

## Dudley Police Chief Nears 24 Years with Town

BY JANET STOICA  
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Influenced by his uncle who served as a Police Superintendent, Police Chief Marek Karłowicz had set his sights on becoming a police officer since he was seven years old.

“Every day is different with this type of job,” said Chief Karłowicz, “You’re helping people and trying to have a positive influence in their lives. You’re protecting and assisting those in need. Being a police officer is still a very honorable position to be in for law enforcement.”

The Chief’s education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Curry College as well as a Master of Science degree in Counter-Terrorism from Nichols College. He was a member of one of the first classes in counter-terrorism to graduate from the Nichols’ program. He is also certified to be a firearms and breathalyzer instructor within the Dudley department.

He’s worked police details at the Indian Ranch entertainment venue in Webster and has met many celebrities who have played there including the likes of Willie Nelson among others.

“I feel meeting non-celebrities is much more rewarding,” he said. “There was a situation where I responded to perform CPR to save a gentlemen’s life that had more of a positive impact on my career than anything else. Shortly before this occurrence, my dad had passed



away and it meant a lot to help this man in need. Not only did I help him by my actions but it also gave me a great sense of satisfaction knowing I had saved a life. It was a positive impact on the man who survived and held great meaning for me.”

Chief Karłowicz had been mentored by Dudley’s former Police Chief Steven Wojnar, a man who had been greatly respected by Dudley residents as well as his peers. Chief Karłowicz was previously a lieutenant in the Dudley Police Department and when Chief Wojnar announced his retirement, the town’s Selectboard interviewed him for the police chief position. He was appointed chief effective January 13, 2023. The town does not use the civil

service system for appointments.

“No, we’re not civil service,” Karłowicz stated, “enabling the department to promote from within, so officers can move up within their own department and move up in the ranks. I feel our training in Massachusetts is more advanced than other areas of the country. Massachusetts does a much better job in training and recruiting. All of our officers are dedicated to community policing and we strive to show positive aspects of policing.”

The Chief also talked about the fact that the Dudley Police Department is a small group of officers with much responsibility and that Dudley residents have been very supportive of them and other public safety personnel in town to ensure their budgetary needs are being met.

“Our townspeople have shown us that we have their support for all public safety and we greatly appreciate that support,” he said.

However, the police staff has not been increased for many years. When Dudley’s population was 10,000 residents 20 years ago, the town had 16 officers and current staffing remains the same consisting of the chief, one lieutenant, four sergeants, 10 patrol officers, and a full-time administrative assistant. Currently, the population has increased by 20 percent and is closing in on 12,000 residents, but the department has not increased

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## Webster Sewer Plant Sludge is No Joke

Neither are BHS Architect Amendments

BY JANET STOICA  
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As Webster and many other New England municipalities send their wet sewer sludge to an out-of-state facility for disposal, a possible dire situation looms: what happens if that facility has to shut down or other extenuating circumstances prevent towns and cities from ever using that facility again? Proper steps to mitigate this unfortunate and expensive situation must be reviewed, researched, and solved. The solution is daunting and disheartening.

No one wants to discuss sewage sludge disposal do they? Another fact of life that has become acceptable to all of us populating Mother Earth. We throw our paper waste, garbage, and overall junk into a plastic trash bag to be picked up by our trash hauler.

We never think twice about it, do we? The practice has become so normal for all of us that it’s just plain and simple our daily routine. As we drive down our streets and roads we observe overflowing waste barrels filled with garbage and rubbish that is gross and disgusting to even look at as we drive by. It flies out of these waste barrels into the wind and we just drive right over it.

But, back to sewer sludge. According to a Penn State article, before 1950 most communities in the United States discharged their wastewater, or sewage, into streams and rivers with little if any treatment. As populations increased, the natural ability of streams and rivers to handle the wastewater was overwhelmed and

**SEWER**  
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## POLICE CHIEF

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its personnel to keep up with the population growth. According to Karlowicz, there are more state mandates to adhere to and they have had to manage them with the same amount of officers as 20 years ago.

“We don’t have a detective and are in urgent need of one whether dealing with domestic violence or breaking and entering. We could also use 1-2 more officers within the next 2-3 years. In the time we’ve grown there is more population and much more traffic. There are many more police calls that

are not police-related like mental health issues, overdoses, and domestic violence. Having an advocate with specialized training in these areas can only have a positive impact for all concerned. Many of these situations could be dealt with by a detective but our lieutenant is currently handling them,” he said.

