



Grafton's Business Scene

BY CHRISTINE GALEONE

Have you noticed the crisp autumn breezes weaving their way through the trees? As the harbingers of fall, they're ushering in a season that many tout as their favorite. It's the season of stunning foliage, warm aromas from pies and crisps and cozy evenings featuring hot apple cider and a captivating book or a crackling fire.

And, in Grafton, people can find various ways to celebrate the season. Businesses and organizations have a lot to offer.

Once again, Grafton Recreation will hold its Fall Festival on Sunday Oct. 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Grafton Common. The free event is presented by Grafton

Children's Daycare & Preschool. It will feature pumpkin painting and scarecrow building. And there will be food, music and games.

You can find a bushel full of those previously mentioned warm aromas on Sunday Sept. 29. That's when the Congregational Church of Grafton's 45th Annual Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social will be held. The free event will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the church grounds, located at 30 Grafton Common. The event will include live music, a yard sale, kids' games and raffles. And the apple pies, apple crisp, chili and chowder that the fair is known for, along with other food and beverages, will be available to buy. The funds raised through the sales and raffles will help support

the charities and missions that the church supports.

In North Grafton, Houlden Farm – which will be holding its Pumpkin Fest & Artisan Fair, a free family event, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday Oct. 12 – is known for its wide and wonderful variety of pumpkins and gourds. A wonderful selection of natural fall décor can also be found at Perreault Nursery & Landscape Supply in North Grafton and Pete's Oasis at Blackstone River Farm in South Grafton.

On the Grafton Common, the Grafton Country Store contin-

GRAFTON

continued on page 2

Sutton Historical Society Events

October is a busy month for the Sutton Historical Society. All members are invited to our Annual Meeting to be held Tuesday, October 1,

consideration of a high school scholarship to be awarded by the Society, as well as discussion of the 2025 Calendar of Events. Any member interested in being



at 7 pm in the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Road. This year's meeting includes election of Board Members,

considered for a board position or suggestions for 2025 events/presentations, please direct your inquiry to Christine Watkins, Secretary, at sutton1704@gmail.com. Members are encouraged to attend.

The Society will be participating in the Annual Waters Farm Days, 53 Waters Road, Sutton, sharing the Waters' family genealogy and the history of the Darling Barn and Darling family. We will be set up inside the Darling Barn. This event will be held rain or shine, Saturday, October 19, and Sunday, October 20, from 10 am – 4 pm. Sten Brote Memorial engine show, including Antique Engine, Tractor

SUTTON

continued on page 2

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SUTTON

continued from page 1

& Doodlebug Show, Farmhouse tours, 4H club, kids' activities,

and more! Sunday only: Bruce Nicholson Memorial Car Show. This event is fun for all ages.

On Saturday, October 26 at the Town Center Cemetery, 4 Uxbridge Road, join the Society for

our annual Cemetery Tour from 4-7 pm. This event is subject to a time change due to the EEE threat being experienced in the region. Updates will be posted to our webpage, suttonhistorical-

societyinc.org and on Facebook. This event is in collaboration with the Oh My Gourd event (thesuttonfourth.org) which includes pumpkin and scarecrow contests on the Common, a Tractor parade along Boston Road (Facebook @suttonag-trust), Trunk or Treat hosted by the PTO, dancing Witches, and fireworks scheduled for 7:30 pm in the Center (rain date for

fireworks-November 2). The Cemetery tour is free and suitable for all ages. Volunteers/costumed interpreters are needed. Reach out at sutton1704@gmail.com.

The Sutton Historical Society is a 501(c)3. Membership is open year-round. Visit us at suttonhistoricalsocietyinc.org for more information.

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GRAFTON

continued from page 1

ues to celebrate fall with elegant seasonal décor in its shop. Shoppers will also find a selection of soy wax candles available in fall scents, including pumpkin spice, crisp apple and cranberry apple.

Just down the road, Off the Common Antiques also has a wide selection of autumn-themed décor to browse and shop. At the multi-artisan, multi-vendor shop, shoppers can find antiques, handmade items and reclaimed furniture to bring the coziness of the season into their homes.

Finally, for those who enjoy taking leisurely drives to savor the fall foliage and want their cars to be ready for those long drives, there's a new auto service center in North Grafton. Anderson Auto, which has been selling cars for 40 years, just opened its Anderson Auto Service at 213 Worcester Street.

The cool autumn breezes won't last for long. So, why not spend some time in Grafton enjoying the beauty of the season and the community? Happy fall!

Contact Christine with your business news items at cmgale-one15@gmail.com.

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The BVCC Celebrates its 20th Anniversary Year!

The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus is celebrating twenty years of singing in Central Massachusetts and the Blackstone Valley! The BVCC was created in November 2004 by Diane Pollard of Douglas as a small Ecumenical Advent Choir. Twenty years later, Diane continues to lead the BVCC and she says that the group “has evolved into a musical organization that has become the home to the sweet sounds of hundreds of voices. We have learned not only how to make beautiful music together, but what it means to be a community of support and love. My life, my family’s lives, and yes, our community’s lives have been enriched by our concerts and our fellowship.”

Since its inception, the BVCC has been dedicated to bringing the joy of music to the Blackstone Valley Community. The multi-generational members, ranging from talented amateurs to seasoned performers, have shared their passion for choral music through countless performances

and community events. The BVCC hosts two choral concerts every year showcasing a diverse repertoire including pops, showtunes, holiday favorites, and classical works. The chorus has had the pleasure of collaborating both with local groups like the Blackstone Valley Concert Band and Blackstone Valley Bluegrass and with the larger music community, hosting concerts and masterclasses with faculty from the Ithaca College School of Music. The BVCC has performed throughout the Blackstone Valley at holiday festivals, Octoberfests, Memorial Day ceremonies, and fundraisers. The chorus has also had the opportunity to travel throughout Massachusetts and sing at notable institutions such as Worcester’s Mechanics Hall, the Worcester Art Museum, The Hanover Theater, and at the State House in Boston.

The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus 20th Anniversary season includes many ways for the community to participate and celebrate. The BVCC is throwing

a 20th Anniversary Reunion Party, complete with catered dinner, music, and dancing on Saturday, October 5th. Tickets to this event are \$30 per person, open to the public, and available for purchase on the BVCC website. The BVCC is hosting a fundraising Online Auction from September 15th through October 2nd with generously donated prizes including tickets to the Boston Celtics and the Hanover Theater and a NH weekend getaway. Open Call for new and returning members who would like to sing this fall and holiday season will be held on October 13th. A joyful Holiday Pops concert is being held on Sunday December 15th at Valley Chapel in Uxbridge. The BVCC will also be spreading holiday cheer at many community events throughout the Valley and the Massachusetts State House. More information about the 20th Anniversary Reunion Party, Online Auction, and Open Call can be found on the BVCC’s Facebook and Instagram pages or at www.BVCCChorus.org.

Scholarship Opportunity

The Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild is pleased to announce that they will again be awarding a scholarship to a graduating senior who is pursuing a course of study in the field of visual arts, design, or textiles. This year’s scholarship award will be \$2,000. Applications for the scholarship are available in the Guidance Office of their local high school or available to download at <http://www.thimblepleasures.org>. The deadline for submission of the application is May 1, 2025.



