT!

40 local artists, of all ages and skill levels, worked together to complete a 50' art display created by professional artist Lisa Kretchman. Lisa's original design for the project celebrates the natural beauty found in and around Dudley.

Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served.

This program is funded by the Hugh W. & Harriet K. Crawford Endowment Fund for the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library

#### PAINT WITH JEAN WALKER-MASON JAR FLOWERS

Thursday, August 15  
6:00-7:30

Fels Community Room  
Jean Walker will help you create a beautiful canvas painting of flowers in a mason jar.  
20 spaces available.

Registration is required.

Ages 17+

#### QUILTING GROUP

Wednesdays @ 1:30

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

#### KNIT & CROCHET GROUP

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

All stitchers are welcome for this informal group.

Bring your project, enjoy the company!

#### FOR KIDS

#### GUEST READER STORY TIME

Every Monday in August at 6pm

This month will feature many of the Crawford Library staff reading their favorite stories! We promise there will be laughs, a cool craft and plenty of fun for everyone.

August 12: Library Director, Nicole Messier

August 19: Library Super Star, Deb Coggans

August 26: Reading Specialist at Dudley Charlton Regional School District, Sue Pontbriand

#### DUNGEONS & DRAGONS GAME

Thursdays, 6:00-7:30

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

This program geared towards kids that are looking to learn more

about playing and some short adventures!

#### CHILLIN' AT THE LIBRARY WITH MISS COURTNEY

Thursday, August 22 & 29  
6:00-6:45

Children's Room

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

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

Registration is required.



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LIVING WITH LUKE

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# The Struggle of Luke's Loyalty

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

A dog's loyalty is boundless. A dog expresses joy in your presence, longing in your absence, and a smile to the mere thought of you. To the mere thought of you. Read that again. Nothing compares to a dog's unconditional love.

"OH MY GOSH. You're here again!" Luke greets me with a wiggle and a whimper every single morning, as though we've been estranged for years. "I've missed you so much, Momma. I have so much to tell you." His oversized stuffed lamb hangs from his mouth, and he often uses its dirty head to poke me in the hip, initiating a cruel game of Chase. The two of us race like fools around the house. I stop at the dining room corner and hide, spooking my pup on the other side of the house. Luke skids and slides then finally catches his foot-

ing before dashing away. The lamb remains powerless in his jaw. Then, satisfied by the morning ruckus, he'll drop the lamb and stare up at me. "What are you thinking about, Momma?" He tracks my moves. "You need to go the bathroom? Good idea. I'll wait right here." He lies down at the foot of the toilet and waits for me to finish. A dog's loyalty never fades. Even if you neglect your dog repeatedly, he will be there waiting, forgiving, and loving you still. For this reason, along with so many more, I include Luke in most excursions. "Luke can come, too." His head squares to a phrase that's become part of his dog vocabulary.

"I can come, too?" He tap-dances to both doorways, not wanting to miss a single moment of what's to come. He has no idea where we're going. The thought of going somewhere is stimulation enough for a dog. "Which way are we heading out?" Despite wanting to be first in line, Luke will dash down, then back up the basement stairs if I'm running behind. "Almost ready, Momma? Don't forget your lipstick!" He waits for

me to grab my pocketbook then cuts me off on the way down the stairs again. "I got the travel crate. You can sit in the front again. Hey, WE'RE GOING FOR A RIDE!" Dogs remind us that the simple things in life are usually the best.

Incidentally, Luke has joined us on hikes, outdoor dining experiences, baseball games, ice cream outings, and quiet times at local coffee shops. "Your dog is so well behaved." He lifts his head to a local and smiles. "I'm trained during spontaneous learning situations. That's why I'm such a good boy." Luke is correct. The more I'm with him, the more he's immersed in



Above, Luke and Momma Lamb; Below, almost ready to go for a ride



piece together all that's comprised of the word "time."

