

Our Grandmothers, Our Grandparents

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Have you ever experienced that just over-the-edge emotion when describing someone dear to another person? It happened to me one evening several years ago as I was saying good night to my elderly mom as I tucked her into bed. My emotions got the better of me due to a weekly visit I'd just had with one of the residents at a nursing & rehab facility (where I served as a volunteer ombudsman assisting those residents who might require some extra help with different aspects of their lives).

That day, I happened to sit down to chat with a most wonderful grandmother who was very eager to have some company. She was an immigrant from Poland which is where my own cherished grandmother, or Babci, was from. (Babci is the Polish word for grandmother.) She spoke in broken English but it was very easy to understand her. This accent, along with her white hair and bright blue eyes were very reminiscent of my Babci too.

She told me how she came to America and worked many years in housekeeping for a large corporation outside of a large New England city and how she and her husband had two wonderful children, a boy and a girl, who were very good to her. Her daughter, she told me, had two degrees from a very well-known engineering school

but that daughter had recently passed away from a fast-moving cancer and Babci's own husband had passed in the last year too. Her wonderful son had a good business of his own and always looked after his mom. I had also met her son on a previous visit and can attest to his high level of attention to his mom. This nice Babci and her husband had a beautiful home where she had a large vegetable garden as well as blueberry bushes and apple trees. She and her family canned

about herself in such a short time. She sure did remind me of my own Babci who worked hard to raise her kids to have a better life. My own Babci who showed me how to make homemade noodles to go along with her homemade chicken soup. My Babci, who had a hard life when she first arrived in America.

My Babci has been gone for many years now but I still miss her and think of her every day. As I tucked my own mom into bed that night I told her how I'd met this most wonderful lady who reminded me so much of my own Babci and then my voice cracked as I wanted to tell mom all about her but couldn't speak another word.

Mom just said, "Say a prayer for her." So I did, and cried a while doing so.

This small tribute is for you, my Babci, and all the other grandmothers and grandfathers out there who are in nursing homes and rehab centers and have no one to visit them or relatives who don't quite get the Golden Rule. Who knows if we might become a resident in one of these centers and won't have anyone to visit us? That day, I brought a smile to a nice lady with a beautiful life story. I couldn't wait to visit her again and perhaps another nursing home resident who would look forward to sharing their life story. I was always honored and grateful that they choose to visit with me.



many fruits and vegetables every late summer and fall. Their yard, perhaps a half-acre, was always very well maintained. They were proud of having come to America to make a good life for themselves as well as for their children. Much like all immigrants who come to this country.

Now, however, here she was in the nursing home. When I lightly knocked on her room's door to introduce myself, she was napping but she quickly swung her legs over her bedside and welcomed me into her room with a bright smile. She didn't know who I was yet, even with my name tag, but she was very eager to speak with me. I stayed for about 30 minutes talking with her. She told me much

The Oxford Special Town Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2 at the Oxford High School, 100 Carbuncle Drive, Oxford.

Oxford Receives Distinguished Budget Award for Fiscal Year 2025

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

According to Town Manager Jennifer Callahan, the Government Finance Officers Association ("GFOA") recently announced that Oxford, Massachusetts received the GFOA's 2024 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. This will be the fourth year in a row that Oxford has received this prestigious commendation. This award represents a significant achievement and commitment of town staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

In order to receive the budget award, Oxford had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The guidelines are designed to assess how well a community's budget serves as a policy document, a

financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.

"This award is a testament to all of our dedication towards sound financial management and transparency. I want to thank our Finance Director Katie McKenna for working with me and all of the boards, committees, and department heads that contribute to developing the Fiscal Year 2025 budget document. To attain this international award four years in a row is no small feat of accomplishment," said Town Manager Jennifer Callahan.

Town Manager Callahan further stated, "This professional independent review has allowed Oxford to move its quality indicators for budget development through adoption significantly forward. It also reflects a solid commitment to balanced

OXFORD

continued on page 3

ENJOY A
CASH BONUS

by opening a **FREE**
Get Real CheckingSM account.

Get checking that checks all the boxes.

- ✓ **FREE** of monthly fees
- ✓ **FREE** mobile banking
- ✓ **All** deposits insured

Open an account in-branch or at bankHometown.com

bankHometown

Unlock your potential

Not responsible for surcharges or fees imposed by other banks, ATM operators and/or networks. Member FDIC | Member DIF

TAKE
10%
OFF

YOUR NEXT SERVICE VISIT
OF \$50 OR MORE.
Must present coupon at write-up.
Valid until 9.30.2024

HARBRO
AUTO SALES SERVICE

WHITINSVILLE | WEBSTER

(508) 499-3510

harbroauto.com/service

QCC awarded \$239K for re-entry workforce development program

Quinsigamond Community College was recently awarded a \$239,216 Re-entry Workforce Development Demonstration grant from the Healey-Driscoll Administration and administered by the Commonwealth Corporation, a quasi-public agency within the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. The funding is part of the \$2.6 million awarded by the state of Massachusetts to organizations to train formerly incarcerated individuals returning to the workforce for job opportunities in culinary, construction, manufacturing, hospitality and healthcare. “Funding for these types of

workforce training programs through re-entry grants enables us to provide vital skills and training necessary for returning citizens to be successful and self-sufficient, providing a pathway to a better life. This not only helps the individual person, but it also bolsters our economy locally and statewide,” stated QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja.

QCC will partner with Worcester County House of Correction to offer a training program to 20 returning citizens with a focus on the culinary and hospitality industry. Successful program graduates will receive employment assistance from QCC and the Massachusetts Restaurant Association.

“Providing formerly incarcerated individuals with job skills is more than just an opportunity for a paycheck—it’s a pathway to restoring dignity, rebuilding trust and laying the foundation for a brighter future,” said Dean of the Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education Kathie Manning. “We are deeply grateful for the support of the Commonwealth Corporation as we work to empower returning citizens to reintegrate into society, unlocking their full potential and creating a ripple effect of positive change that benefits families, employers and communities alike.”

Director of Workforce Development Operations and Workforce Development Kathleen O’Connor noted that program participants will learn from professional chefs, prepare diverse meals and work in a collaborative environment that fosters more than just culinary skills.

“This program offers an opportunity for returning citizens to start fresh and build a meaningful career in the culinary field while also developing confidence and a sense of community,” said O’Connor.

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%.

For more than 152 years, the American Correctional Association has championed the cause of corrections and correctional effectiveness. The American Correctional Association provides a professional organization for all individuals and groups, both public and private that share a common goal of improving the justice system.

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.

In an exit interview with on-site ACA auditors and WCSO Administrative Staff, the auditors praised the work of the Sheriff’s Office. The auditors mentioned that they regularly evaluate correctional facilities across the nation but have seen few institutions that operate at the level of the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office.

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.

“When I took office in 2011, my administration inherited one of the oldest facilities in the state,” commented Sheriff Evangelidis. “Initially, we faced significant challenges that jeopardized re-accreditation. Meeting ACA standards became a top priority for my administrative team. Striving to meet all standards has set our facility up for long-term success.”

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts does not mandate an audit of correctional facilities by the American Correctional Association. However, other state departments regularly audit correctional institutions on various policies and procedures.

“It is important that we are held to the highest standards of care, custody, and control of the inmate population,” commented Sheriff Evangelidis. “We also want to ensure a high level of professionalism and training across all staffing groups. The employees of the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office play a crucial role in the overall safety and well-being of the residents of Worcester County. Thank you to the hardworking WCSO staff who strive every day to improve our communities.”