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Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

BY CHRISTIE VOGT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company



has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items whenever possible and properly disposes of non-recyclables

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck,"

Business spotlight

Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the backend while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 17 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavor-



Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Grafton, Millbury and Sutton in particular Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the Blackstone Valley," he says.

To receive a free junk removal estimate, call 774-287-1133 or visit affordablejunkremoval.com.

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Tim Furbush, CFA

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In the popular imagination, receiving an inheritance always sounds like a good thing — after all, who doesn't want a financial windfall? And inheritances can certainly be life-altering events. But they can cause challenges, so you'll want to help your heirs be prepared.

To assist in this preparation, try to address some key questions affecting your heirs:

- **Do they know what's in**

your estate plans? Your family and other heirs will be much better prepared to deal with an inheritance if they know what to expect. That's why it's so important that you share your estate plans with everyone involved. You need to let them know the wishes and decisions you've expressed in your will and other legal arrangements, such as a living trust. Of course, sharing this information doesn't necessarily mean that all your heirs will be completely satisfied with your choices — but at least they won't be surprised, and perhaps will be less likely to cause disputes when the time comes to settle your estate.

- **Will they know what to do with the money or other assets?** You may be planning to leave your grown children a sizable amount of assets, possibly including cash, stocks, real estate, IRAs, 401Ks or other types of valuable personal property. But

this inheritance brings with it several possible questions: Do your heirs already have an investment platform ready to accept inherited stocks? If you do leave behind rental property or a vacation home, can it be easily sold? These types of issues are generally not hard to resolve, but the more prepared your heirs are for their inheritance, the quicker they can take whatever actions are needed.

- **Are they prepared to handle any taxes that may result from the inheritance?** Unless you have a very large estate, your heirs likely won't face federal estate taxes. (In 2024, the first \$13.61 million of an estate is exempt from federal estate taxes.) However, other types of taxes may apply. A few states assess state inheritance taxes, and your heirs could incur federal and/or state income taxes when they withdraw money from inherited assets funded with pre-tax dollars,

such as some retirement accounts. They could also face capital gains taxes when they sell inherited assets, such as stocks, for more than they were worth at the time of the inheritance. In any case, inheritance-related taxes can be complex, so you and your family and other heirs should discuss these issues with your tax advisor.

- **Will they be liable for any outstanding expenses?** If you have developed a comprehensive estate plan, it's unlikely your heirs will be on the hook for any outstanding expenses, such as credit card balances or funeral costs. If you do still carry a mortgage, though, and you are planning on leaving your house to your heirs, they may want to be prepared to act quickly to sell it.

When leaving an inheritance, there's a lot involved — emotionally, financially and legally. So, do whatever you can to make the entire process

as easy as possible for your loved ones. By communicating your wishes regarding the inheritance, and by considering all the issues that may arise, you can go a long way toward achieving the outcomes you desire.

Contact Tim for assistance with your personal finances.

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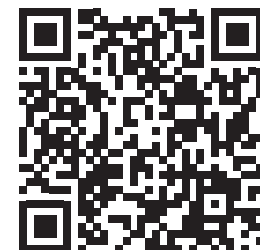
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Grafton Residents to Do Jimmy Fund Walk

Residents from Grafton will participate in the Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai on Sunday, October 6.

Retiring Police Chief Normand Crepeau, Erin Slason, Cathryn Williams, Mary Legere, Betsy Ryer, Maria McManus, Kelly Gannon, Kristie Copeland, Rao Kandukuri, Caitlin Ghegan, and five other Grafton residents, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in the iconic annual event that unites the community to raise funds and support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$176 million for Dana-Farber in its 35-year history, raising a record-breaking \$9.4 million in 2023.

Grafton residents Mark Leahy and Ken Knoblock will participate as Walk Heroes for the Jimmy Fund Walk. Heroes are Dana-Farber patients, the heart of the event, who provide inspiration and motivation to walkers along the course. Heroes are matched with Jimmy Fund Walk teams who walk in their honor. Leahy was diagnosed with Stage IV metastatic prostate cancer and recently retired as the Execu-



Grafton's Mark Leahy, retired chief for the Northborough Police Department, has been honored as Alumni Team Captain of the Year by the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund walk.

tive Director of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association. He is a longtime walker on Team Police Chiefs.

"After many years of participating in the Jimmy Fund Walk, I found myself as a patient," Leahy writes. "When I received my diagnosis, there was never a doubt about where I'd go for treatment. Dana-Farber is simply the best. The physicians and staff made me feel welcome, cared for, and at peace.

Thank you!"

Ken was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. He is matched with Foxborough and Milford's team Kindness For Katie.

"I have found Dana-Farber to be my lifeline to maintaining my health and continuing to live my life," Ken writes. "With Dana-Farber behind me, I'm able to hike, bike, ski, travel, and play pickleball!"

"For 35 years, the Jimmy Fund Walk has continuously supported lifesaving research and cancer care at Dana-Farber. Our goal is to build off of the momentum we've established throughout that history, and in 2024, aim to surpass our total from last year by raising \$9.5 million," said Caitlin Fink, assistant vice president of event fundraising. "Fighting cancer is what we do. The Walk unites our community under a common goal—to defy cancer together."

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted to use

JIMMY FUND
continued on page 7

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44th Annual Waters Farm Days

Wrap up your fall excursions with a trip to Waters Farm on October 19 & 20th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., where the past & present combine to produce a family-oriented weekend full of activities & educational experiences. Waters Farm is a not-for-profit (501c3) all-volunteer run living history center located on 120 beautiful acres in West Sutton, MA.

The Ken Ethier Memorial Antique Tractor Show will pay tribute to show organizer and board member, Ken Ethier, who passed away on June 30th. We were so blessed to have his leadership and knowledge. He is dearly missed by all. The Chapter 18 International Harvester Club and other enthusiasts from New England will be displaying and demonstrating their antique tractors, implements, and doodlebugs. The Sten Brote Memorial Engine Show honors his decades of collecting, restoring and promoting antique engines. This year features a special engine that was donated to the farm from his prized possessions. We are truly grateful for Ken and Sten's commitment to the farm and the hobby.

Shop at our large selection of craft vendors. Enjoy lunch, apple crisp and baked goods from our food vendors. Watch the apple pie baking contest on Sunday at 12:30p. Watch the Antique Farm Tractor Pulls both days. There will be demonstrations from yesteryear including our working Blacksmith Shop, Shingle Mill and Maple Sugar House. See an antique Hammer Mill demonstration processing grain near the Shingle Mill.

The restored hearths in the Waters Farmhouse will be in operation to enhance your house tour. Stop by the Peddler's Shop on your way out of the house to purchase clothing and gifts. Be sure to visit the Darling Barn to see pottery demonstrations and other artisans. Check out local history with the Sutton Historical Society and meet with Ross Weaver to see if you share lineage with the Waters family.

Children's activities include games, contests, barrel train rides, inflatables, and bottle rockets. The Sutton Robotics Team will be on-site as well as the Scouts, emergency vehicles and plenty of interactive presentations.