"Luke, first Grammy has to go for a ryyyde." I enunciate the word 'ride' with long, drawn-out syllables to mirror the idea of length. "First, Grammy has to go for a ryyyde." I watch the light bulb go off in Luke's mind. A new cartoon image emerges, that of my miniature mother seated at her car's steering wheel. His mouth opens to a knowing smile. He knows she's on her way, yet he still paces and checks windows, just in case.

Finally, Grammy's white SUV appears at the front lawn. For Luke, the moment is epic. One might think that a celebrity NASCAR driver has just appeared. He's thought about her for stretches of seconds and now she's at his house. LEGIT!! I let him out on



Luke stops to think about his favorite human

natural situations which require training and, consequently, the more willing he is to behave and follow commands such as Leave It, Sit, Stay, Wait, Go Easy, No and Listen. Thus, the more willing we are to include him. Humans and dogs, nevertheless, seem to differ here. A dog expects nothing from you and will still want to be with you. You don't have to behave a certain way, listen to commands, or live life according to a tailored regimen. You must simply be yourself. Even sweeter, a dog shows appreciation for the mere thought of you. Luke has come to know the names of his loved ones. Read on.

"Grammy is coming over, Luke!" He stops what he's doing and stares at me, translating the name Grammy. "Are you kidding me??" I imagine a miniature image of my mother floating in the cartoon bubble of Luke's dog mind. She's carrying bags and bags of stuffed animals. Ecstatic, he rushes to the front door and presses his head against the door panel glass to inspect the yard for his grandmother. Dogs have zero concept of the intangible essence of time. Every word uttered is a sudden present-tense verb. However, I'm a believer in accelerated learning lessons. I'm a believer that Luke can learn to

the front step so that he can watch his grandmother parallel park. She shifts the wheel and turns, backs

LUKE

continued on page 13

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REAL ESTATE

# Why Your Asking Price Matters Even More Right Now

If you're thinking about selling your house, here's something you really need to know. Even though it's still a seller's market today, you can't pick just any price for your listing. While home prices are still appreciating in most areas, they're climbing at a slower pace because higher mortgage rates are putting a squeeze



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

on buyer demand. At the same time, the supply of homes for sale is growing. That means buyers have more options and your house may not stand out as much, if it's not priced right.

Those two factors combined are why the asking price you set for your house is more important today than it has been in recent years. And some sellers are finding that out the hard way. That's leading to more price reductions. Looking at the price reductions data, it definitely a pattern of increasing supply and homebuyer demand that is just exhausted by high mortgage rates. . . As home sellers are faced with less demand than they expected, more of them

have to reduce their prices. That's because they haven't adjusted their expectations to today's market. Maybe they're not working with an agent, so they don't know what's happening around them. Or they listed their property just before the influx of inventory which seems to be growing daily. Either way, they aren't basing their pricing decision on the latest data available – and that's a miss.

If you want to avoid making a pricing mistake that could turn away buyers and delay your sale, you need to work with an agent who really knows your local market. If you lean on the right agent, they'll help you avoid making mistakes like:

**1. Setting a price that's too high:** Some sellers have unrealistic expectations about how much their house is worth. That's because they base their price on their gut or their bottom line, not the data. An agent will help you base your price on facts, not opinion, so you have a better chance of hitting the mark.

**2. Not considering what houses are actually selling for:** Without an agent's help, some sellers may use the wrong comparable sales (comps) in their area and misjudge the market value of their home. An agent has the expertise needed to find true comps. And they'll use those to give you valuable insights into how to price your house in a way that's competitive for you and

your future buyer.

**3. Overestimating home improvements:** Sellers who have invested a significant amount of money in home improvements may overestimate how much those upgrades affect their home's value. While certain improvements can increase a home's appeal, not all upgrades are going to get a great return on their investment. An agent factors in what you've done and what buyers in your area actually want as they set the price.

**4. Ignoring feedback and market response:** Some sellers may be resistant to lowering their asking price based on feedback they're getting in open houses. An agent will remind the seller how important it is to be flexible and respond to market feedback in order to attract qualified buyers.