HIGHEST PRICES PAID

For Your Childhood Toy Collections from 1980s - 1990s

STAR WARS, He-man, Garbage Pail Kids, etc.

Please Call 860-933-5549

Introducing



TRIM™

The Rate Improver Mortgage

Get a great 30-year fixed-rate **MORTGAGE NOW**, and if rates drop, **JUST TRIM™ IT LATER...**



with **NO FEE!**

msic.website/TRIM-it
TRIM@msic.org

Participating credit unions are NMLS Approved Lenders and Equal Housing Lenders



The Yankee Xpress

Published on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Direct mailed to nearly 65,000 homes and businesses each month and available on news stands in the region.

2nd Friday: The YankeeXpress South: Charlton, Dudley, Webster

2nd Friday: Blackstone Valley South: Douglas, Northbridge & Uxbridge

4th Friday: The YankeeXpress North: Auburn, Oxford

4th Friday: Blackstone Valley North: Grafton, Millbury & Sutton

Contact us:

Patty Roy, Editor: proy@theyankeeexpress.com

Submit business news and community events to news@theyankeeexpress.com

To request advertising info, please email ads@theyankeeexpress.com

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

Bill Cronan, Blackstone Xpress North and South (Douglas, Uxbridge, Northbridge; Millbury, Grafton, Sutton); bcronan@theyankeeexpress.com

Christine Hodecker, The Yankee Xpress North and South (Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, and Webster); chrishodecker@yankeeshopper.net

Susanne Odell Farber, Upton, Mendon, Hopedale: sue@sodellconsult.com

Laura Gleim, Billing & Sales: lgleim@theyankeeexpress.com

Kimberly Vasseur, Production Manager

Sally Patterson, Graphic Artist

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

Amy Palumbo-LeClaire, Mark Marzeotti, John Paul, Janet Stoica, Christopher Tremblay

Blackstone Valley Xpress/©2024

74 Main St., Medway, MA 02053 • 508-943-8784 • www.theyankeeexpress.com

Oxford Free Public Library

339 Main St., Oxford

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Tuesday, October 1; 8; 15; 22; 29
10 a.m. Hooray for Pre-K Storytime

For children ages 3.5 – 5 years and their caregivers. Songs, rhymes, stories and crafts – a different theme each week.

3:30 p.m. Paint an owl with Julie Harrold

For children ages 6 – 12 years. Step by step instructions on using brushes in different ways to create a fun autumnal owl on 11"x14" canvas board with acrylic paint.

Register on the website: <https://www.oxfordmapubliclibrary.org/Pages/Index/224943/calendar-of-events>

Wednesday, October 2; 9; 16; 23; 30

10 a.m. Terrific Tots Storytime. For ages 2- 3.5 years and their caregivers. No registration is required, but space is limited. Come to the Children's floor before storytime and pick up a free ticket. Once all the tickets are handed out, Storytime is full.

Thursday, October 3; 10; 17; 24; 31

11 a.m. Baby Besties Storytime

For children ages 0 – 12 months (pre-walkers and their caregivers). Stories, lap bouncers, rhymes and songs with scarves and shakers. No registration is required, but space is limited. Come to the Children's floor before storytime (no earlier than 10:45 a.m.) and pick up a free ticket. Once all the tickets are handed out, Storytime is full.

Friday, October 4; 11; 18; 25
Wonderful Ones Storytime

For children 12-24 months and their caregivers. Songs, finger-plays and moving to music. No registration is required, but space is limited. Come to the children's

floor before Storytime begins to get a free ticket. Once all of the tickets are handed out then the Storytime is full.

ADULTS

Friday, October 4
12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Senior Book Group, for Adults at the Oxford Senior Center

Tuesday, October 8
6:30-7:30 Tuesday Book Group
For adults in the Reading Room

Thursday, October 10; 17; 24; 31
1-3 p.m. Knitting, Crocheting and Embroidery Group
For adults, in the Reading Room.

Auburn Library Events

369 Southbridge St, Auburn
508-832-7790

October Hours:

Mondays: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Tuesdays: 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Fridays: 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Tuesdays, October 1; 8; 15; 22;
29 at 4 p.m. STEM

Tuesdays, October 1; 8; 15; 22;
29 Knitting Group

Wednesdays, October 2; 9; 23;
30 at 11 a.m. STEM

Friday, October 4 "Hands on
Nature: Big Predators"

Monday, October 7 Bryn Mawr
School visit 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 8 Bryn Mawr
School visit 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 9 School
Visits Merriam Room

Wednesday, October 9 Chil-
dren's Book Club 5 p.m.

Thursday, October 10 School
Visit Bryn Mawr rain date

Friday, October 11 School Visit
Merriam Room

Friday, October 11 Little Sparks
Theater 4 p.m.

Monday, October 21 "Hands on
Nature: Nature's Real Vampires"

Monday, October 21 Book Club
5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 29 Knitting
Group 5 p.m.

OXFORD

continued from page 1

budgeting and implementation of best strategic financial management practices."

To be deemed worthy of the

award, budget documents must excel in all four major categories and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories. This stringent evaluation process ensures that only the most proficient entities are recognized.

The Budget Awards Program has over 1,700 participants. The most recent Award recipients and their corresponding budget documents are posted quarterly on GFOA's website. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provided an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

Government Finance Officers Association advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 22,500 members and the communities they serve.



AP Mandella Landscaping

STUMP GRINDING
Chip Removal • LOAM & SEED

Free
Estimates
Fully
Insured



Small
Backhoe
Services

Call Anthony @ 508-340-1640 • Auburn, MA

2006 Bennington Pontoon Boat

50 hp Yamaha, runs excellent, low hours. Low mileage trailer included. \$15,000. Currently in water in Webster MA.

508-723-3433 or
508-868-1218



JOHN THE ROOFER CO.

MA HIC # 111318

MA CSL # 97139



Is There Any Real Competition After Being In Business For Over 7 Decades!??

"Hire the BEST, because you live under that roof!"

- Asphalt - Metal Shingles
- Rubber & TPO
- Standing Seam Metal
- Repairs
- Chimney Services
- Free Estimates

**Autumn
Deals
Abound!**

TOLL FREE **866-906-ROOF (7663)**
www.johntheroofenco.com

TRUCK LETTERING

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE WRAPS

SIGNS & BANNERS

Rte. 20, Auburn

WINDOW GRAPHICS, JOB SITE SIGNS,
AUTO GRAPHICS, HOOD/ROOF WRAPS, CUSTOM DECALS

WRAP & DECAL INSTALLATION SERVICE

GRAPHIC EXPRESS

508.752.4848

GraphicExpress911.com

ONLY THE BEST MATERIALS
3M
AVERY
ORCAL

Plenty of Golf Days Left in the Season

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Its nine-holes are spread out over 54 acres with great views and just right for keeping your swings sharp and putts solid. On fully-booked days, golfers tee off eight minutes apart. The course has a robust schedule but there's always an opening somewhere that will accommodate you.

Peter Corio, course superintendent, is fastidious about his upkeep of this little piece of heaven for local golfers as is Christopher Hanlan, assistant superintendent. They mow daily, aerate and water as often as possible keeping certain parts of the course mowed to just tenths of an inch. Weekends will see them watering by hand in specific course areas as they monitor the moisture while minding the overall health of the turf.

When the town of Auburn took over the course's maintenance

in 2016, golfers who had disappeared have now returned due to the successful improvements that have been made. The town is now re-investing in the course while making more upgrades. Their Facebook page states that they have now hired a golf-course architect to create a master plan and offer a golfer's survey that will help to improve the course, facilities, and sustainability to guide future enhancements to greens, traps, etc.