The Animal Showcase, sponsored by the Sutton Agricultural Trust, includes 4-H animals, goats and small farm animals, cattle projects, and the Angel Hair Alpacas. Other exhibitors include horses, donkeys, mules, working teams of oxen, pet rescues, dog agility demonstrations and so much more. Some demonstrations are for one day only. Don't miss a thing... Your paid membership includes free admission for a year.

Music will be provided by Cruisin' Bruce Palmer. Food and beverages are available onsite. Wagon rides, provided by Whittier Farms, run throughout the day traversing the grounds.

Sunday features include the Bruce Nichols Memorial Car Show in the upper field. The annual apple pie baking contest is next to the Apple Crisp Shed at 12:30pm. Rules and information will be available on our website.

Exhibitors and volunteers are always welcome. Craft vendor spaces applications are being accepted. Please visit our Facebook page (Waters Farm Preservation Inc) or website at www.watersfarm.org.

JIMMY FUND

continued from page 6

the Boston Marathon course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: 5K walk (from Dana-Farber's Longwood Medical Campus); 10K walk (from Newton); half marathon walk (from Wellesley); and marathon walk (from Hopkinton). Walkers can participate virtually as well.

The Jimmy Fund comprises community-based fundraising events and other programs that,

solely and directly, benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's lifesaving mission to provide compassionate patient care and groundbreaking cancer research for children and adults. The Jimmy Fund is an official charity of the Boston Red Sox, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Pan-Mass Challenge, and the Variety Children's Charity of New England. Since 1948, the generosity of millions of people has helped the Jimmy Fund save countless lives and reduce the burden of cancer for patients and families worldwide. Follow the

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Grafton Land Trust News

The Grafton Land Trust will host its Annual Dinner Meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the High-

land Country Club. Molly Cardoza from the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor will be

the guest speaker. Tickets are \$65 per person and may be purchased online at www.graftonland.org or by emailing info@graftonland.org. Win a basket of gift cards and other items to Grafton businesses or an Eagle Painting by Dianne Davis. Tickets are \$5 each or six for \$25. Tickets must be purchased by Friday, October 18.

There are several spots still available for the workshop on Site Preparation for Landscape Transformation with Kathy Connolly. The event will be held at 2 p.m. on October 20 at the Community Harvest Project, 37 Wheeler Road, Grafton. This 2.5 hour presentation is a primer on preparing a site for change. It will cover planning,

timelines, soil assessment, site selection, plant selection, water sources, water management, equipment and products. The seminar is accompanied by an extensive research document.

This seminar is sponsored by the Grafton Land Trust and is free to the general public. Reserve a spot by emailing infor@graftonland.org.



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Worcester County Sheriff's Office Receives Highest Mark for Accreditation

Worcester County Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office are thrilled to announce that the Worcester County Sheriff's Office completed all the requirements for re-accreditation through the American Correctional Association, receiving a compliance score of 98.7%.

In April, the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction hosted a panel of ACA Auditors who evaluated the facility on over 420 ACA industry standards. The standards focus on inmate safety, health care, mental health, education, programming, officer training, staff safety, and facility administration.

Correctional institutions accredited by the American Correctional Association must be re-accredited every three years to maintain their accreditation status. The Worcester County Sheriff's Office has maintained its accreditation since its initial accreditation in 2008.



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Help and Hope for Your Lawn

The Sutton Garden Club, together with the Blackstone Valley Garden Club, will meet at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, October 17 to present the program "Lawns and Lawn Alternatives". The program will begin at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Dudley-Gendron Post 414, 156 Boston Post Road, Sutton.

Gretel Anspach, Trustee of Mass. Horticulture and a Lifetime Master Gardener of the Mass. Master Gardener Association will

present the program.

Lawns are imported garden fixtures from places with cool, wet summers. Here a "perfect" lawn drains water supplies, can be a source of pollution - and a lot of work. Gretel Anspach, our speaker, will present options for tailoring your lawn and your lawn care to fit your needs, potentially eliminating many hours of labor and expensive treatments every year. The talk will include some discussion of alternatives to the traditional grass lawn.

Sutton Garden Club welcomes new members throughout the year. Annual membership remains at \$20 individual/\$30 family. Membership forms are available on our website, <http://www.suttongardenclub.typepad.com> and at our meetings.

Guests are welcome to attend but will be charged \$5. Visit www.suttongardenclub.typepad.com/ and www.facebook.com/Sutton-GardenClub/

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UniBank Hosts Family Festival at Historic Uxbridge Branch

UniBank, the largest Mutual Community Bank headquartered in Central Massachusetts, recently hosted a family festival at their Uxbridge branch for the community.

The event included complimentary food and ice cream trucks, moon bounces, a DJ, games, face painting, a mobile zoo from Southwick's Zoo in Mendon, free bank swag, and much more.

Michael Welch, CEO of UniBank, said, "As the summer days are ending, we wanted to host a complimentary festival for the

Uxbridge community, who has supported UniBank for over 154 years. We had well over 700 people attend and enjoyed an afternoon out with their families and fellow community members. When we talk about being a Community Bank, it's important to us to walk-the-walk and give back in tangible ways, and this festival was our pleasure to host for Uxbridge. We have and will continue to be a bank headquartered in "the Valley", and that makes a world of difference to our community."

UniBank is headquartered in

Whitinsville, MA with assets of \$2.7 billion as of June 30, 2024. A full-service, mutually owned community bank, UniBank has branches in Central Massachusetts and the MetroWest region of Massachusetts. UniBank is dedicated to contributing to the overall quality of life and economic health of the communities it serves, while maintaining an elevated level of financial soundness and integrity. UniBank is an Equal Housing Lender and Member FDIC. NMLS #583135. The company website is www.unibank.com.

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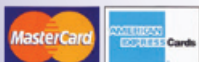
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Healthier Baking in the Blackstone Valley

BY CHRISTINE GALEONE

There's no doubt that we're living in a complex world. The political landscape is filled with complexity. International relations are complex. Even the technology people use every day seems to always grow in complexity.

Thankfully, the antidote to the sometimes overwhelming state of our modern times is easy to uncover. It's simplicity. And one way to harness the power of simplicity is by baking timeless desserts with minimal ingredients. These blueberry hand pies are a prime example.

One of the main reasons that these hand pies are healthier is because there are no artificial ingredients, colors or preservatives, and there's only a minimal amount of added sugar. Inflammation caused by eating too much sugar can make people more susceptible to most of the worst illnesses, diseases and conditions.

Another good reason is because of the health benefits of blueberries. Blueberries are considered to be a superfood. They are certified by the American Heart Association to be a heart-healthy fruit. Loaded with antioxidants, they are believed to be beneficial in fighting cancer and in improving brain health. Additionally, the anthocyanins – which give the fruit its deep color

– may have antidiabetic effects. Cinnamon also has antioxidant properties.



BLUEBERRY HAND PIES

Hand Pie Crust Ingredients:

2 Cups of Flour
 ¼ Cup of Butter (melted to the consistency of shortening)
 ½ tsp. Baking Powder
 ½ tsp. Salt (omit if using salted butter)
 ½ tsp. white vinegar
 10 tbsp. cold water

Directions:

Combine flour, baking powder and salt in a large bowl.
 Cut in butter until like peas.
 Sprinkle vinegar over the mixture.
 Sprinkle 1 tbsp. of water over part of mixture, toss with a fork, and move moistened dough to the side of the bowl. Repeat with the rest of the mixture, until it's all moistened.