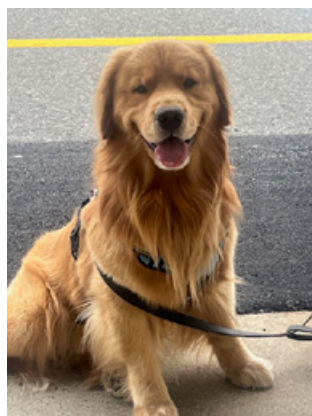
In the end, accurate pricing depends on current market conditions – and only an agent has all the data and information necessary to find the right price for your house. The right agent will use that expertise to develop a pricing strategy that's based on current market conditions and designed to get your house sold. That way you don't miss the mark. The right asking price is even more important today than it's been over the last few years. To avoid making a costly mistake, connect with The Marzeotti Group or a local REALTOR.

## LUKE

continued from page 12

up again, and then repeats, trying to get her car aligned just right. Her brake lights blink on and off, offering Luke added fascination. "When will Grammy get out of the car?" He smiles in adoration and lowers his head as though stalking a bunny. He doesn't want to miss out on a single trick of Grammy's moves.

Finally, she opens the door and steps out of the driver's seat. I watch Luke wiggle with elation. He has learned to be gentle and stay DOWN, but quieting his love for a person is a struggle that is so real. We can be ourselves in front of our dogs, but we expect them to behave as humans. They cannot quite be themselves. They need to shush and mind their manners. A dog loves so freely and exuberantly that all of this is counterintuitive. Grammy strolls innocently



across the front yard. Tote bags full of prizes dangle from her hands. Perhaps, I decide, she's taken for granted Luke's love for her, love that can't be bought. "Make sure you say HI to Luke," I remind. Ever loyal and compliant, Luke sits at the heels of a human whose side he'd never leave. Satisfied with a mere pat on the head, he smiles gratefully. "Love you, Grammy."

Meanwhile, I plan Luke's next excursion.

Stay tuned for more on Luke Valentino.  
Follow him on IG @livingwith-lukevalentino  
Write to Amy at amyclair@hotmail.com



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TALES FROM BEYOND

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# Vermont's Haunted Railroad Bridge

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

Sometime between 2 and 3 in the morning on Saturday September 5, 1887, Vermont's worst railroad disaster took place in Hartford, a few miles from White River Junction as the Vermont Central Railroad express train from Montreal jumped its tracks and plummeted onto the frozen White River below.

The train had been carrying a full load of passengers, many traveling from Boston to Montreal. The engine was towing a baggage and express car, a mail car, two ordinary passenger cars, the sleeper car; St. Albans from Springfield and the Pullman sleeper, Pilgrim out of Boston. Most of the riders were on their way to see the circus in Montreal.

The 650 foot long bridge spanned the White River at a height of 50 feet. At the time, subzero temperatures had formed a two-foot thick surface of ice on the river. As the train sped down the tracks, a broken rail about 200 feet from the viaduct caused the cars to slam into each other then pull apart breaking the coupling between the forward sleeper and the other cars. The engine, baggage and smoking cars

passed over the bridge safely but the other cars, striking the ties came to the end of the bridge and completely wiped out the heavy beams resting on the abutment sending cars and bridge toppling onto the frozen river below.

The coaches and bridge then exploded into flames before the stunned onlooker's eyes. 40 people died in the wreck and another 40 were badly injured or burned. The intense heat melted the ice in some places making rescue efforts all the more difficult. It is estimated that 50-60 people perished from the result of the wreck. According to legend, 13 year-old Joe McCabe was able to free himself from the burning twisted debris, but watched helplessly as his father burned in the inferno.