According to Joanna Paquin, Auburn DPW Director and Town Engineer, the town looks forward to updates of the course's irrigation and drainage systems. "Many enhancements are ongoing and are showing great signs of progress. The overall health of our course is being constantly monitored," she said, "our course superintendents are doing a fine job as is our Clubhouse Manager, Kathryn Ryan, who has completely changed our point-of-sale

program for the better. Auburn acquired the course in 1981 and

it was maintained by a private contractor until 2015. In 2016 the town DPW took over maintenance."

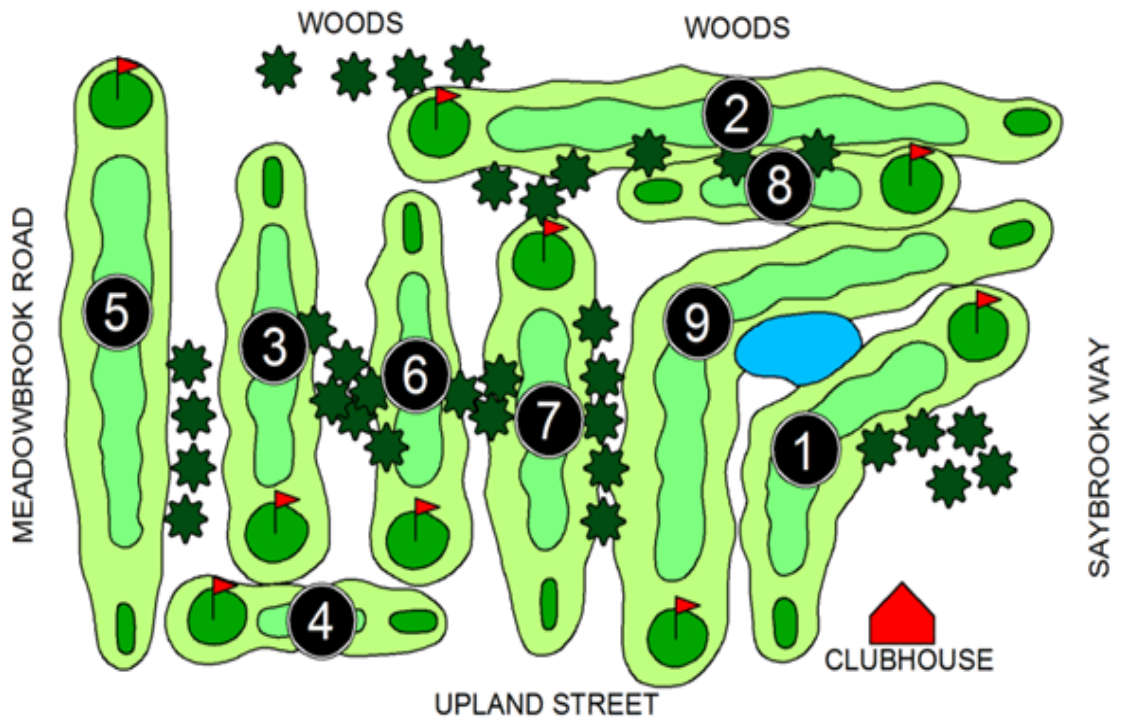
The 9th hole is famous for being the site of inventor Robert Goddard's first successful liquid-fueled rocket launch on his grandmother's farm in 1926. Number 9 is a par 5 ranging from 451 to 511 yards with a dog leg left. It's here that the Goddard memorial monument stands in remembrance of that fateful day in history on the Asa Ward farm.

Superintendent Corio stated that "the course is very wide open and very forgiving. There aren't too many trees. If you're on the course, the 7th and 9th holes run parallel which is great for beginners. There aren't too many obstacles so you can recover and the pricing is great. We are out there every day mowing the greens, tees, collars, and approaches and we water nightly with our automatic irrigation system. The place is always in good shape. We do have established leagues

for golfers with one league that's been with us for 40 years, Herbies. The Auburn Alumni is another league with 32 members. Our biggest attractions are our pricing and course conditions." The 4th hole is noted for having the most hole-in-ones with a par 3 ranging from 125 to 143 yards.

Their clubhouse offers the customary tees and golf balls along with hats, golf polo shirts, sweat shirts, hoodies, and towels. Great gifts and gift cards too. They have a small concession stand that has drinks and snacks like candy bars, soda, chips, and pretzels. Mostly grab-and-go snacks. The course is open from 7:00 a.m. to dusk and tee times can be made online at www.pakachoaggolfgolfcourse.com. Fees range from \$17-\$20 depending on the weekday and push carts as well as golf carts are available for rental at an additional charge. It's certainly worth your while to get out and play this well-maintained course before the snow flies.

Pakachoag Golf Course, 15 Upland Street, Auburn MA 01501. Phone: (508) 755-3291.



Adult Day Health Program serving your community

Family Owned and Operated offering the following:

- Secure, Safe, Clean and Homey Environment
- Air Purification System: Covid-19 Mitigation
- Nursing & Personal Care
- Medication Administration
- Recreation: Social Groups, Exercise, Current Events, Gross motor/Cognitive Games, Music, Bowling, Billiards
- Nutritional Meals
- Transportation Services (DOOR TO DOOR)

Assisting Families for 38 years



Accord
ADULT DAY CENTER

10 Cudworth Road, Webster, MA 01570
508-949-3598

www.accorddaycenter.com



QUALITY BUILDING MATERIALS

FOR ALL YOUR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING NEEDS

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE • FREE DELIVERY • ESTIMATING

Lumber & Plywood • Windows • Doors • Millwork • Roofing • Insulation • Decking • Rail Systems • Siding • Hardwood • Fasteners • and Much More!

C S
LUMBER
CO., INC.

Family Owned And Operated Since 1952

124 Main St., Millbury

cslumberco.com • 508-865-4822

Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-3pm • Sat. 7:30am-noon

VISIT US FOR YOUR NEXT PROJECT!
HOMEOWNERS WELCOME!

GET NOTICED!

Contact Christine at

chrishodecker

@theyankeeexpress.com

to advertise today!

The Nallans Workshop in Auburn is Inspirational

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

According to Dwarakesh Nallan, an extremely innovative Auburn artist, his creations are “An idea sprinkled with a bit

arts competitions across India and helped share his designs with the rest of the community. When he moved to the U.S. over twenty years ago to pursue an education and professional career in the energy industry, his canvas, fig-



of inspiration, tons of creativity, numerous sketches, some rustic wood, and splashes of colors that take on a new and beautiful life of their own. As the Master Designer at The Nallans Workshop, I take great pleasure in converting my clients’ ideas into beautiful wooden designs bringing to life moments they can cherish.”

Dwarakesh states that art has always been a medium for his creativity. As a young artist on the other side of the world, the canvas gave him an opportunity to depict life scenes into inspirational designs. With a supportive family and a strong school system, he championed a number of national-level painting and

actively and literally, expanded.

In 2018, after moving to Auburn, with woodworking as a creative outlet, he decided to blend creative painting with woodworking skills to create The Nallans Workshop. The workshop, strongly supported by his wife, local Auburn town volunteer and event planner Amie Taylor, was established with a vision of providing their community creative and unique wood creations designed and fully hand-crafted without the influence of large-scale computerized warehouses and mass-producing machinery. According to Dwarakesh, computerization and machine-based art prints have

completely removed the romance associated with hand-crafted designs and the intricate dedication that artists provide to their work product. His aim has been to bring hand-crafted creativity back and give it a well-deserved place in people’s homes in place of inferior mass-produced products. Every request is individually handled to ensure that the client’s ideas take their own shape onto a wooden canvas.