Through a generous donation from the Fels family, the department will soon have a Hound Program which entails the addition of a hound dog that will specifically be used to find lost family members, young and old alike, who may wander and become disoriented. The Fels grant will also be used for the department’s drone program. Both programs will employ certi-

fied officers in their specific areas. Staffing is the main priority.

The department will also take part in the upcoming Santa’s Tour where Santa Claus will be making his rounds around Dudley on a fire truck with police and fire escorts sponsored by the fire and police departments as well as the town’s Selectboard. Officers also enjoy participating in the Touch-a-Truck program, Trunk or Treat, and High-Five Friday events where officers will greet elementary school children as they exit their school buses to give them a High-Five hand tap.

## SEWER

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caused water quality to deteriorate in many regions. In response to concerns about water quality degradation, thousands of communities throughout the United States constructed wastewater treatment systems during the 1950s and 1960s. This resulted in greatly improved stream and river water quality, but created another material to deal with: sewage sludge. Approximately 99% of the wastewater stream that enters a treatment plant is discharged as rejuvenated water. The remainder is a dilute suspension of solids that has been captured by the treatment process. These wastewater treatment solids are commonly referred to as sewage sludge or “bio solids” a prettier name introduced by the wastewater treatment industry.

Webster now has a possible dilemma in that they must determine a disposal solution for their wet sewage sludge. There is “wet sludge” and there is “dry sludge.” The dry type is more easily disposed of than wet. It is also more expensive to dispose of the dry sludge even though it can be incinerated. The town must now find a way to turn their wet sewer sludge into the dry form if they are to go forward and not create an economic nightmare for their taxpayers.

### TOWN MEETING TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM

On Monday, October 21, at

7:00 p.m. Webster will have a Town Meeting at the Park Avenue Elementary School. On the town meeting warrant, Article 5 will ask voters if they will approve the sum of \$500,000 for a Bio solids (sewer sludge) Dewatering Project Design sponsored by the Water Sewer Commission. The ensuing design will be the first step towards determining the costs of making the town’s “wet” sludge “dry” and more easily disposed of. It’s a procedure that will be outlined to voters. It is also every taxpayer’s obligation to be involved in this vote. The meeting won’t be long but it will certainly be informative. You owe it to yourself to attend and to vote at this and every town meeting. Your time will be very well spent.

Also, according to Town Administrator Rick LaFond, Webster’s high school building project has received Change Orders from the building architects, one of which is a design for a temporary elevator or lift both on a temporary and long-term basis as well as for 14 electric vehicle charging stations as required by the state. These stations are to be located at various sites around the high school parking areas. The change order billings will be mediated. The architects were assigned by the state as per the Massachusetts School Building Authority as they make the final architectural firm decision.

“We are very fortunate that Lisa Kontoes, our school Business Manager is involved with this process,” LaFond said.

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# Grant to Rebuild Playground at Dudley Municipal Complex



The project design includes an active recreation playscape with 10 unique areas of play and a pathway with interpretive signage, boulders for climbing, hammocks, splash pad and an elevated lookout platform.

With the completed design in hand, the town worked with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission to submit its PARC grant application by a July deadline.

Dudley was notified of the grant in a September 23 letter. The grant represents an amount of up to 70 percent reimbursement of the project cost which is estimated at \$704,410. The local contribution is expected to be \$207,760.

The next step is the Oct. 21 town meeting where Dudley voters will be asked to approve a \$704,410 borrowing. The state requires a certified affirmative town meeting

vote by Dec. 31 or the town risks losing the grant.

Once the \$496,650 reimbursement is received and applied to the borrowing, the remaining debt, will be paid from available funds over the course of years, Ruda said.

Other grant requirements include the start of construction on July 1, 2025 with work completed by June 1, 2026.

The PARC grant also requires that this site remain open to the general Public and prohibits any other use other than public outdoor recreation.

The PARC program was established to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. These grants can be used by municipalities to acquire parkland, build a new park or renovate and existing park.

The town of Dudley is the recipient of a grant up to \$496,650 to rebuild the shuttered playground at the Municipal Complex. The grant for the Richard Carmignani Sr. Park was selected by the state Executive Office Energy and Environmental Affairs with the assistance distributed by the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC).