The inefficient wooden bridge was later replaced with a steel overpass making it much more sturdy and safer. In time, people passing by began to notice a little boy near the river below. Many thought nothing of it but, others noticed something was not quite right about the young man. His translucent appearance may have been enough to hint that he may not be of this world, but the fact that he is seen hovering above the water gives away his presence as



Hartford Railroad Bridge. Photo courtesy of Bob and Vickie Hughes

being ethereal. Countless witnesses have seen his apparition wandering the site below the bridge. Even paranormal investigators have had experiences with the ghost. There are a few more spirits that linger in the area as well. One is believed to be the conductor of the train who was also one of the casualties on that fateful night. Many claim his ghost meanders along the tracks making sure they are in perfect order as to avoid another deadly wreck. There are also claims of a ghostly locomo-

tive silently rolling over the bridge with no cars attached to it.

Why the spirit of the young man lingers in the spot is a mystery. Some say it is the place his ghost has returned to after he died due to the traumatic incident that he was part of, while others tend to think it is a residual entity moving about the scene of the wreck. He is seen a few feet above the water which would account for his being on the ice that was about that height in the winter according to paranormal investiga-

tor and dowser, Stephen Marshall who once actually felt the presence of spirit energy while dowsing at the scene. Either way, there are a few ghosts roaming about the White River. Take a trip to the bridge, but beware of the phantom train that might silently steam by, or the countenance that might be spied hovering above the rocky stream.

The Woodstock Bridge spans the White river and Route 14 in Hartford. Take I-91 to Exit 11 and follow Route 14 to bridge.

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# Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School awarded over \$800,000 grant

Superintendent-Director Kyle Brenner and Career Technical Initiative (CTI) Coordinator Marci Komssi are pleased to share that Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School has been awarded the Career Technical Initiative Implementation Grant by the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development for the second time.

Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School has received \$893,480.00 as part of the grant to provide training and placement to prepare unemployed or underemployed individuals for positions in Auto Collision, Building Maintenance, Sheet Metal, Advanced Manufacturing, Culinary Arts, Heating Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC). Grant employer partners include All Points HVAC, ckSmithSuperior, General Mechanical Contractors, Inc., Dexter, FLEXcon, A&M Tool & Design, Kinefac Corporation, Package Steel Systems, Inc., RPM Heating

and Air Conditioning, Primetals Technologies, Menkiti Group, DCU Center/ASM Global, BAPS, Long Subaru, Woody's Auto Body, Fuller's Collision Center, Pine

certifications. In addition to training, the grant also allows Bay Path to offer support services such as career readiness lessons and post-employment follow-ups.



Regarding the grant, Superintendent Kyle Brenner stated, "Bay Path is truly grateful to be a recipient of this round of funding, as it will allow us to expand our successful CTI programming, in turn providing more valuable skills training opportunities to meet our community's demand for a skilled workforce."

Adults interested in pursuing a career in Advanced Manufacturing, Culinary Arts, Heating Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC), Auto Collision, Sheet Metal, or Building Maintenance must be willing

to enroll and commit to 200 hours of training at Bay Path and willing to obtain training to qualify them for industry-recognized credentials essential to work in the field of their choice.

Ridge Country Club, Niche Hospitality Group, The Overlook, UMass Memorial Health.

Grant funds will cover the total cost for students, including classroom time, textbooks, and

Worcester County participants must be 18 or older, unemployed, or underemployed (annual income is less than \$51,600, gross). Most recent high school graduates qualify as underemployed.

Prospective students must go through an application and acceptance process. To apply, contact Mass Hire Career Centers in Southbridge and Worcester.

The application and interview process must be completed before the start of class in September. Seats are limited to 12 per program.

Bay Path will recruit, assess, and screen participants aligned with the program requirements,

in partnership with Mass Hire Career Centers in Southbridge and Worcester.

As a result of the support from the Healey-Driscoll Administration, \$13.4 million was allocated to the Career Technical Initiative in the Fiscal Year 2024 State Budget to support the ongoing economic recovery and growth objectives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These strategic investments are part of the ongoing effort by the Massachusetts Workforce Skills Cabinet to scale effective career pathway programs that better position residents who want to be hired into jobs that businesses need to fill.