Mr. Nallan states that “My work today ranges from beautiful and very unique custom wooden wreaths which are their most popular products, especially in time for fall and the holidays with the exclusive “swap” feature to rustic wooden flags to customized corn hole boards to many more unique handcrafted art creations. These can be placed around the house, office, business, or garage and also serve as very thoughtful gifts. As I always say to my clients, if they have an idea, I just have to bring out my pencil, my paintbrush, and my creativity to transform it!”

“The most rewarding part of my passion is getting to work with our community members. Auburn and the neighboring communities have been so welcoming to small businesses such as ours and it is very encouraging to see the trust that community members have on local and home-grown entrepreneurship especially in a world where there

are so many options available at their fingertips. An example of this can be seen at the Auburn Farmers and Cultural Market at the Summer Concert Series where locals actively check out and support all vendors including the The Nallans Workshop.

Outside of Auburn, The Nallans Workshop has also been invited to a number of other local festivals including the recent Worcester African Festival and has also been featured in Worcester Magazine under the Artist

Spotlight section.

Dwarakesh indicates that “Apart from creating unique wooden products for our community, I am currently embarking on an artistic mission to depict beautiful life scenes on wooden canvas and portraying them to the public. These art series creations will be shared with some of the local art galleries in the coming months.” www.theNallansWorkshop.com Phone: (408) 242-3205

LEBLANC OIL LLC
508-248-1444
24 HOUR SERVICE

- 24 Hour Emergency Service
 - Automatic Delivery
 - Fuel Assistance Accepted
 - Burner Service
- Licensed in House Technicians (NO subcontracting)
 - Oil Tank Installations (Free Estimates)

We do **NOT** add biofuel to our product

DELIVERY AREAS

MASSACHUSETTS: Auburn, Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, Cherry Valley, Dudley, East Brookfield, Fiskdale, Holland, Leicester, North Brookfield, North Oxford, Millbury, Oxford, Rochdale, Spencer, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Sutton & Webster.
CONNECTICUT: N. Grovesnorrdale, Quinebaug, Thompson & Woodstock.

Monday-Friday 7:30am-5pm Saturday 9:30am-2pm

5¢ OFF

PER GALLON OF OIL

OF 175 GALLONS OR MORE

Must present coupon. Offer cannot be combined.

OFFICE LOCATION: 34 NEWMAN AVE., SOUTHBRIDGE

TOPOGRAPH

Affordable Housing Opportunity

1 Ridge Rd., Auburn, MA 01501

Brand New Construction of one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments featuring modern appliances, washer and dryer in unit, and walk-in closets.

Program description: 324 Apartments w/82 Affordable Units

Resident income for affordable units are restricted to 80% of the area median income.
Non-Smoking community

# of bedrooms	Rent*	Minimum Income Requirement**
1 BR	\$1602	\$48,000
2 BR	\$1728	\$51,600
3 BR	\$1851	\$55,400

*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.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must meet all income and background eligibility requirements under the Tenant Selection Plan approved by EOHLC.
- Minimum 1 person per BR

Maximum Income per Person/People Household Size
(2024 limits, provided by Worcester MA, HUD Metro Area))

1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people
\$68,500	\$78,250	\$88,050	\$97,800	\$105,650	\$113,450

If interested, please contact our office at 774-220-6334 or at topograph@wingatecompanies.com

Fred D. Giovaninni
HANDYMAN SERVICE
 ALL TYPES OF REPAIRS • IN & OUT
NO JOB IS TOO SMALL



- FREE ESTIMATES
- GENERAL CARPENTRY
- DRY WALL REPAIR
- RENOVATIONS
- ITEMS ASSEMBLED
- INTERIOR PAINTING
- ETCETERA....

MA# 155844 INSURED
CALL (508) 904-9728 DUDLEY, MA

OXFORD FARMS
FALL VEGETABLE SHARES



\$155
7 WEEKS

October 5th, 19th,
 November 2nd, 16th & 26th,
 December 7th & 21nd




FARM STORE HOURS BEGINNING OCT 5TH
 SATURDAYS 10 -12 PM
 OPTIONAL PREPACKED PICKUP WEEKDAYS

Your choice of \$25 of local vegetables for each of the 7 weeks plus a 5% discount on our delicious pasture- raised, grass-finished meats and eggs.

103 Federal Hill Road,
 Oxford, MA
 www.oxfordfarmsma.com

October Events at Samuel Slater Experience

THE APOSTLE TO THE INDIANS

Sunday, October 20, 3-4 p.m.
 The Reverend John Eliot, an early arrival to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, believed his life's mission was to convert the Native Americans to Christianity. He established a series of "Praying Indian" villages in Central Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut. These villages were the beginnings of the communities of Webster-Dudley, Thompson, CT, Woodstock, CT, and Oxford-Sutton, among others. Linda Casey, local historian and author, will relate the fascinating story of John Eliot, the "Apostle to the Indians."

The talk will be given on Sunday, October 20, at 3 p.m. at the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster. It will last about one hour.

The lecture is free; to register, go

to <http://samuel Slater Experience>.org. Tours of the museum, prior to the talk, will be available for the normal ticket price. Samuel Slater Experience is at 31 Ray Street, Webster. For more information, email admin@samuel Slater Experience.org or call 508-461-2955.

DISCOVER THE NIPMUC LITHIC TRAIL

Saturday, October 26, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Native Americans in the Nipmuc Territory in southern Worcester County and northeast Connecticut left tangible artifacts, called lithic structures, and some can be found today in our fields and woods.

Examples are cairns, chambers, anthropomorphic stone art and weirs. Local historian and expert Joseph Lamartino will present evidence,

photographic and from written history, the purpose of these historic structures. Enthusiasts are working diligently to preserve and document the remaining structures. Hear about recent exciting finds that expand the wonderful story of Nipmuc culture.

The talk will be given on Saturday, October 26, at 11 a.m. and again at 1 p.m., at the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster. It will last about one hour.

The lecture is free; to register, go to <http://samuel Slater Experience>.org. Tours of the museum will be available for the normal ticket price.



Samuel Slater Experience is at 31 Ray Street, Webster. For more information, email admin@samuel Slater Experience.org or call 508-461-2955

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.

REACH NEARLY 172,000 WITH OUR ANNUAL

Holiday Guides

This holiday season, showcase your business in our Holiday Guides - a special pull-out section. Drive shoppers to your door with great gift ideas, catering options and everything to make the holidays joyful and bright!

Coming in November and December! Save 10% when you commit to both Guides!

Don't miss out!
 Reservation deadlines:
 October 10th for November issue
 November 7th for December issue

Reserve your space today by contacting Christine Hodecker at 508-769-8432 or by email at chrishodecker@theyankeeexpress.com

TheYankeeXpress
 BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

localtownpages

FREE PRESS

Auburn Senior Center October Activities

4 Goddard Drive
Auburn MA 01501
508-823-7799
auburnguide.com/seniorcenter

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

The Blood Pressure Clinic is the first Monday of each month (Oct. 7) from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Provided by the Care Central VNA and Hospice Inc. No charge. First come, first served.

Mondays – Adult coloring, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy this relaxing hobby; Canasta at 12:45 p.m. \$2

Tuesdays - Oct. 1, 15 and 29 at 11 a.m. for cornhole. Light refreshments will be service.

Mondays and Wednesdays - Walking Club, both days at 9 a.m. at Lemansky Park; Knit & Stitch, Monday 10 -11:30 a.m.; Wednesday 9:30 -11 a.m.

Wednesdays - Tech Clinic (be sure to check calendar) 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.; Pitch at 1 p.m.; Cribbage at 6 p.m.; Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

Thursdays – Bingo at 12:45 p.m.; iPad Club at 1 p.m.