Gather dough into two balls. Then, divide each ball in half, so you have four balls. On a well-floured piece of parchment paper, divide the first ball of dough into two. Then, flatten and shape the first one into the bottom of a hand pie crust. Place the second aside. And repeat this step until all four have been shaped and are ready to be filled.

Hand Pie Filling Ingredients:

1 Cup of Rinsed and Dried Fresh Blueberries
 1 tbsp. of Flour
 2 tbsp. of Granulated Sugar
 1 tsp. of Cinnamon

Directions:

Pre-heat the oven to 375 degrees. In a medium-sized bowl, combine all the filling ingredients. Spoon about two tablespoons of the filling into each unbaked pie shell. Flatten the four remaining balls of pie crust dough and place each on one of the filled crusts. Then, seal the crusts together, and make a few small cuts on the top of each for ventilation. Bake the hand pies for about 20 minutes or until golden. Let cool, and enjoy!

When the world becomes too complicated, we all need a way to briefly retreat from its complexities. Baking – or cooking – a simple delicacy with simple ingredients is an ideal way to fulfill that need. Happy (healthier) baking!

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bankHometown promotes Henrichon to senior assistant branch manager

bankHometown recently promoted Kimberley Henrichon to senior assistant branch manager, based in its 109 Elm St., Millbury office.



Henrichon, of Millbury, has more than 35 years of banking experience. She started her career in banking as a teller at Millbury Savings Bank in 1989 and has held various retail and customer service roles at bankHometown throughout her time with the bank.

Henrichon studied business at Quinsigamond Community College and Becker College and has a certificate in Finance/Banking from the American Institute of Banking's Banking School. She is currently a member of the Elks Club of Auburn.

We're proud to fulfill our community banking mission—providing individualized financial support, a suite of comprehensive products and services, and smart banking technology—all to ensure our customers can unlock their potential and build a successful future.

Through our sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2023 alone, The Giving Tree donated nearly \$400,000 and over the last decade has donated more than \$2.7 million. bankHometown was

About bankHometown:

Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts. We have \$1.4 billion in assets and offer a complete line of consumer and business deposit and lending products and services through 16 branches located throughout Central Massachusetts and northeast Connecticut.

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*Rent may be adjusted based on annual income limits provided by HUD.
**Minimum Income Requirement does not apply to households receiving housing assistance such as Section 8 or MRVP.

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Luke Travels Upstream at New Hampshire's Doggie Dive

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

The New Hampshire motto, "Live Free or Die" couldn't have been more relevant this past August. Luke's annual trip (of two) to the White Mountains, NH was full of all that he loved about the great outdoors. There was so much to see and smell and hear. He especially loved sleeping at the foot of our bedside in a charming cottage that smelled of wood and honey. Who would have guessed that the tide of our trip would turn?

We took Luke to the Basin, a sought-out New Hampshire

destination full of lavish attractions. The experience was both primal and positive for Luke. Rugged trails frosted with sticks and stones whet his palette, though his mind remained doggishly on-track. "THERE'S WATER DOWN THERE!! I'M NOT KIDDING YOU!" There was no denying the scent of glistening streams down below. Even if we could manage to deter Luke, how would we sleep at night knowing that we pulled him away from one of mother earth's natural wonders? We tightened our bootstraps and trucked downhill.

Shades of green and gold shimmered like a desert of shiny pennies in the natural pool before us. Rays of sunlight beamed down on the water's surface. Ripples of light danced. We were in heaven,

it seemed. Luke shot a glance at the water then—sold—pulled us forward like a drug-sniffing canine. "Luke. Easy!" He was euphoric, high on the prospect of immersing himself in one of New Hampshire's greatest treasures, the wondrous basin. He stretched. He sniffed. He darted this way and that, barking at rushes of water. "I'm not afraid of you! I've fought the hose water rush for one-point-five years now!"

Luke may have been fearless, but we were not. My husband's knees knocked to the cry of Luke's water passion. What if he was swallowed up and taken down stream? I worried that me might tear an ACL, given so many slippery rocks. "What a beautiful dog!" We buried our fears in the comfort of fellow hikers—that and Luke's research.

My dog proved a careful observer. He crouched down low. He sniffed out what did and didn't make sense, even for an expert swimmer. He noted the intensity and force of water explosions at certain sections. His big head creased in awareness. He backed off. He tested the waters with a tentative paw. Luke was determined to make informed choices. Survival was in his genes. He may not be the fittest, but he was certainly the fluffiest.

Moreover, this pedigree descended from a long line of thinkers. He looked up at us for a verdict. "You're being such a good boy, Luke." We unhitched him and allowed him to swim in the baby pool on the opposite side of the falls.

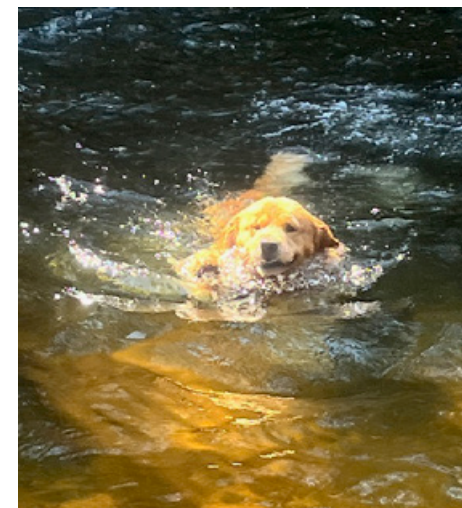
"Look at the doggie learning to swim, honey!" Every Dog Mom has experienced that moment—when her dog's behavior falls somewhere between being cute and bizarre. "He's making his own fun with the bubbles!" Indeed, he was. "It's his thing." I responded, while an oblivious Luke paddled like an unathletic seal. He flapped at the water to create bubbles, then chased them down with a biting mouth. Perhaps we should have cut our losses and settled on one dynamic swim for Luke.

New Hampshire, ever outdoorsy, held more water opportunity.

The Bretton Woods River had been a historic hideaway spot, a nook in the back end of the woods with flat rocks situated between two natural pools. The expansive landscape offered a perfect means to sit on a towel, sunbathe, or, in the case of this Friday, take your dog to a water park. Our private beach had apparently gained notoriety.

"This is Luke," I hollered down from the high incline leading to the beach. "He's friendly, but occasionally shows same-sex aggression." My voice became the echo of a mickey mouse game. Owners tightened their grips on dog leashes and gossiped about Luke. Oblivious, he puffed his mane out like Mufasa of the Lion King and stood like a statue on a high ledge. Big dogs pinned their ears back. Small dogs closed their tiny, barky mouths.

"Let's go." We bumbled clumsily down the trail leading to the natural beach. Elena, a happy-go-lucky silver lab, mouthed a tennis ball and greeted



me with a full body shake and shower. "Sorry about that," her owner apologized. "No worries! I was hot anyway," I lied. Dog People have learned from their dogs to not sweat the small stuff. Elena eyed Luke adoringly, but he ignored the opposite sex. In fact, he ignored every sex on the dog beach.