“I’m happy that we will now have the funding to replace our municipal playground with a modern, safe and hopefully fun venue for our kids,” Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said. “Many dedicated people were involved in the process of successfully securing this highly competitive grant. My sincere gratitude goes out to them and to our residents for their patience while we did the work necessary to secure this funding. It will be exciting to watch how the build begins to take shape.”

The park, known locally as the Fun Zone, located at the Dudley Municipal Complex, was closed early in the COVID-19 pandemic. When it reopened, visible damage, such as broken equipment and deteriorating surface materials, as well as ADA compliance deficiencies, caused its permanent closure.

Residents’ call to reopen the playground in 2022 spurred a one-year fundraiser by the Dudley Woman’s Club to help move along a renovation that would meet today’s safety, accessibility and adaptability standards. The generosity of local businesses and residents aided the town in launching the project and will contribute to funding the new equipment.

Radner Design & Assoc. prepared the playground design and selected its new equipment after meeting with 60 or so children of all ages during a Select Board meeting in April.

We hope to renew the historic theater in the Town Hall, but we need your support on October 21st.

At the Town Meeting October 21st, there will be a vote on an initiative to benefit Webster. The town hall theater has fallen into disrepair, but local philanthropist Christopher Robert, owner of the *Samuel Slater Experience* and the *Indian Ranch* resort, imagines the 1200-seat theater revived as a nonprofit to bolster the civic and cultural fabric of the region. It can host concerts, performances, town functions, and become a draw for local businesses to add life to the town center.

**Will you attend the meeting to hear more, and ask questions?** This effort will renew our shared space for another generation of use by Webster residents, and provide a valuable asset to the town.

**October 21, 2024, 7pm  
Park Avenue Elementary School**



*This nonprofit renewal will benefit the town for generations, from concerts to graduation ceremonies and voting, and I hope you'll support us in making it a reality. Thank you.*

**Christopher Robert, Local Business Owner & Philanthropist  
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# Charlton Preserves 1800 Schoolhouse

BY JANET STOICA  
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According to Andrew Golas, Charlton Town Administrator, the town has received a renovation grant for their #2 School House which was built in the 1800's.

"The town was looking to make improvements to keep the building intact," said Golas. "There's a need for structural repairs and weatherization. The roof is sagging and there are holes in the building. We were very fortunate to receive a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission to repair the slate roof, exterior siding, and to shore up the foundation as well as structural repairs to the roof. Additionally, any windows that need replacing will be taken care of with period-appropriate windows. As the building isn't heated, it does



need to have its physical aspects protected. Our Historical Commission members are the stewards and repairs haven't been done since the late 1980's."

### AMAZON HIRING 1,000 EMPLOYEES

The other big event in town is that Amazon is now hiring and their employment blitz is on fire and rip-roaring with opportunities. "They'll need over 1,000 employees," said Golas, "and they hope to be operational by late October in time for the holidays. Robotics will handle the product but associates are needed for processing those deliveries. Tax revenue of \$65 million is expected over the next 20 years."

Many who have driven to the massive warehouse protected by the titanic-sized stonewall on Route 20 are amazed by the

warehouse's size which is 48 times the square footage of a football field or 2.8 million square feet. The facility is known as a "First Mile Facility" or a sorting center where manufactured goods are received before they are shipped out to their next destination which would be a warehouse where Amazon trucks load up to make their journey to your home. It will be Amazon's New England distribution center. The town has just wrapped up rebuilding Main Street sidewalks funded by Amazon and there will be new pedestrian walkway connections behind the public library. ADA upgrades at the Maynard Football Field will also be partially funded by Amazon along with town-approved funding from 2019.

### SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Charlton's Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, October 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Charlton Middle School. Town Meeting documents can be found online by navigating to the government page.

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# Medal of Liberty Posthumously Awarded

During a ceremony at the Military Records Branch on September 21, Major Gen. Virginia Gaglio, Massachusetts Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander, Air Force Material Command, awarded a Medal of Liberty to the fallen Webster service member Private Anthony Vegnone's family. The announcement was made by Stephen P. Rogerson, District Director of Veterans Services for the towns of Dudley and Webster who attended the ceremony.

Maryellen Kuras was on hand to represent her uncle, a soldier killed in action during World War II while serving in Italy. The District Director of Veterans Services for the Towns of Webster and Dudley was also present to assist the Major General and present a citation to the family from the Town of Webster.