## Prayer



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

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

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**THE CAR DOCTOR** *jpaul@aanortheast.com*

# Dash cams can serve insurance purposes and aid driver safety

**Q.** What dash camera/ recorder do you recommend, I am considering buying one. I travel pretty regularly from Florida to the Northeast. The way insurance companies and some people seem to be, a camera that could record an accident seems like a worthwhile investment.

**A.** A few years ago, I was thinking of buying a cargo trailer to move some things to Florida and although that never happened, I did get a dash cam for the reason you mention. The unit I installed is made by Garmin and in addition to the exceptionally good hi-resolution recording capability adds some driver assistance features. The camera has lane departure warning, forward collision warning and connects to their app. The installation is simple, and the camera is only about two inches long and sits up unobtrusively behind the car's rear view mirror.

**Q.** I have a car without a spare tire (only an air pump) and recently noticed a screw in

the tread of the driver's side rear tire. I pulled it out, it was only about one quarter of an inch long and the air pressure was fine and when I put soapy water on the tire there were no bubbles. I am planning lots of driving with the family over the rest of the summer, is the tire safe?

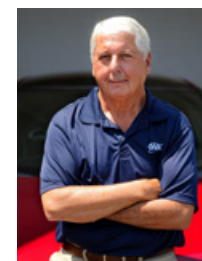
**A.** Yes, the tire tread did its job and kept the screw from puncturing the inner liner of the tire. As part of your regular maintenance during your trips, check the tire pressure, as well as all the vital fluids and enjoy making memories over the summer.

**Q.** I inherited my grandfather's Chevrolet Silverado and I love this truck for both its 25-year-old style and the memories of the time with my grandfather. The truck runs great, rides smoothly but the blower fan for the heat and AC only works on high. Is this the switch or something more serious?

**A.** It is possible it is the switch, but more than likely it is the fan resistor. There is a large resistor mounted in the HVAC air box that when it fails the fan only works on high speed. Depending on where you purchase the part, the price runs between \$30-\$60. It will take about an hour and a half to remove part of the instrument panel to get to the resistor.

**Q.** I am thinking about buying a used/classic BMW. Not one to drive every day but a

fun weekend car. I have seen a few, they all seem to need work. Are these cars safe both to drive and repair without tapping into my kid's college fund?



BY JOHN PAUL

**A.** BMWs can be great cars or true money pits. It really depends on what you want from the car. Do you want a perfect show car, or can you live with some problems? There is an expression, do not let perfection be the enemy of good. This certainly can apply to keeping a classic BMW on the road. Some time back I had Rob Siegel who has owned many BMWs and written several books on the subject on my radio program, www.podcasts.com/john-paul-car-doctor-radio-podcast-93/episode/Chatting-with-The-Hack-Mechanic-Rob-Siegel-3377. Give the program a listen and take a look at his book "Memoirs of a Hack Mechanic", this may help with your decision.

**Q.** I am very fussy with my cars and recently I was washing my Nissan Maxima and noticed a slight oil film at the front strut. The car rides fine and is quiet

**CAR DOCTOR**  
*continued on page 17*

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TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING

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# Are you afraid of outliving your money?

**D**o you worry about running out of money during your retirement years? If so, how can you help prevent this from happening?

In the first place, if you have this type of fear, you're far from alone. Consider this: 58% of retirement savers from all age groups, including current retirees, say that outliving their assets is their greatest retirement fear, according to a study by Cerulli



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Associates, a financial services research organization.

This type of fear can certainly affect your quality of life when you retire. Still, there's no need to panic – because you can take steps to help prevent the running-out-of-money scenario.

Here are a few to consider:

• **Know how much you'll need during retirement.** You need to get a clear picture, or at least as good an estimate as possible, of how much money you'll need to support your retirement lifestyle. Once

you do retire, some costs, such as transportation or other work-related expenses, might go down, while others – medical expenses, in particular – will likely go up. The fear of running out of money, like many fears, is caused largely by what you don't know, so having a good sense of how much you'll need in retirement can help reduce your anxieties.