Fridays - Bridge 12:45 p.m.; Dominos at 12:45 p.m.

INSTRUCTION

Wednesdays - American Sign Language at 1:30 p.m. No fee. With Laurie McGarry and her service dog Princess. Learn to communicate with ASL.

Fridays - Meditation class at 11 a.m. Free with Usha Verma; Quilting – 12 p.m. No experience necessary. We adapt to your skill level.

EXERCISE AND MOVEMENT

Mondays - Senior Sweat at 10 a.m. with Dr. Clermont. \$3. Emphasizes balance, stretching, strengthening, posture, coordination and working essential muscle groups.

Tuesdays and Thursdays - Chair Dance at 10 a.m. with Forty Arroyo, \$3. Seated exercise with upbeat music.

Tuesdays - Gentle Flow Yoga at 11 a.m. with Angie Lavache, certified fitness instructor. \$3. Slow-paced for strength, flexibility and mobility. ; Let's Move Together at 1 p.m. with Angie Lavache. Strength and cardio activities to improve health and fitness. \$3 donation.

Wednesdays and Fridays Strength & Balance class at 10 a.m. \$3 with Lin Hultgren, ACE certi-

fied fitness instructor. Strengthen and tone your body.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Monday, Oct. 7 at 1 p.m. Mike & Beth Variety Show. RSVP to 508-832-7799. Live variety show that features upbeat sing-a-longs, a musical journey with music. Interactive audience participation, jokes and creative short story telling.

Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 12 p.m. Chat with an Auburn Police Officer. Join Auburn police officers for lunch, a coffee and dessert or just to chat. They will be able to answer any questions you may have.

Tuesdays, Oct. 8 at 1 p.m. Dried Flower Arranging Class with Sam of Sam's Stems. \$15 per person, non-refundable. Create an arrangement with expert guidance. Call 508-832-7799 to reserve a space.

Thursdays, Oct. 17 at 10:30 a.m. "History of Funerals" from Viking times to "smart" coffins. With Auburn Historical Society president Sari Biticks. Call 508-832-7799.

Monday, Oct 21 1 p.m. Neil Diamond Tribute Band with Charlie Lask. Call 508-832-7799 to reserve your seat.

Tuesday, Oct 22 1 p.m. Paint with Jayne .Create a fall scarecrow centerpiece with Jayne Sarkisian. Limit of 15 participants. \$15 non-refundable fee.

Wednesday, Oct. 23 1 p.m. "Sitcom: Humor 101" with Joe Fusco Jr. Discuss shows and clips from "The Honeymooners, I Love Lucy, The Mary Tyler Moore Show, All in the Family and Seinfeld, etc. Call 508-832-7799 if you plan to attend.

Monday, Oct. 28 12:45 – 2:30 p.m. Celebrate the Festival of Lights with us. The Hindu Festival Diwali is celebrated in autumn every year. This event will feature Indian snacks, cultural dance and songs. Call 508-832-7799.

Wednesday, Oct. 30 1 p.m. Join the senior center and the Auburn Police Department to learn about S.W.A.T. teams and watch training demos.

Thursday, Oct. 31 12:30 p.m. Halloween Bingo. Special prizes during the game! Punch and treats will be served. Prize for the most unique costume. Costume judging at 12:30 p.m.

SHINE (serving the health information needs of elders) is a state

program that provides free health information. To make an appointment with our SHINE counselor, Patrick Morris, call the senior center at 508-832-7799.

Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 1 p.m. for the Caregiver Support Group, for those who are caring for a family member with Alzheimer's or dementia. Guest speakers, information about community resources and a supportive environment. For more information, call Usha Verma at 508-832-7799.

Transportation - The Auburn Senior Center and the WRTA offer a transit service for the residents of Auburn who are age 60 and over and for people with disabilities of all ages. This is a shared ride service that will pick you up at your home. The van may make stops to pick up/drop off other passengers while you are on the way to your destination. Call the WRTA to set up an account and schedule service. 508-752-9283.

We're looking to start a Men's Club that is low-key, pressure-free and dedicated to good talk and good company. Stop by the Senior Center desk so we can plan a meeting day.

Holiday Gift Giving through Friends of the Auburn Senior Center (FASCA): The Senior Center is organizing a holiday gift initiative for homebound seniors, seeking donations of items like warm blankets, non-skid socks, large print puzzle books, non-perishable food, gift cards, toiletries, and handwritten cards. Donations can be dropped off until December 6th.

Upcoming Friends of the Auburn Senior Center trips open to adults over 21:

Oct. 8 American band Stand: The Aqua Turf \$139

Oct. 22 The Mystery Trip \$130

Nov. 13 Downton Abbey; Lake Pearl \$129

Dates and prices subject to change. Make checks payable to FASCA, Auburn Senior Center, 4 Goddard Drive, Auburn 01501

Enjoy a free lunch during your birthday month at the Senior Center courtesy of FASCA. Call

508-832-7799 at least two days in advance and tell them "It's my birthday!"

We're looking to start a Men's Club that is low-key, pressure-free and dedicated to good talk and good company. Stop by the Senior Center desk so we can plan a meeting day.

FOR SALE! 2009 Ram Pickup crew cab.
Big Horn pkg., new tires, new tonneau cover.
Immaculate in and out. Asking \$10,500 Call Ron at 508-737-4942




HEARING AIDS

We help you bring your hearing back to life



Jim & Ralph - CT Licensed and Board Certified Hearing Instruments Specialists



Call today to schedule your Hearing Evaluation and FREE Better Hearing Test Drive.

amplisound

HEARING CARE CENTERS
800-835-2001 • PUTNAM, CT

Let us check your Medicare supplement for hearing aid coverage. We are a provider for most major insurance companies.



www.amplisound.com



Economy Canvas & Awning Co.

Retractable & Stationary Awnings
Boat & Truck Covers and Related Products

- Full Awning Service - Installation, Removal & Cleaning
- Manufacture & Repair All Canvas Products

115 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA
508-765-5921


www.EconomyCanvasAndAwning.com





CASUAL WATERFRONT DINING ON LAKE LASHAWAY

308 LAKESIDE




OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK 11-CLOSE
CLOSED MONDAYS
Please visit our website or Facebook page for our full menu.

308 MAIN STREET, EAST BROOKFIELD
774-449-8333 • 308LAKESIDE.COM

2022 BEST OF CENTRAL MASS

Please call 774-449-8333 for reservations, take-out or reservation online 308lakeside.com



SPORTS

The 192 mile Road to a Cure

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The Pan-Mass Challenge is a Massachusetts based bike-athon that raises more money for charity than any other single athletic fundraising event in the country. One hundred percent of the funds go to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, the world leader in adult and pediatric cancer treatment and research. Each August thousands of riders and volunteer from 43 states and 12 countries all come together for a common goal – to find a cure for cancer. Since its inception by Billy Starr in 1980 the event has now raised over one billion dollars.

Unfortunately, in 1980 Oxford resident Christopher Casey's mother was diagnosed with a type of lymphoma cancer, but luckily she was cared for by the Dana-Farber Institute. The cancer was cured, but three years later it returned. Once again Dana-Farber was there to guide her on the road to recovery and for the second time, saved her life.

A decade ago, Casey's father (David) gave in to his friends and colleagues and took to his bike with them to see what the event hype was all about. This year his son finally joined his father on the ride.

"My father had been riding for ten years and I had been saying I'd ride with him before he retired," Casey said. "I never thought that the day would come and it actually did, so here I am."