Established by an act of the

Massachusetts General Court, the medal is "awarded to the next of kin of service men and women from the Commonwealth killed in action or who died in service while in a designated combat area in the line of duty or who died as a result of wounds received in action." It is bequeathed on behalf of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth.

Anthony Vegnone was born April 9, 1919, the son of Annunziata "Nancy" (Della Ripa) and Giuseppe "Joseph" Vegnone in Webster. Anthony had six sisters and one brother - Jennie (Joan) Tarcinale, Adelina (Lena) Szaforowicz, Helen Jarzowski, and Frank Vegnone.

He attended Bartlett High School in Webster. Anthony joined the US Army on April 23, 1943. He served in Italy and died on February 21, 1944, after being wounded

in action. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal,

American Campaign Medal, Army Presidential Unit Citation, and the

Army Good Conduct Medal for service to his country.

## 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.

## Craft and Vendor Fair

The Boys and Girls Club of Webster-Dudley is holding a Craft and Vendor Fair that will take care of your holiday shopping, Saturday, Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Boys and Girls Club, 55 Oxford Ave., Dudley. Free entrance.

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**CHILDREN AND TEEN PROGRAMS**  
Kim The Lego Lady: October

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Me and My Mini: October 17th, 24th and 31st at 10:00 AM

A 45-minute creative movement group for ages birth through 2.5 with a grown-up. Group is focused on adult and baby spending quality time together, fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others their age. Get groovy to upbeat music with props, instruments, and a story. Adult participation is required and 1-2 children per adult is recommended.

Storytime: Every Tuesday at 10:00 AM

Mornings will be filled with fun stories, songs, and activities perfect for ages 2-5. Siblings are welcome to join. Storytimes will now be outside weather-permitting!

Maker Mondays: Every Monday at 3:30 PM

Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Every month we will rotate our craft material, stop in to see what we're making this month!

Build Tuesdays: At 3:30 PM  
Join us for the last two Tuesday for a self-guided STEM-based building challenge, appropriate for all ages. Younger kids should bring a parent. Instruction sheets will be provided. Contact Andrew at 508-949-3880, or atai@cwmar.org for more details.

Stuffed Animal Storytime: October 16th and 30th at 10:00 AM

Join Library Director Sondra Murphy for stories, songs, and fun with our plush pals! This storytime is geared toward ages birth to 3, but siblings are welcome.

Petits Picassos: October 23rd and November 6th at 10:00 AM

This art class for ages 2-5 will have your little one creating and exploring art in different mediums and styles! Each class will feature a story related to the project, and a finished work to take home and admire. This class series prepares the students to paint on canvas for their final project. A toddler art show and art opening will be held featuring these works in November! While not every program will be messy, please wear art-appropriate clothing. In order to prepare materials and keep the class size manageable, registration is required for each session. Registered spots will only be held for 15 minutes after program start time. A baby play area will be available for siblings if needed.

**ADULT PROGRAMS:**

Yoga: October 12th, 19th, 26th and November 2nd and 9th at 9:30 AM

Join Julie at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the "uniting of movement with breath". A typical class involves a centering of the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages and, finally, a rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

Adult Book Discussion Group: October 21st at 6:30 PM

This month's book discussion will be in the Library's Community Room. The Group will be discussing Dead Wake by Erik Larson. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcox@cwmar.org for inquiries.

Cookbook Club: October 22nd at 6:00 PM

Every month there will be a new cookbook and you will choose a delicious recipe to make! You can choose anything out of the cookbook to bring and share. Whether you like to cook or bake there will always be something for you! We will eat and discuss our favorite and least favorite things of the cooking adventure.

"Respect you Elder" a healing herbs workshop October 15th at 6:00 PM

From Elder Flower tea to Elderberry syrup, come learn why this potent, popular plant, as well as other native herbs are easy to know and use. This hands-on workshop will explore practical skills, facts, folklore, tips and tricks! Learn when to infuse or decoct herbs and how to naturally support yourself and family when hit by colds and flus! Registration for this event opens Tuesday, October 1 at 9:00 AM.

Bites, Books and Blooms: October 17th at 6:00 PM

Enjoy local hors d'oeuvres, beverages, music, and books in bloom. Tickets are \$35. You can purchase them on the library website or in person at the library. This is a ticketed event!