• **Build financial resources before retirement.** You're probably at your peak earning capacity in the years close to your retirement, so consider contributing as much as you can afford to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

• **Maximize your Social Security payments.** You can start collecting Social Security as early as 62, but your monthly benefits will be larger if you can afford to wait until your full retirement age, between 66 and 67. (Payments will "max out" at age 70.)

• **Re-enter the workforce.** Going back to work in some capacity is one way to possibly help build retirement resources and delay taking Social Security. If you have a particular area of expertise, and you enjoyed the work you did, you might be able to go back to it on a part-time basis or do some con-

sulting. You could boost your cash flow, and potentially extend your contributions to an IRA and to an employer's retirement plan.

• **Cut costs during retirement.** Possibly the biggest cost-cutting measure is downsizing – are you willing and able to move to a less expensive area or scale down your current living space? Of course, this is an emotional decision, as well as a financial one, and downsizing isn't for everyone, but it might be something to at least consider. As for the lesser ways of reducing expenses, take advantage of senior discounts, which are offered in many areas, including entertainment, public transportation, restaurants and retail establishments. And look for other opportunities, such as cutting out streaming services you don't use.

• **Look for more income from your investments.** As you get closer to retirement, and even when you do retire, you might want to adjust your investment portfolio to provide you with more income-producing opportunities. However, even as a retiree, you'll want some growth potential in your investments to help keep you ahead of inflation.

Ultimately, the more you can bolster your financial security

before and during retirement, the less fear you may have of outliving your money.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local

Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert Street, Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.

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## CAR DOCTOR

continued from page 16

but there is this oil. I took it to the dealer; they looked it over and said it was fine. If there is oil leaking, how can it be fine?

**A** Some very slight seepage is considered normal. Nissan even has a procedure to look at the oily film. If it is a thick layer of oil that has collected dust and debris the strut(s) need replacement. If it is a thin layer of oily film with no visible dirt/dust it is considered normal. At this point I would just watch for oil, and do

not wash it off if you see it start to accumulate.

**Q** I have a 1970 Chevy Nova and want to replace the six-cylinder engine with a V-8, nothing high performance, just more powerful than the little six-cylinder. Two questions is it easy, and some people have told me to watch out for "marketplace rebuilds." What does that mean?

**A** Easy is somewhat relative. The car was designed for a V-8 engine, so there is not a lot of modification to mounting the engine. Still, you will need to upgrade the cooling system, front springs (to carry additional

weight) and some wiring and fuel line modifications. A marketplace rebuild sometimes refers to an engine that is listed for sale, that may have some new valve cover gaskets and a fresh coat of paint but hiding a lot of sins. A true rebuild includes at least the following: the engine was disassembled, parts checked for wear, timing chain/gears, bearing and rings replaced, cylinder heads inspected, valves reground and properly reassembled with new gaskets.

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

**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, AUG 10**

• Willard House & Clock Museum will host a car lawn event on Saturday August 10th (a rain date of Sunday, August 11th) from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Times are approximate as the cars will be touring the countryside. The event is open to the public and free admission was made possible by the generous support of UniBank. Willard is also pleased to announce the return of Joey's Wingz & Thingz food

truck and Rushford & Sons craft beers of Upton. Guests are encouraged to register at <https://willardhouse.org/events/calendar/2024/8/10/antique-car-24> More than 40 beautifully curated and restored Ford Model T's and Model A's will be on display at Willard. "Last year's event was a success, drawing nearly 200 attendees," says Robert Gierschick, Director of Development at Willard House & Clock Museum. "The interest in the show came down to the beauty and innovation of these timeless, collectable automobiles gathered at the museum."

• Enjoy an afternoon of acoustic music with Cameron Sutphin from 2-4 p.m. at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, Webster. Cameron is a guitarist and will perform original material as well as classic country and folk cover songs. Donations accepted at the door. Call 508-949-6232 or email [deb@bookloversgourmet.com](mailto:deb@bookloversgourmet.com) to reserve a seat. CD's will be available for purchase.