"I haven't swum in twenty-four hours." Unleashed, the stud melted into the water and paddled gracefully. Then, something changed. As though wanting to separate himself from the hype of the Doggie Dive, he began to paddle further down the river. We all raised a brow. "Where's Luke headed?" The scene falls on me now like a 35-millimeter slide shot of my childhood. "Remember the time when we visited the river and Luke...."

The current takes him by surprise. I can see him whimper upon discovering that the water resists his paddle. He's learned that he's not able to freely swim back in the direction he came from. He's suddenly nervous. Dogs need to sense exactly how to return home. At the same time, he boasts a side of himself that is hugely strong. His big head bobs over the water while his paws and full body operate like a small motor. My pup, a playful swimmer, is literally traveling upstream. He cannot go with the flow, lest he be taken by the river's current. I've

LUKE

continued on page 13

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REAL ESTATE

Today's Biggest Housing Market Myths

Have you ever heard the phrase: don't believe everything you hear? That's especially true if you're thinking about buying or selling a home in today's housing market. There's a lot of misinformation out there. And right now, making sure you have someone you can go to for trustworthy information is extra important.



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

If you partner with a real estate agent, they can clear up some common misconceptions and reassure

you by backing them up with facts. Here are just a few misconceptions we can help disprove.

1. I'll get a better deal once prices crash: If you've heard home prices are going to come crashing down, it's time to look at what's

actually happening. While prices vary by local market, there's a lot of data out there from numerous sources that shows a crash is not going to happen. Back in 2008, there was a dramatic oversupply of homes that led to prices crashing. Across the board, there's an undersupply of homes for sale today. That makes this market a whole different scenario.

	Then	Now
Existing Homes	10.4 month's supply	4.1 month's supply
Newly built home	1.6 million	1 million
Foreclosures	1.7 million	300k

So, if you think waiting will score you a deal, know that data shows there's not a crash on the horizon, and waiting isn't going to pay off the way you'd hoped.

2. I won't be able to find anything to buy: If this nagging fear about finding the right home if you move is still holding you back, you probably haven't talked with an expert real estate agent lately. Throughout the year, the supply of homes for sale has grown. Data from Realtor.com helps put this

into context. While there are still fewer homes on the market than in a more normal year like 2019, inventory is still above where it was at this time last year.

The supply of homes for sale is improving. Pre-pandemic inventory was -28.7%. Today year over year we are at 35.6%. That is a lot to choose from.

So, if you're remembering all that media coverage about record-low supply during the pandemic, you can rest

a bit easier. While the market isn't back to normal just yet, inventory is moving in a healthier direction and that means as your options improve, you can let go of this now outdated myth because finding a home to buy won't feel quite so impossible anymore.

3. I have to wait until I have enough for a 20% down payment: Many people still believe you need a 20% down payment to buy a home. To show just how widespread this myth is, Fannie

Mae says: Approximately 90% of consumers overstate or don't know the minimum required down payment for a typical mortgage. First-time homebuyers are typically only putting down 6%. That's far less than the 20% so many people think they need. Repeat buyers are closer to 20% at 17% because they have so much equity built up in their current house that can be used to make a larger down payment for their next move.

This goes to show you don't have to put 20% down, unless it's specified by your loan type or lender. Many people put down a lot less.

Not to mention, depending on the type of home loan you get, you may only need to put 3.5% or even 0% down. So, if you're buying your first home, you likely don't need nearly as much for your down payment as you may think.

If you put your move on pause because you heard one or more of these myths yourself, it's time to talk to the Marzeotti Group or another trusted agent. An expert agent has more data and the facts, just like this, to reassure you and help break through any misconceptions that may be holding you back.

LUKE
continued from page 12

been navigating these rivers for over forty years. I've got to lure Luke away from panic. I climb onto an island of smooth stones and stand perpendicular to him. "C'mon, Luke. Swim this way." I can tell that he's working towards me, but it's not easy. A woman stands above us at the cliff bordering the river. Her fingers rest on her chest. "We are all praying for him."

The moment is both redundant and significant. I've been here

before. I've done this before. "You can do it, Luke." By this time, I'm side-stroking my way in the direction he needs to follow. His wet bear cub face bobs above the water. He's paddling against the current with his chunky paws until, finally, something clicks. "I gotta go get Momma."

Luke makes his way out of the flow.

"Yayyyyy, Luke!! The entire Dog Park had been watching an episode of The Day Luke Got Stuck in a Current. Dogs sat still and stared. Smokers paused between puffs. Elena dropped her ball. One dog lover stood ankle deep at the shore

with a bag of Doritos. "Can I give him one?"

My mind's eye traces over the casual manner by which Luke munched the chip, shook off the incident, and went back in the water with better understanding of how the river works. He even found a boulder to climb upon to regroup if needed.

My dog would rather die than live without freedom. I couldn't agree with him more.

Write to Amy
amyleclaire@hotmail.com
Follow Luke on IG
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TALES FROM BEYOND

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The Ghost Of Giles Corey

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

The Howard Street Cemetery in Salem, Massachusetts is a regular stop on ghost tours. The many ancient graves are worth the trek alone, but it is another eerie

sighting that the tour goers want to see, yet most Salem residents shudder at the thought of. The graveyard, dating back to 1801 was the field where Giles Corey met his tragic end during the Salem witch hysteria of 1692. Sheriff George

Corwin condemned him for witchcraft. When asked to enter a plea, he used the legal tactic of "standing mute" and therefore his land could not be confiscated. With no plea entered, Corey technically remained innocent, and his property

could not be legally seized.

On September 19, 1692, in an attempt to get a plea from the 81 year old man, Giles Corey was placed in the field under great boulders where the Howard Street Cemetery now sits. It is right behind the old Salem Prison which recently became apartments. When asked to enter a plea, he just said, "more weight." This went on for three days.

Before he died from the immense weight of the boulders that were placed upon him, he cursed the village of Salem and all sheriffs who would ever preside in the little hamlet. The personal curse he placed on Corwin went to the effect that he would someday choke on his own blood. It seems that his curse has had some sort of influence on the town. Records reveal that every sheriff of Salem has since suffered the same illness resulting in death or an early retirement due to a heart or blood related malady. Corwin died at the age of 30 from a heart attack on April 12, 1696.

There is a legend that Giles Corey's ghost always appears before something tragic happens. His ghost was seen roaming the cemetery just before the Salem fire of June 25, 1914 that destroyed 1,376 buildings and made over 18,000 people homeless or jobless. Corey's ghost has been reported just before other smaller but significant terrible events in the Witch City. Many tourists have taken photographs of what appears to be either Corey's ghost or one of the many others that are said to roam this active burial ground.

Giles Corey's burial site remains

unknown to this day. George Corwin's remains were hidden in the cellar of the family home out of the fear that the angry people of Salem who were wronged by his hand would tear his corpse to shreds. He was later buried in the Howard Street Cemetery in the family plot.

One more interesting note; the cemetery was opened in 1801 and the first interment was a 2nd mate aboard the Belisarius named Benjamin Ropes who died tragically, oddly enough, after being crushed to death by the foretopmast of the ship.