Library for All: A drop-in event for Teens & Adults with Developmental Disabilities Mondays in October at 9:00 AM

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# Webster Refugee Center Engineer Documents Appear to be Forged

BY JANET STOICA  
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

At Webster's Planning Board Meeting on September 30 various building projects were discussed including an alleged fraudulent engineering plan received by the board on behalf of the Reverend Kalimbiro Akeem Bujiriri who is the main contact for the proposed refugee center

some of the documents were not signed properly. I just received some information while I was coming to this meeting."

LaFramboise said "You need to answer my question. You don't have an engineer?" and then asked the pastor if he could look at the screen behind him showing a document that was signed and stamped from Professional Engineer Matthew Copeland who is a

"The engineer stated that this is fraudulent. This is not his stamp nor his signature," Morgan stated. LaFramboise asked Rev. Bujiriri, "Who signed that form?" The pastor's response was "I don't know."

Chairman LaFramboise ended the discussion by telling Rev. Bujiriri "You need to figure out who signed that form before you appear before this board."

A letter dated Sept. 28, 2024

from Engineer Matthew Copeland to Webster's consulting engineer, Chuck Eaton, stated that "I have no involvement, currently or in the past, with the project at 0 Rosemont Street. The use of my credentials on these documents is fraudulent. I did not

prepare these documents nor did I authorize the use of my credentials. I have also reported this matter to the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors today and will be following up with the board on next actions."



and church at 0 Rosemont Street, Webster.

When Rev. Bujiriri appeared before the board, chair Paul LaFramboise, asked him, "Would you like to address that this plan was submitted fraudulently by signing an engineer's name who was not working on the project or do you not want to address that?"

Rev. Bujiriri replied "I'd like to address that. What we did because we did not have much time. We had been working under pressure and we forgot to put dates and

Registered Professional Engineer in Massachusetts. Ann Morgan, Webster's Director of Planning and Economic Development, stated "This is a plan that was just submitted. Mr. Copeland told us this is not his seal or signature." It was dated Sept. 27, 2024.

Rev. Bujiriri then said that "the document was from a previous time." LaFramboise countered that "this document is from three days ago." Rev. Bujiriri then told LaFramboise that "He sent me another plan three days ago."

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SPORTS

# Chris O'Donnell Takes Over AD Duties

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

When Athletic Director Jim Scanlon decided it was time to make a change, his departure from Shepherd Hill left a huge vacancy to fill. Luckily it didn't take the school committee too long to fill the position and former Norfolk Aggie AD Chris O'Donnell was named to be Scanlon's predecessor.

"When Jim moved on, I was excited about the potential opportunity and I decided to go through the process as my goal was to be closer to home while at a great school with a strong tradition," O'Donnell said. "I had been in contact with a couple of other schools at the same time, but I quickly felt that this is where I wanted to be. I discussed it with my family and was glad they offered me the job.

Instead of an hour-plus drive, it's only 35 minutes from Gloucester."

Prior to getting the position in the Dudley-Charlton school system O'Donnell had been working at the Norfolk County Agricultural High School in Walpole for the past two years as PE teacher/Athletic Director and was looking to find a job closer to home in regard to a full-time administrative job at the athletic level.

Upon taking part in the interviewing process O'Donnell immediately felt a connection with everyone in the room and although the job was a little bit further than one of the other positions he was applying for, this was where he wanted to be amongst the school's history, athletically as well as academically.

"It felt like home right away. Everyone here was doing this for all the right reasons – the community and the kids; they had a genuine understanding," he said. "Even the kids that I met while walking on the campus showed there was a

lot of respect here and this was a great community all around."