• Rock n Roll Yard Sale at Blackstone Valley Music - Live Music, Family Fun and up to 40% off Sale. Come celebrate Blackstone Valley Music in its 16th year of operation at 6 Mendon St. in Uxbridge! On Saturday Aug 10th (rain date of Aug 11th), BVM will hold our first Rock n Roll Yard Sale, from 8am-2pm with live music presented by students and staff, children's activities, a store-wide sale of new/used musical instruments, equipment, and much more. Tour BVM, meet teachers who will be demonstrating a variety of

instruments, and take advantage of a huge summer sale of our existing inventory. Food options will be available right around the corner by Mendon St. Kitchen and if you've not yet visited the new coffee shop nearby, Honeysuckle, make this a day to support local businesses right in the heart of downtown.

**SATURDAY AUGUST 10 AND SUNDAY AUGUST 11**

• Oxford residents get free admission at the Samuel Slater Experience this weekend, courtesy of the Janet Malsler Humanities Trust. Pre-registration is required and admission times will be staggered. Visit <https://samuel Slater Experience> to register for Oxford Community Day. Entry times are every half hour for up to 10 people. The Samuel Slater Experience is located at 31 Ray Street, Oxford. The Samuel Slater Experience museum, which opened in March 2022, uses immersive digital uses technology and interactive exhibits to tell the story of Samuel Slater, the early American Industrial Revolution, and the creation of economically thriving mill towns like Webster.

**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 vegetar-

ian 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.

• Alexanders Jazz Time Band will be at Mendon Town Beach, 45 Taft Ave, Mendon at 6:30 p.m. performing a concert of jazzy popular tunes for the 1920's and early 1930's. An 11-piece period-style band will present a program of familiar standards - as well as some forgotten gems - by Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Hoagy Carmichael, and others - all in authentic Jazz-Age arrangements. Free and open to the public. We hope to see you there! Email questions to [alexandersjazztimeband@gmail.com](mailto:alexandersjazztimeband@gmail.com).

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 16**

• View the night sky at River bend Farm from 8-9:30 p.m. at River Bend Farm, Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge. Telescopes will be on hand to view the moon, stars and neighboring planets. Free and open to the public. Sponsored by the state DCR. Call 508-278-7604 for more information.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17**

• The Charlton Helping Hand Society Inc. is holding a Yard Sale at the Dodge Chapel & Meetinghouse, 81 Hammond Hill Road Charlton, from 8 am to 12 p.m. Our theme is "Beach Party". Fun, fellowship, selections and beach balls await! After more than

100 years, our mission remains the same-to help the residents of Charlton and continue to be good guardians of the Dodge Chapel

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21**

Booklovers' Gourmet will present the Eight Annual Blackstone Valley Art Association Sunflower Show from 5:30 – 7 p.m.. See artists' interpretations of sunflowers in watercolor, acrylic, oils, photography and more. Light refreshments will be served. Booklovers' Gourmet is located at 72 East Main Street, Webster. The show may also be viewed during regular business hours, Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 18**

"The Rhode Island Rednecks" will play the New England Country Music Club Dance at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin Street, North Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:15 p.m. and music plays from

**SATURDAY, SEPT 14**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society at St. Mary's of Uxbridge will host their annual fundraiser "The Friends of the Poor Walk" at 9 a.m. at St. Mary's Church 77 Mendon Street, Uxbridge. Walkers will meet at the handicapped entrance and then walk or run the town loop at 9:30 a.m. For more