The elder Casey bought himself a new hybrid bike this year and gave his old bike to his son, so that he could take part in the event. Casey, who had made his father a promise, was taking on a 192-mile bike ride over two days from Sturbridge to Provincetown with absolutely no experience in extended bike riding.

"To be honest, I didn't really think too much about the event until about one month prior," he said. "So, I really didn't do too much training to get ready for the event, I was just going to wing it and see what happens."

Despite having not prepared all



Christopher Casey, sister-in-law Grace and dad, David.

that much Casey was able to get through the 192-miles.

"I was getting progressively more and more taxed as the first day went on and by 4:30 p.m. as I was rolling into Bourne with my father and sister-in-law Grace, who was also doing the ride, I was totally smoked and beyond tired," he said. "Bourne had everything you possibly could need and more. Although I was tired during the first day, it was emotional. It's such a beautiful event with top notch staff and was perfectly orchestrated."

While overnighing at Mass. Maritime in Bourne the trio was able to eat, relax and get some

sound sleep before grabbing a quick breakfast the next morning and jumping right back onto their bikes for day two of the event. This time around Casey was well aware of what he was getting into and although he said he was hurting; he knew the finish line was nowhere as far away as it was a day earlier.

"Knowing the finish line was closer I kept pushing," Casey said. "The support on the side of the roads definitely keeps you moving – it was like a big party. The weather this year was a brutal 90 degrees with full humidity and the people at the water stops were spraying us down with hoses keep-

ing us refreshed and ready to move on."

When Casey eventually crossed the finish line in Provincetown he felt an intense sense of relief and was thinking to himself, 'thank God it's over.'

"All the volunteers and people at the finish line were there thanking us as we came in, but I was in turn thanking them for getting me through this special event," he said. "Now that it's over, I will 100 percent be doing it again with my family next year, but I will absolutely be training much more and getting on bike way before the event begins."

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS!

LuLu's
GEMS • JEWELRY • CRYSTALS • GIFTS

GIFTS FOR ALL AGES!
IN-HOUSE JEWELRY REPAIR • CUSTOM JEWELRY DESIGN
THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT LULU'S!

1223 PROVIDENCE ROAD • WHITINSVILLE, MA 01588
LULUGEMSGIFTS.COM

**Attic • Basement • Garage • Shed
Single Item or Whole Building Cleanouts**





Call / Text / Email Today • 508-713-5696
localguystrashremoval@gmail.com



Junk/Trash Removal
Licensed & Insured

like us on facebook

Countryside Garage Doors



430 Main St., Oxford, MA

We repair all makes and models of Garage Doors and Electric Openers
- Commercial and Residential -

Sales • Service • Installation

800-605-9030 508-987-8600
www.countrysidegatedoors.com email: countrysidegatedoors@aol.com

Renew your home's appeal with a new garage door.
Many new styles and colors to choose from.

Visit our display by appointment

TALES FROM BEYOND

tomdagostino.com

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.

Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg



Souvenirs
Sweatshirts & Tees
Postcards
Hats • Jackets
Tervis Tumblers
Etched Glassware



"Images of America, Webster" book
508-943-4900 • 154 Thompson Rd., Webster, MA
shop online at www.websterlakegifts.com

MASTER PLUMBER LIC. NO. 9216 MASTER SHEET METAL LIC. NO. 115

Valley Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

Affordable Plumbing at "2000" Prices!

PLUMBING • HEATING • GAS FITTING
BIG OR SMALL, WE DO IT ALL!

You Buy Supplies...We Install! • We Buy Supplies...We Install!
Discounts for Seniors and Handicap!
Any Kind of Plumbing Job!!

RICHARD J. WUNSCHER • (508) 234-3649
30 LACKEY DAM ROAD, SUTTON, MA 01590-2714

\$50 off ANY JOB
(one per household)

UNITRANS TRANSPORTATION

POOL WATER DELIVERY

508-278-9946

EMILE 401-692-0780 SCOTT 401-692-0781

THE YARD

MULCH • WOOD CHIPS • COMPOST
SAND • STONE • LOAM

605 Quaker Highway (Rt. 146A), Uxbridge, MA P.O. Box 77 Uxbridge, MA 01569
508.278.2628

Templeman TREE SERVICE, INC.
Serving the Community since 1980

Full Service Tree Removal Company
FAST FREE ESTIMATES
Expert Hand Climbing Crews
Removals • Pruning
Stump Grinding • Cabling
Fully Insured • Workman's Comp

CONTACT US TODAY!
508-366-7693 • sales@templemantree.com
templemantree.com

Wilbraham & Monson Academy

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m.



For families interested in grades 6-12, PG.
Meet faculty, students, parents and coaches.
Learn more about our programs and community. Tour our campus.

rsvp: www.wma.us/openhouse



LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

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 ob-

server. 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

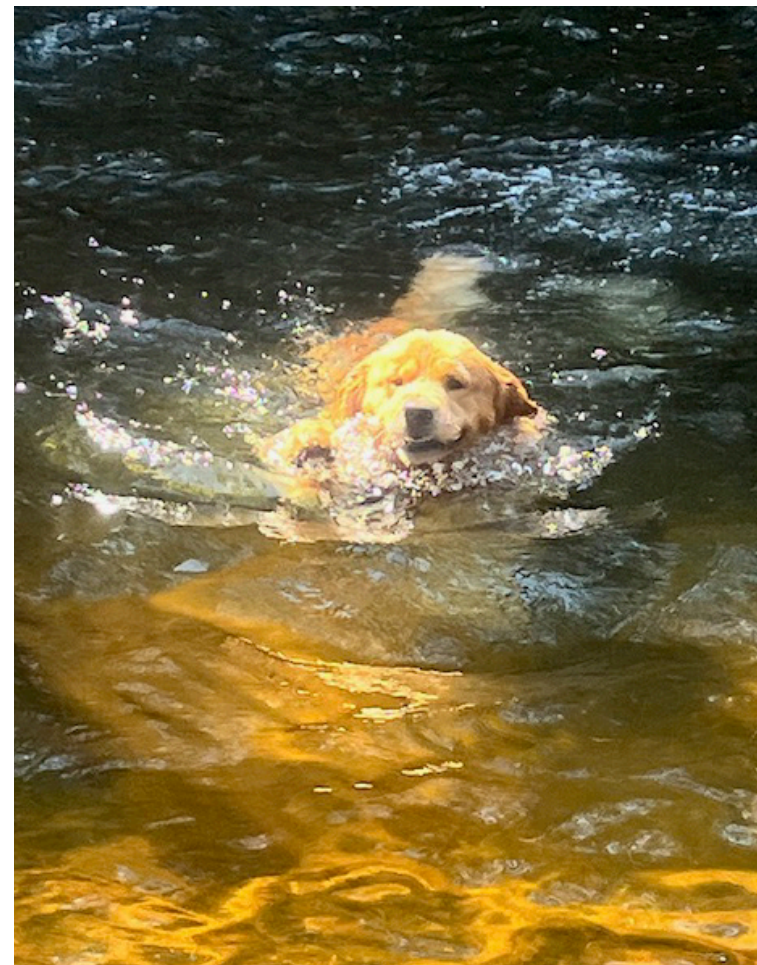
have learned from their dogs to not sweat the small stuff. Elena eyed Luke adoringly, but he ignored the opposite sex. In fact, he ignored every sex on the dog beach.

"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-millime-

taken by the river's current. I've 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*



ter 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

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.

LUKE

continued on page 11

•Boarding •Grooming •Daycare



Now accepting new grooming & boarding clients

Book Now for School Vacations

265 Dudley River Road, Southbridge, MA

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



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

is extra important. 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.