After meandering through the Howard Street Cemetery, take a trip to the Charter Street Burial Ground where the Salem witchcraft memorials are. This is actually the most popular of the Salem graveyards. It is here that the memorial to the people who were executed for the crime of witchcraft sits. Stone slabs mark the memory and death of each of the nineteen victims. There are claims that the place is haunted. People have seen apparitions and heard unearthly screams from the cemetery. Perhaps the spirits of those who perished due to the witch trials either at the gallows or in jail still wait for revenge and restitution. If you visit the graveyard you will see that the memorial is not accessible from the burial ground. Even in death long after the persecutions have ended, these individuals are still kept apart from their peers. Infamous witch judge Jonathan Hathorne is buried there. His descendant, Nathaniel Hawthorne added a "W" to his name in order to separate himself from the horrible family legacy.



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JAMEY YAYLAIAN

SPORTS

Sutton-Douglas Football Returns with a Dozen Seniors

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Having only become a program for about a dozen seasons, the Sutton-Douglas co-op football team put together one of their better campaigns last fall. Going 6-5 during the regular season the squad was able to qualify for the Division 8 state playoffs where they were awarded a 10 seed in the 16-team division. Unfortunately, Sutton-Douglas fell to KIPP Academy 46-20 in the first round and were sent home earlier than they would have liked. Putting together a six win season was one in which tied the school record for the best season during the schools young existence.

"We are still a work in progress and are considered a young program" coach Patrick Moseley said. "From that season we lost nine seniors, but are returning 12 this year, most of them starters and we should be able to compete with what we did last fall."

One of the returning seniors will be quarterback Cam Benedict, who has been under center all four years. Over his time as the team's field general Benedict has not only matured as a player, but has developed an understanding of the offense. According to the coach, Benedict has learned that he cannot just continue to rely on himself, but must incorporate his teammates as well.

"Cam has grown up as a person as well as a player over the years," Moseley said. "Passing is his strength and he knows that not every play has to be 40-50 yards down field, instead he's taking those quick interior routes down the field one pass at a time."

In addition to the quarterback, Sutton-Douglas also has Benedict's younger brother, junior receiver Brennan Benedict coming back this fall. The younger sibling is 6'4"

and brings a big body to the team's outside receiving. He is also good at reading the defenses and adjusting to find the space needed to get open. Together the two brothers have worked hard to improve their game for the upcoming season.

Another offensive weapon this fall will be senior running back Declan O'Callaghan. Despite playing a different position last season the senior looks to be a downhill power back for the squad this year.

"There was another back in front of him last year, but this year Declan is going to get the bulk of our carries and carry the load," the coach said. "As far as the team goes were a 60-40 run-pass. It's nice to have Cam back there to pass once we establish the run."

Last fall Sutton-Douglas' main back was able to secure 850 yards or so on the ground and Moseley firmly believes that O'Callaghan, who will be the team's feature back in this year's system, should be able to exceed those rushing numbers this year.

Defensively the team will play a 4-2-5 scheme with a lot of skilled players in the secondary, but the strength will lie up front with the team's linebackers. O'Callaghan will be one of those linebackers playing up front, while Jacob Bastardo take his post at defensive tackle, Liam Gervickas at defensive end, and Ryan Doolin will play defensive end and tackle – all as will also main contributors to the line disrupting the opposition's offense.

With the season looking to get underway Moseley and his team are once again looking to qualify for the state playoffs this year putting together an extended run while putting themselves in a better position (lower than a 10 seed) than last fall.

In addition to earning themselves a spot in the Division 8 post-season, Sutton-Douglas will be looking to secure their first ever



Dual Valley Conference (DVC) Championship. In order to do that

they will also have to be successful with a DVC opponent on Thanks-

SPORTS
continued on page 17

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Air Bags Don't Need Replacing

Q. In 2001 my wife bought a new VW Cabrio. It eventually became her second car and she drove it increasingly infrequently. I married her 10 years ago and adopted the car as my second one. I try to drive it locally a couple of times a week for up to 50 minutes round trip. It only has 65,000 miles on

it! I was wondering about the condition of the airbags. What, if anything, can I do about them? I used to use the local VW dealer until he told me VW no longer made parts for the car. I do have a reliable mechanic available.

A. There are still plenty of parts available for this car since it shares much of its parts with the VW Golf. Currently there are no recalls on this car for airbags or anything else safety related. There was a time when it was thought airbags should be replaced every 10 years. Over time it was determined there was no need to replace the airbags just due to age. Unless the airbag light comes on, which could indicate a system issue, I would not be concerned. By the way my wife also had a Cabrio, one of her favorite cars.

Q. I pulled into my favorite gas station today and noticed that the tanker truck was filling the underground tanks. Is it an old wives tale that you should not fill up your car until the sediment has settled sometime after the tanker truck

has left, or does it really make no difference?

A. I, too, would avoid filling my car's tank when I saw the tanker truck at a gas station. But a knowledgeable source in the petroleum industry has brought me up to date. He feels that at one time there used to be a lot of truth to this tale, but the introduction of ethanol into the gas supply has added a high degree of cleaning solvent. This ethanol has essentially cleaned much of these contaminants from both storage tanks and gas tankers. The only potential problems are any contaminants that remain in delivery barges and very large regional storage tanks. It is possible that these contaminants could make their way into delivery trucks.

Q. I have a 1979 Cadillac Seville with a V-8 engine. It is my toy; I love it more than life. I take her out Saturday mornings for a nice peaceful drive on the highways for an hour by myself to get away from it all. The car was purchased from the midwest when it had just 8400 miles on it, and it now has 66,000 miles on it and is still in mint condition. Recently the car had what I have been told is a fuel issue. This has an old carburetor system is one no one wants to work on. My mechanic said it would be smart to change to something other than the GM carburetor. What do you think?

A. Changing to an after-market carburetor is an option but would not be

my first choice. You might want to consider updating it to fuel injection. Holley makes what they call the Sniper kit. It is basically a throttle body style fuel injection system. The installation is simple, and it is self-tuning, starts with a turn of the key (no pumping) and should perform better than the stock carburetor.

Q. Perhaps tell me I am crazy. I found a Checker cab for sale and have an interest in it as a project car. I always think of Checkers as indestructible and want to add a high-performance engine as a replacement for the seized engine. Since this car is not made any more do you think it would be a mistake to buy it and modify it?

A. The Checker Marathon was the New York taxicab of choice. The great thing about the Checker was that it was sort of an assemblage of parts from mostly General Motors. The Checkers are very heavy (and can be prone to rust) and may not be the best choice for a performance hotrod. That being said, this car would be an easy car to add a high-performance GM engine (maybe with a supercharger) and performance transmission, add some flames, and the end result would be a very cool looking car.



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SPORTS

continued from page 15

giving Day when they take on rival Blackstone-Millville. Over the

course of the rivalry the two teams are relatively equal, although BMR has been victorious over the past two seasons. Moseley noted that it would be nice to take back the Thanksgiving game this year with a

win on BMR's home field. "For us to be successful this season we need to improve upon our physicality," Moseley said. "Go out there and finish our plays on both the offensive and defensive side of

the ball, while playing together as a team."