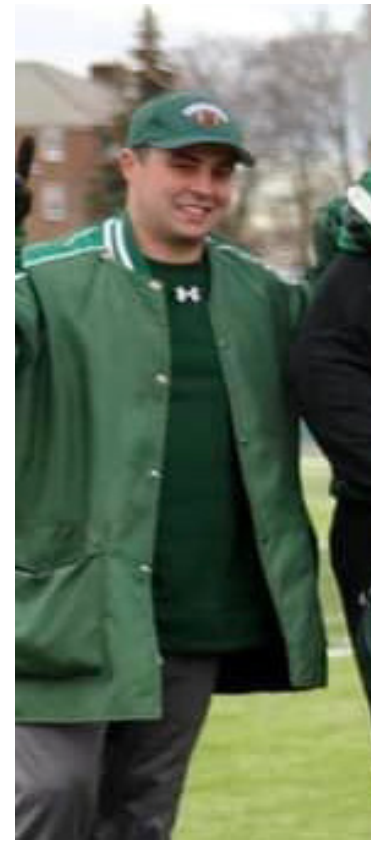
The new AD noted that the Dudley-Charlton administration, staff, and coaches were all very flexible as well as accommodating and they too want to make sure the kids are not just athletically prepared but academically as well; thus, both were on the same page and made this such a great fit for him.

"I'm very thankful for this opportunity and cannot thank the entire school committee, interview committee, the administration, and community enough for their support".

Before he became the AD at Norfolk Aggie, he was working as a player agent for professional hockey players and coaching at Ponaganset High School in N. Scituate, Rhode Island where he was an assistant coach for the football and hockey teams.

It was here that his 8th grade history teacher Mike Calenda once told him 'treat people the way you want to be treated' and that sentiment has not only stuck with O'Donnell but is how he now lives his life.

While he truly enjoyed his time



at Norfolk Aggie he knew that it was time to move on. Not only were the administration, coaches and colleagues inspirational to his growth while there, but he also made note that the maintenance workers, bus drivers, support staff, administrative assistants, and of course the student body was also important and is very thankful to all of them during his journey.

"My roots at Ponaganset found that it was the coaches who really drove me to become an Athletic Director," he said. "The dedication and passion that they provided was what pushed me. It's not always about the wins and losses, but how you can make an impact on student-athletes lives."

Now as he takes over as the Athletic Director there are a few things that O'Donnell wants to accomplish while here. He wants to improve upon the student participation numbers for all teams and although Scanlon left him with a very good foundation he believes that they can increase numbers even further, not just on the high school level, but at the middle school as well.

In addition to getting those numbers up he would also like to get the alumni more involved with different events throughout the year. During his stay at Ponaganset he felt the relationship with the alumni was truly important and he wants to help it grow while at Dudley-Charlton.

Although Scanlon was the AD moving out to leave the vacant position, O'Donnell said he was a mutual friend and one he cannot thank enough.

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# Hail the Great Rutabaga Roll !

BY JANET STOICA  
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

In mid-September at the last Charlton Farmer's Market, the Great Rutabaga Roll made its second annual hit! Oh come on, you know what a rutabaga is, don't you? Well, for those of us who do not know the



Gus, winner of the Rutabaga Roll

difference between a rutabaga and a turnip here's a brief summary: they are both root veggies and a member of the cabbage family. Rutabagas are the size of a softball and turnips are the size of a baseball. Rutabagas are a bit sweeter than turnips which are slightly radish-y in taste. They are both high in fiber and low in calories.

According to Cara Holland of the Charlton Business Alliance, her group and the Charlton Grange (the Grange runs the Charlton Farmers Market) got together to co-sponsor the Second Annual Rutabaga Roll and Turnip Toss.

"There was a great turnout," said Holland. "There were dozens of people in attendance. The adults played the Rutabaga Roll which is likened to a cross between bocce and horse-shoes. The group tossed away to get closest to the pin. The kids handled

the Turnip Toss. Anyone could play and it was free."

Metal stakes were placed in the middle of the grassy Farmers Market area surrounded by hay bale barriers and the fun began. Amy Laba of Farm46 was the emcee. Her family owns and operates Farm46 in Charlton which is well-known for its sustainable and free range livestock and poultry products.

"Amy was hilarious as our emcee," Holland said. "Her husband, Rich, and the Charlton Business Alliance's President, Matt Power, were excellent as well." Gold trophies and bragging rights were awarded to the winners of each event with the opportunity to enter next year's contests.



A Turnip Toss contestant

The carnival-like atmosphere was a knockout with adults and kids as the Grange offered free face-painting for the kids as well as an adult or two. There were beautiful multicolored mums on display, pumpkins, a cool antique truck great for picture taking, and a good amount of very fresh and local veggies offered for sale by vendors.

## TALES FROM BEYOND

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# The Guarded Tomb

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

Scituate, Rhode Island is full of legends and haunts that rival any other town in the Ocean State. This strange tale has been handed down for generations and has not lost any impact in its telling. The story concerns a man named Charles Mattison, who in his later life, guarded the tomb of the woman he was to marry.