So, if you think waiting will score you a deal, know that data shows there's not a crash on the horizon,

	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

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: Approxi-

mately 90% of consumers overstate or don't know the minimum required down pay-

ment 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 10

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
@livingwithlukevalentino



SMALL LOAD CONCRETE, LLC OPEN YEAR ROUND

Custom Concrete - Metered Pours

CONCRETE APPLICATIONS

- Patios
- Pads for AC units, Sheds, Hot Tubs, Etc.
- Footings
- Retaining Walls
- Walkways/Sidewalks
- Curbing
- Steps

Saturday pours available

WHY SMALL LOAD CONCRETE?

- Buy ONLY what you need/metered pours
- Less Expensive than mixing it by hand
- Custom Mix / Pour on the job site
- Cost Effective • No Waste
- 1 Yard Minimum
- Winter rates in effect

Call to schedule your pour today
508-770-1200

34 Providence Road, Sutton, MA
www.smallloadconcrete.com

THOMPSON

Landscaping & Construction

- DRAINAGE • POOL FILL-INS • LAWN CARE
- LAND CLEARING • FULL LAWN INSTALLS • MULCH
- EXCAVATION • STONE & GRAVEL DRIVEWAYS
- PATIOS • RETAINING WALLS • WALKWAYS

Millbury, MA • 508-523-7790
Ebthompson36@gmail.com • Free Estimates • Fully Insured

THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

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 infre-

quently. 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 min-

utes 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

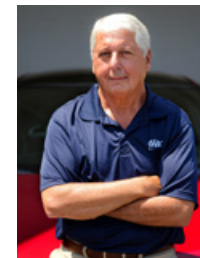
the tanker truck has left, or does it really make no difference?

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 aftermarket 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.



BY JOHN PAUL

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.

FULL SERVICE AUTO REPAIR

SHOCKS & STRUTS
EXHAUST SYSTEMS
SUSPENSIONS
ENGINE REPAIR
KNOCKS & NOISES

Anything Automotive
EST 2015
The Best Service In Town

AFTER MARKET HEATING/COOLING
FOREIGN & DOMESTIC COMPUTER DIAGNOSTIC
OIL CHANGES

8 EAST MAIN ST., WEBSTER, MA • 508-736-9482 • anythingautowebster.com

**Professional Car Cleaning
Motorcycles & Boats**

Keep your Car Clean and Shiny

Over 40 years in business

This Sunny Season Long!

218 Worcester St., N. Grafton
774-272-0815
www.catacchioautodetail.com

catacchio
AUTO DETAIL

ROY'S AUTO GLASS

COMPLETE AUTO GLASS SPECIALISTS

- Chip & Crack Repair
- Windshield Replacement
- FREE Mobile Service

MOBILE AUTO GLASS SPECIALIST
Insurance Company Preferred Shop.

- Certified technicians to your location
- Foreign & domestic auto, truck, bus, motor home, windows & sunroofs
- Construction equipment, heavy duty vehicles
- Fabrication of flat glass
- Vehicles equipped with convertible or vinyl roof
- In-shop service • Free mobile service
- Saturday service
- Free pick-up and delivery within a 10 mile radius
- Quality workmanship guaranteed
- Customer safety and satisfaction is our first priority
- Servicing customers for over 25 years

201 W. Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571
800-479-7697 • 508-949-1327
Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm • Saturday 8am to 12pm

Visit Us at roysautoglass.net

Rob's Automotive
(508) 943-0009
138 West Main St.
Dudley, MA

EVERYTHING FROM DAILY DRIVERS TO CLASSICS

HOT ROD SERVICES:
Wiring, Plumbing, Tune Ups
Brake & Suspension Upgrades
Aftermarket A/C Installations
Disc Brake Conversions

GENERAL MAINTENANCE:
Oil Changes, Brakes, Suspension
Alignments, 4 Wheel Drive, Tires

robsautomotiveshop.com
repair@robsautomotiveshop.com

"Where Summer Gladly Shines its Countenance Upon The Valley!"

U-KNIGHTED
AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR

We are the "Give me a BRAKE... I'm EXHAUSTED Repair Shop"

45 East Hartford Ave., Uxbridge
508-526-3169

Same Day Service on most repairs

Custom Exhaust & Brake Experts
• Engines • Transmissions • Tires • Oil Changes
• Brakes • Converters • Welding & Fabrication Services

M&M Auto Body

Ron Moscoffian
Appr. #9537

7 Industrial Park West,
Building 2
Oxford, MA 01540
508-987-7070

Scott Milner
R.S. #3926

"Guaranteed Fast Service, No Matter How Long It Takes"

TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING

dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com

Do you need to fear retirement?

If you're planning to retire in a few years, are you looking forward to it? Or are you somewhat apprehensive? Are you asking yourself: "What sort of retirement can I afford?"

It's a good question — because the answer can make a big difference in your ability to enjoy life as a retiree.



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

And retirement can indeed be enjoyable, exciting and fun. Consider this from a recent survey by Edward Jones and AgeWave: A majority of respondents said retirement should be looked at as a whole new chapter of life, and not just a time for rest and relaxation. In other words, people are viewing retirement as a chance for new experiences and new opportunities, rather than a time to simply wind down. But if you're going to make the most of your retirement — which could last two or even three decades — you

need to be financially prepared.

This preparation can involve many steps, but here are some of the key ones:

- **Decide what your retirement lifestyle will look like.** How you choose to spend your retirement years can make a big difference in the financial resources you'll need. For example, if you plan on traveling the world, you might need more income than if you were to stay close to home and pursue your hobbies. If you can envision your retirement lifestyle and estimate how much money you'll need to support it, you can help reduce some of the uncertainties you might face once you do retire.

- **Review your income sources.** During retirement, you'll likely need to draw on all your income sources, so it's a good idea to know what you'll have available, such as your IRA, 401(k) and other investment accounts. You'll also need to decide when to take Social Security — if you wait until your full retirement age (probably between 66 and 67), you'll get much larger monthly benefits than if you started taking them at 62. And here's another variable: earned

income. Even if you've retired from your career, you might, if you desire, use your acquired skills in a consulting or part-time position. The more you can earn, the less you may have to withdraw from your investment accounts and the better position you'll be in to delay taking Social Security.

- **Consider adjusting your investment portfolio.** For most of your working years, you may have invested mostly for growth — to increase your assets as much as possible. But growth-oriented investments are also, by nature, riskier, so when you retire, you should review your portfolio to determine whether you need to move it toward a more conservative position. Also, more conservative investments may provide more current income in the form of interest payments. However, even in retirement, you may need some investments with growth potential if you want to keep ahead of inflation.

Retirement is certainly a major milestone in your life — and adjusting to it can take some time. But there will be much less to fear — and much more to enjoy — if

you've done what you can to prepare yourself financially.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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

WORCESTER COUNTY LAWNMOWER

ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE




Lawn Mowers & Tractor Service
Tune-Ups & Repairs
Pickup & Delivery • Lawnmower Repair

508-987-2775
 492 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540


WWW.WORCESTERCOUNTYLAWNMOWER.COM

Edward Jones
> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



You're retired. Your money isn't.

Contact me today to learn more about retirement account options that can make the right impact.



Dennis Antonopoulos
 Financial Advisor
 5 Albert St
 Auburn, MA 01501
 508-832-5385

IRT-43951-A AECSPAD 23183667

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; approved 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.uscgau@verizon.net or call 508- 478-3778.

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**

BUY HERE PAY HERE

Payments as low as \$60 per week

Come Pick Out Your Car!

Bad Credit • No Credit
No Problem

WE FINANCE EVERYONE!

Come Check Out Our Prices!