If the athletes can take to the field and follow their coaches' instructions the Sutton-Douglas

football team is more than likely to not only improve upon their regular season record, but make a run through the tournament for the first time in their young existence.

Global Village Community Farm Days

The Global Village Farm at 50 Moroney Road, Grafton will hold Community farming days on October 6 and 27. Come prepared to get dirty, share good

conversation and a potluck lunch. Volunteers will harvest, care for chickens, plant seedlings, chop wood, water and tend to the veggie beds. Sign up at <https://www.glo->

[balvillagefarms.org/cooperative-farming/volunteer-work-days/](https://www.glo-balvillagefarms.org/cooperative-farming/volunteer-work-days/).

Also, save October 19 at 6 p.m. for a concert by Taina Asili celebrating love and unity.

The New England Country Music

Club will sponsor the following dances with live Classic Country Bands at the Progressive Club, 18 Whittin Street., N. Uxbridge. Dances include:

- Sunday, October 6, Al Carter, Hands,
- Sunday, October 20, The Farm Hands,
- Sunday, November 3, Crossfire
- Sunday, November 17, Rhode

Island Rednecks. Doors open at 12:15 p.m., music 1-5 p.m., \$11 for non-members. Snacks may be brought in, cash bar for beverages.

Blackstone Heritage Corridor Hikes

Blackstone Heritage Corridor will offer hikes with Ambassador Phil this fall in the following locations. The hikes begin at 10 a.m.

- Sunday, September 29 : Douglas State Forest, Douglas

- Saturday, October 12: Castle Hill Farm, Whitinsville
- Saturday, October 26: Wallis Pond Loop, Douglas
- Saturday, November 9: Hopedale Parklands, Hopedale
- Sunday, November 24: Inman

- Hill, Mendon
- Saturday, December 7: Shaw Farm, Sutton
- Saturday, December 21: Gummere Woods, Grafton

Boat America Course

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing a one-day boating safety course at the Webster Fire Department, 55 Thompson Road, from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday, November 2. It is time to get your family's boating knowledge and skills ready for the waters and for required Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut certification.

This course was developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters; and the basic knowledge necessary to have safe, enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, including paddlecraft, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Successful completion of the course will certify any minor, from 12 to 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal Water Craft / Jet Ski (for 16 & 17-year-old operators), on Massachusetts waters; in conjunction with the Mass. Environmental Police. Certification requirements for Massachusetts may be expanded in the future; ap-

proved by NASBLA this course covers requirements to operate a vessel in other states and many countries where boating safety education is mandatory; including Rhode Island and Connecticut where it is required for all PWC operators and most boaters. Most boating insurance companies offer a discount on premiums for successful completion of this course.

Register by October 28– space is limited! The USCGAux. offers courses at no charge however

there is a \$45 fee for the cost of materials including the Boat America textbook, handouts, and certification(s). Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied in person by a registered parent/guardian.

Contact our Public Education Officer Phil Kubat for registration for additional information: email phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or call 508- 478-3778.

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THROUGH OCT 31

- The Pumpkin Patch at the First Congrega-

tional Church, 128 Central Street, Auburn will be open daily 10 a.m. 'til dusk September 21st through October 31st or until sold out. There will be gourds and pumpkins of all sizes and prices – one for every need; be it for your fall decor, carving, baking – you name it! The pumpkins are raised and harvested by the Navajos on their reservation in New Mexico. The money they receive helps their schools and other programs and a percentage of the sales helps our church as well. Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, feel free to call the church office at 508-832-2845.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- Upton's Annual Heritage Day Festival will

take place beginning at 9 a.m. Activities will take place in and around Upton center. The Society is grateful for Unibank's continued sponsorship of our annual event. Mark your calendar. This event is always a great time and the variety of events offer something for everyone. If circumstances require that it be cancelled a decision will be announced on or before September 25

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

• The 45th annual Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social, hosted by the Congregational Church of Grafton, will be held on Sunday, September 29, 2024, from 11 am – 3 pm on the church grounds, at 30 Grafton Common. Admission is free to this family-friendly event, and it is rain or shine. There will be: Homemade fresh apple pies & apple crisps Tasty hot dogs, hamburgers, meatball subs, corn chowder, chili, and beverages Huge yard sale – household items, toys, jewelry, clothing & more. Books for all ages Raffle baskets galore. Silent auction items, including a handmade doll house Kids' games, including a bounce house Live musical performances throughout the day, including: Kelly Clark's Jazz Band, Alison Balfour, The Driveway Chicks with Jan Barlow, and Gabe Cain, guitarist Come one, come all! For more information, visit www.uccgraffton.org, email grafftonucc@gmail.com, or call 508-839-4513. See our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/uccgraffton.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

- The Simon Fairfield Library in Douglas is hosting a Gardening Workshop with Shea Maloney of Riddle Brook Farm: "Cool Flowers: Growing Cold Hardy Annuals in a Northern Climate" at 6 p.m. in the library. Learn to cultivate hardy spring flowers. Space is limited, call for a spot 508-476-2695. Priority given to Douglas residents.
- The Sutton Senior Class will hold the Sutton Strong golf tournament on benefit the Forever Friends Club to support students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and fund activities for the Class of 2025. The event will be held at the Blackstone National Golf Club, 227 Putnam Hill Road, Sutton. The event kicks off with registration at 2:30 p.m. with a start time of 4 p.m. Four golfers per group, two groups per hole, 18 tournament holes. Cost is \$400 per foursome. Register at <https://app.eventcaddy.com/events/sutton-strong-84/register>

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

- Dudley Fire Department is hosting a Citizens' Fire Academy for people aged 18 or older who live or work in the town of Dudley. Eight weeks of three-hour classes for approximately 20 hours of instruction. Classes meet at 6 p.m. the Dudley Fire

HAPPENINGS!
continued on page 19

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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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AQUANETT SEPTEMBER 28	MURDER MYSTERY DINNER A VINTAGE 1940S THEMED SHOW OCTOBER 5	COMEDY NIGHT AT SLATERS SPECIAL GUEST GARY JAMES FEATURING CHRISTINE HURLEY SPECIAL GUEST RYAN GARTLEY OCTOBER 18
HALLOWEEN BASH WITH CHUCK PERKS COSTUMES, PRIZES, & MORE! OCTOBER 25	COMEDY NIGHT AT SLATERS HOSTED BY RYAN ELLINGTON FEATURING JIMMY DUNN SPECIAL GUEST CAROLYN PLUMMER NOVEMBER 22	DINING HOURS: WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY (4PM - 9PM) SATURDAY (12PM - 9PM) SUNDAY (12PM - 8PM) HOURS DIFFER DURING CONCERTS

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OVERLOOKING WEBSTER LAKE • 200 GORE ROAD, WEBSTER, MA

HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 18

Department, 128 West Main Street. Class size is limited to 12 students. For more information and an enrollment form, visit www.dudleyma.gov/fire-department.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

• The Dudley PTO will hold its Fall Festival from 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Shepherd Hill Regional High School. Visit this family-friendly event with food trucks, craft and specialty vendors, petting zoo, carnival games, live music, free trunk or treat and more. Rain date is October 20. New this year is a petting zoo, axe throwing, touch-a-truck. It's a new location with plenty of parking. No dogs allowed on site.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

• Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting at 4 p.m. at Convenient MD Urgent Care, 15 Pleasant Valley Road, Sutton. RSVP to Blackstonevalley.org/events.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

• Edward Jones Financial Advisor Dennis Antonopoulos and Medicare Specialist Lynne Mussulli will present a seminar on "Health Care and Your Retirement" at 6 p.m. (registration begins at 5:45 p.m.) at Brookdale Eddy Pond West, 669 Washington Street, Auburn. The seminar will address Medicare coverage and traditional medical expenses; long-term medical care expenses and strategies for addressing uncovered expenses. (A reminder that Medicare enrollment is between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7, 2024.) To register for this popular free seminar, please call Karen Rieser @ 508-832-5385 or email karen.rieser@edwardjones.com by October 8.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

• St. Patrick's Church Autumn Recycling Event. 8am - 1pm. 7 East St, Whitinsville. We will be accepting gently used books

(no encyclopedias) & media; gently used textiles/clothing & accessories; electronics for a fee (no propane, batteries, lightbulbs); rinsed bottles/cans returnable in MA (no glass). Please keep items for each station separate. For more information & pricing, email officesupport@mystpatrick.com or call 508-234-5656.

• St. Peter's Parish in Northbridge is having a Ham Dinner on Saturday, October 13th starting at 5:30 pm in the parish hall. Bring you family and friends for a wonderful meal and meet some new friends. Tickets are \$17 per dinner and include salad and dessert. To go meals will be available for pick up at 5:00pm and all orders must be purchased in advance. Please call the parish office at 508-234-2156 or email parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org to purchase tickets or if you have any questions.

• Meet Smokey Bear at Purgatory Chasm State Reservation from 1 - 2 p.m. Meet Smokey Bear and our DCR firefighters and help celebrate Smokey's 80th Birthday. Join us at the Pavilion near the chasm's entrance. The event will happen rain or shine, hazardous weather will cancel. For more information, contact Pat at 508-234-9610 or Purgatory.Chasm@mass.gov

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

• Auburn Historical Society & Museum's October meeting: Getting A "Grip" on History-Devon Kurtz of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor will be telling about the birth of the American Industrial Revolution in the Blackstone River Valley of which Auburn is a part. Auburn Sportsman's Club at 50 Elm Street at 6:30 p.m. For more information contact the Auburn Historical Society and Museum at auburnmuseum@verizon.net. All meetings are free and open to the public.

• The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce will host its Apple Pie Social networking event from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Willard House Clock Museum, 11 Willard Street, N. Grafton. Admission \$20 for members and \$30 for future members. RSVP by October 10 to blackstonevalley.org.

• Disney Movie Trivia Night fun for the whole family. Simon Fairfield library Douglas at 6 p.m.

• Sutton Garden Club 7 p.m. Seating begins at 6:45 p.m. Learn about lawn care and its alternatives with master gardener Gretal Anspach. At A.L. Dudgey-Gendron Post 4114, 156 Boston Post Road, Sutton.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

• Open Sky Community Services is excited to announce the 10th Annual Valley Bag Toss, an inclusive cornhole tournament being held October 19th at the Alternatives' Whitin Mill in Whitinsville. The Valley Bag Toss presents the perfect opportunity to show off the cornhole skills you developed over a summer at barbecues and picnics with friends and family. Beyond simply being fun, the funds raised at the tournament support Open Sky's health and wellness programs for the nearly 8,000 individuals served by the agency throughout Central Mass. People of all abilities, age 14+, are invited to participate in this friendly competition scheduled to be held at 50 Douglas Rd. Whitinsville, Mass. on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 12pm-5pm.

• The Millbury First Congregational Church,

148 West Main Street, is sponsoring a Flea Market and Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone wishing to reserve table space, please call Jeri Stead 508-865-5371. The \$25 inside area consists of a large supper table plus a card table. An outside reservation is \$15, and those chancing the weather need to provide their own table. The kitchen will be selling coffee and muffins, and hot dogs will be served during lunch hours. There will also be a Bakery Table, and a Church Fall Flea Market Table.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

• Grafton Fall Festival from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. on the Grafton Common. Decorate a pumpkin and build a scarecrow while supplies last. Enjoy music, food and games.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

• Be a part of Webster's annual Main Street Trunk or Treat event from 4-6 p.m. For businesses along Main Street and South Main Street, flyers will be available in the coming weeks. Please display the flyers if you wish to participate. The flyer is the same as a porch light welcoming trick or treaters. Anyone interested in decorating a car trunk, pickup truck or trailer, please reach out to cmarchand@webster-ma.gov to be part of a spooky good time.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

• Scarecrows on the Common, Joslin Park, Town Common, 352 Main Street, Oxford, 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. You're invited to fill the

town common with handcrafted scarecrows for the whole town to enjoy. Open to individuals, businesses and families. Visit www.oxfordma.myrec.com to register. Schedule of events: scarecrow drop-off 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.; music with "DW and the Shakemakers" at 12 – 2:30 p.m.; Sutton Dancing Witches perform at 1 p.m. Scarecrow judging begins at 3 p.m. Children's Costume Parade 3 p.m. Kids' games, crafts, snacks, vendors and more. Awards for most creative, funniest and best town spirit scarecrows.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

• The Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley will be having its 3rd annual Craft and Vendor Fair on Saturday, November 2nd from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 55 Oxford Ave, Dudley.

• St. Peter's Parish in Northbridge will be holding its Annual Holiday Fair on Saturday, November 2nd from 9:00am-3:00pm in the parish hall, 39 Church Avenue, Northbridge. Come out with your family and friends to enjoy the day! We will have all of your favorites: White Elephant Table, Baked Goods Table, Holiday Table, Craft Table with beautiful handmade quilts. There will also be tables filled with raffles (you never know what will be there!), a silent auction, scratch ticket raffle, quilt raffle and a gift basket raffle. Stay and enjoy a bite to eat with all of our favorite foods being served. For more information, please contact the parish office at 508-234-2156 or email: parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org.

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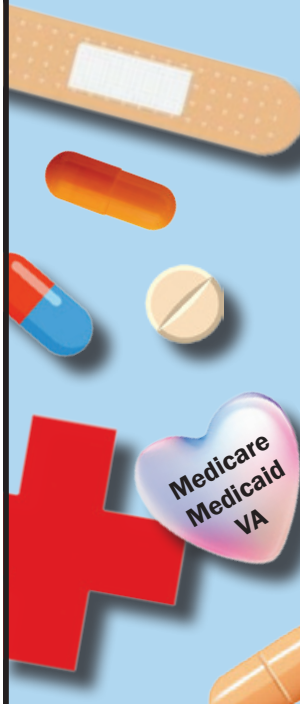
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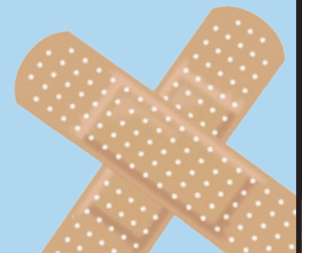
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