**HAPPENINGS!**  
continued on page 19

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| LAKE TOUR CRUISE  | AUG 11 • 10AM   |
| SUNSET CRUISE   | AUG 16 • 7:15PM |
| CHILLIN IN THE 90'S CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS             | AUG 17 • 6:30PM |
| LAKE TOUR CRUISE  | AUG 18 • 10AM   |
| LAKE TOUR CRUISE  | AUG 23 • 4PM    |
| LAKE TOUR CRUISE  | AUG 24 • 10AM   |
| MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE                                   | AUG 29 • 6:30PM |
| SUNSET CRUISE   | AUG 30 • 6:45PM |
| LAKE TOUR CRUISE  | AUG 31 • 9:30AM |
| SUNSET CRUISE   | AUG 31 • 6:45PM |
| SUNSET CRUISE   | SEP 6 • 6:45PM  |
| LAKE TOUR CRUISE  | SEP 7 • 10AM    |
| SUNSET CRUISE   | SEP 7 • 6:30PM  |
| BOOGIE NIGHTS/DISCO DANCE PARTY CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS | SEP 18 • 6:30PM |
| LAKE TOUR CRUISE  | SEP 22 • 9:30AM |
| MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE                                   | SEP 26 • 6:30PM |
| LAKE TOUR CRUISE  | SEP 29 • 10AM   |
| HALLOWEEN BOOS CRUISE WITH CHUCK PERKS                  | OCT 18 • 6:30PM |

FOR FULL CRUISE SCHEDULE AND TICKETS VISIT [WWW.INDIANRANCH.COM/CRUISES](http://WWW.INDIANRANCH.COM/CRUISES)  
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## Neurologist/Author Dr. Andrew Budson to Speak on Managing Memory, Alzheimer's Disease, and Dementia

Charlton Public Library and Dementia Friendly Charlton will host neurologist Andrew Budson, MD on Tuesday, August 13, 6:00-7:30 at Charlton Public Library's Dexter Hall. Dr. Budson will discuss managing issues with memory, language, vision, behavior, driving, incontinence, sleep, and more from his guide for families, "Six Steps to Managing Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia". He will explain how individuals can distinguish changes in memory due to Alzheimer's versus normal aging, what medications, diets, and exercise regimes can help, and the best habits, strategies, and memory aids to use, from his book "Seven Steps to Managing Your Aging Memory".

And he will share some tricks and techniques that everyone, young and old, can use to improve their memory, based on his book, "Why We Forget and How to Remember Better". The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session. Books will be available for purchase after the Q&A.

Educated at Haverford College and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Budson is Chief of Cognitive Behavioral Neurology at the VA Boston Healthcare System, Associate Director of the Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, Professor of Neurology at Boston University, and Lecturer in Neurology at Harvard Medical School.

This talk is part of the Dementia



Friendly Charlton initiative, a local initiative that is part of Dementia Friendly Massachusetts. Free and open to the public, but registration is requested. To register, please visit our "Programs & Events" page at [www.charltonlibrary.org](http://www.charltonlibrary.org), or call the library at 508-248-0452.

Additional parking is available across the street at Town hall.

table, tee sign, special recognition on golf program and event press and announced recognition at the awards supper. The event benefits the Uxbridge Senior Center.

### THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

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

• Dog Orphans Inc., 90 Webster Street, Douglas is holding an Open House from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Stop by with your formerly orphaned dog to say Hi!

There will be raffles, nail trimming for dogs and cats, professional photos by Brielle, hamburgers and hotdogs and a watermelon-eating contest for dogs.

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

• The 18th Annual Uxbridge Senior Center Gold Outing sponsored by the Uxbridge Elderly Connection at the Whitinsville Golf Club. The event will begin at 12 p.m. with a shotgun start. Teams of four may sign up to play for \$100 per golfer and nine holes including greens fees, cart, gift bag and buffet supper. A full sponsor package includes green fees for a foursome, cart, gift bag, additional four dinners at your reserved



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### HAPPENINGS!

*continued from page 18*

information, call 508-278-2226.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

• The Sixth Annual Lions Club Car Show will be held from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Valley Chapel, 14 Hunter Road, Uxbridge. All cars, motorcycles and trucks are welcome. The event benefits the Lions Club's many community programs. Music, picnic fare, local vendors and Sweet Wise Ice Cream Truck will also be on hand. Registration fee for vehicles is \$15. Admission is free. More than 100 vehicles entered last year. Registration is available in advance by sending a check to Uxbridge Lions Club, P.O. Box 455, North Uxbridge MA 01538. Include name, phone number, vehicle make and model.

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