FARRAR AUTO BODY, INC.

204 Main Street • Oxford, MA
508-987-0022






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.

HAWK HILL ORCHARDS

PICK YOUR OWN APPLES

OPEN
WED. THRU SUN.
10AM TO 5PM

Visit Our
Americana
Country
Store

- Apples • Peaches
- Jams/Preserves
- Cider • Plums
- Maple Syrup
- Specialty Sauces and Salsas
- Dessert Breads
- Fruit Pies
- Gifts
- Honey
- Apple Dumplings
- Apple Sauce

83 Carleton Rd., Millbury, MA
508-865-4037

FREE SHRED DAYS

bankHometown invites customers and members of the community to free Shred Days at local offices. Events will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (or until the truck is full) on the following dates and at the following locations. No appointment is necessary.

Saturday, October 5: Lancaster, MA office, 131 Main St.; Saturday, November 2: Millbury Public Library, 128 Elm St. Local residents can reduce their risk of identity theft by bringing old mail, receipts, statements or bills, cancelled checks, pay stubs, medical records, or any other unwanted paper documents containing personal or confidential information and shredding them safely and securely for free. A professional document destruction company will be on site in the bank's parking lot and can accept up to two boxes of documents per person.

THROUGH OCT 31

• The Pumpkin Patch at the First Congregational 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.uccgrafton.org, email grafftonucc@gmail.com, or call 508-839-4513. See our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/uccgrafton.

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 at 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 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

HAPPENINGS!
continued on page 15

INDIAN RANCH

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

OVERLOOKING WEBSTER LAKE • 200 GORE ROAD, WEBSTER, MA

CHRIS JANSON

HITS INCLUDE:
BUY ME A BOAT
FIX A DRINK
GOOD VIBES
DONE
AND MORE!

SEPTEMBER 29 • 1PM

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.INDIANRANCH.COM

INDIAN PRINCESS

LAKE TOUR | SEPTEMBER 29 | 10AM

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

SAMUEL SLATER'S

UPCOMING EVENTS

AQUANETT

SEPTEMBER 28

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

OCTOBER 5

A VINTAGE 1940S THEMED SHOW

COMEDY NIGHT AT SLATERS

OCTOBER 18

THE PIKE

HALLOWEEN BASH

WITH CHUCK PERKS

COSTUMES, PRIZES, & MORE!

OCTOBER 25

COMEDY NIGHT AT SLATERS

NOVEMBER 22

DINING HOURS:

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY (4PM - 9PM)
SATURDAY (12PM - 9PM)
SUNDAY (12PM - 8PM)

HOURS DIFFER DURING CONCERTS

BOOK YOUR PRIVATE EVENT TODAY!

From small groups to large gatherings, we accommodate all party sizes

Email functions@samuelslaters.com or visit www.samuelslaters.com/private-functions

TICKETS, RESERVATIONS, AND MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

WWW.SAMUELSLATERS.COM

OVERLOOKING WEBSTER LAKE • 200 GORE ROAD, WEBSTER, MA

The Indian Ranch Box Office is open Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday (10AM - 3PM), and Friday (10AM - 5PM). Tickets are also available by phone: 1-800-514-ETIX (3849). All events are rain or shine. No refunds. For ticketing and group sales, contact tickets@indianranch.com or call 508-943-3871. For information on private events, banquets and renting the Indian Princess Paddlewheel Boat, contact banquets@samuelslaters.com. Indian Ranch is less than an hour's drive from Boston, Providence, Hartford and Springfield. Indian Ranch is located at 200 Gore Road in Webster, MA.

HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 14

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. For 80 years Smokey has helped parkgoers understand the importance of using fire responsibly. 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' Whittin 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 our 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.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- Auburn Historical Society & Museum's November meeting: C.E.R.T. in Your Community -This is the local coordinating structure

that train volunteers to help emergency responders during disasters. Members of the Auburn Community Emergency Response Team will explain what the team has done and how you might become a member of the team. 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.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

The 2024 Sutton Chain of Lights will Take Place this year from 10 am to 4 pm Spend a day with your family and friends at the Town of Sutton's Annual Holiday Chain of Lights Event. Free trolleys and buses will transport visitors over rolling countryside to participating locations throughout historic Sutton. Farms, unique specialty stores, church fairs, and area businesses welcome the holidays with musical entertainment, children's activities, food, fun and Holiday characters. Route information, maps, location descriptions and brochures are available at www.sutton-lights.com

THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

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

It's **Happening** in **THE last green valley™**

Now is the Time to Experience Nature

Over 100 choices beckon you outside in the fresh air! Blossom with friends & family on guided walks, hikes, pedals, paddles, runs, events and more.

www.thelastgreenvalley.org

American Legion

Chester P. Tuttle Post 279

88 Bancroft St., Auburn, MA 01501



THURSDAY IS....

TRIVIA NIGHT

7-9 PM!

EVERY FRIDAY

Karaoke

7:30PM-12AM

Live Bands

Every Friday 7-10

October 4 **Fender Road**
 October 11 **Fifty One**
 October 18 **(to be announced)**
 October 25 **The Ed Sullivans**

ALL Are Welcome!

Membership Not Required!

Monday - Saturday: 11:00-1:00 Sunday: 11:30-close

Tiny Tim's at the Tuttle

serving food Tues - Sat: 11:00-8:00
 Sun: 4:00-8:00 - Kitchen only closed on Mondays

Phone: (508) 832-2701
 For Hall Reservations: (508)-721-5142
 or email TinyTimsCatering@gmail.com

MEAT RAFFLE

EVERY SATURDAY

12:30 -4pm - 6 tables

Don't Be A Chicken. There's A Lot At Steak.



Sunday Football

Kitchen open 1-6

Speciality Appetizers



FOR ALL YOUR FUEL NEEDS

NEW BOILER INSTALLS

- Crown Boilers
- Williamson Furnaces
- Oil Tank Installs



Central air conditioning and ductless mini splits

ALL NEW INSTALLS COME WITH A 3 YEAR PARTS AND LABOR WARRANTY, AS WELL AS THE MANUFACTURERS WARRANTY.



We do NOT Sell Biofuel!

Which will help prevent system breakdowns.

HELP WANTED -

Class B CDL driver with air brake, tanker and hazmat endorsements. Must have DOT Medical Card.



A Full Service Oil Company
24-Hour Emergency Service

WWW.LMTOIL.COM • WE DO ONLINE ORDERING

Print & Deliver

We Print and Deliver your inserts.



Perfect for Big Events, Coupons, Menus and More!

For more information, or to schedule your insert, please contact Laura Gleim at 508-943-8784 or by email at lgleim@theyankeeexpress.com

Al's

RUBBISH & CONTAINER SERVICE

77 Providence Rd., Sutton, MA 01590

Phone: (508) 865-4193

Website: www.alsrubbish.com

E-Mail: alsrubbish@gmail.com



Al's Rubbish Provides

- Dumpster Rental Services 7 Days
- All Rentals Include Drop Off and Pick Up
- No Hidden Fees
- Estate Clean Outs
- Furniture/Appliance
- We Recycle



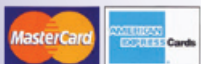
WE ARE LOOKING FOR JUNK CARS

DUMPSTER RENTAL SPECIAL!

SUTTON, MILLBURY, AUBURN, OXFORD, WEBSTER, WHITINSVILLE, NORTHBRIDGE and GRAFTON

10 yard	\$350
15 yard	\$450
20 yard	\$600

7 Day rental



Serving the Blackstone Valley and the Surrounding Towns in Worcester County

508-865-4193 • WWW.ALSRUBBISH.COM