The couple's nuptials were sadly broken when she suddenly took sick and died. Her body was placed in a tomb off Central Pike wearing the dress and ring that was to be her wedding clothes and band. Although deeply saddened by his loss, the young man soon fell in love with another local and wanted to propose to her, but could not afford another ring. In an act of desperation, Mattison decided to remove the ring from his first marital prospect. He stole away one dark night to his former lover's tomb, pried open the door and attempted to reclaim the band.

Unfortunately, the finger was so swollen, he could not remove it. Determined in his endeavor, he cut off his sweetheart's finger. Fresh blood began to flow and the girl sat up with a stunned look on her face. She had not actually died but lay in a coma until Charles woke her up by lopping off her finger. Mattison was so frightened and astonished by what he saw, he ran from the scene and vanished without a trace. No one knew what became of him thereafter. The girl lived another several years and when she officially passed, she was placed in the same tomb.

The story was told and retold by older generations who would dare disbelievers to visit the tomb and see for themselves the hand with the missing finger. The tomb had fallen in from the top by a bull that wandered onto its roof, causing it to collapse. Over time, the woman's body was exposed and decaying, yet they could still see the legendary hand. As further proof, they were then taken to an old lady's home and shown the preserved digit in a bottle of alcohol.

The tomb sat in disrepair until a now older Charles Mattison returned and vowed to repair and guard her tomb from further desecration. Living in a small shack nearby, Mattison, unkempt and unloved, brought flowers to the grave daily and in the winter, cleaned the snow that blew through the many holes and crevices of the crumbling mausoleum. That was not enough though, for he took it upon himself to scare away any intruders who dared to attempt entry into his beloved's final resting place.

He spent most of his time hiding in a clump of bushes repelling all

who sought to see the grave's occupant. The timid and superstitious wasted no time in fleeing the scene upon hearing the ominous warning emanating from out of thin air. For the more hearty thrill seekers, he rigged a cord that ran from the back of the tomb through a small hole in the wall. The other end was attached to some bones and timbers. A small tug on the rope would send the clanking collection to life and never failed to present a scream and hasty retreat by the intruders.

Mattison remained in his makeshift dwelling, watching over his former love's tomb in repentance for his deed many years before. Even after his death, he was said to still watch over the decaying structure that holds the remains of the girl. If you should be rambling along the Central Pike in Scituate and happen upon a relic of a tomb, be cautious for the ghost of Charles Mattison may still be lurking about watching and waiting.

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# Luke on the Watch

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

We never bargained for a watch dog. We were happy to settle on the darker Golden nestled beside his brother. “That’s him. That’s Luke.” Sleepy drove his head further into the nook of a warm armpit. “Wake me when it’s over.” His breeder pulled him from brotherly love and handed him over. “Beautiful puppy.” I can still smell his odor—a faint trace of dog poop and puppy chow wafting between hands. “He looks like Mister, his father.” A regal pedigree flopped into my arms. He was, and still is, my calmest pup yet. Throughout his two years of life, Luke has studied the world with the curiosity of a professional Dog Watcher. There are Dog Walkers and there are Dog Watchers. Luke falls into the latter category and, incidentally, wears a few hats amid the job.

**OFFICER LUKE**

Officer Luke begins his shift with a survey of the front lawn, and a peek out at the street. “What’s happening on Wildflower Drive today?” I barely have time to open the door before he rushes onto the front steps to stiffen, puff his chest, and examine the scene. “Who goes there?” His position is both helpful and dramatic. Of course, we are touched to have our pup lead us to important information. The House Cleaners have arrived next door and they drive a suspicious white minivan. Less necessary have been the false alarms. “Woo-woo-woo-woo-woo!”

“Luke!” I rip open the front door a second time. “What’s the matter?”

“There’s a twenty-foot giant bobbing like a drunkard up the road, that’s what!!” Luke does not appreciate ghastly Halloween decorations, especially oversized

blow-ups. “You don’t belong! Go away!” I’ve had to physically restrain him from front lawn blow-ups (unless the yard includes Santa, whom he adores). “Woo-woo-woo-woo.” He’ll crouch down gravely, suspiciously. “Freak of nature, that’s what you are. Woo.” I coax him forward. “Leave it, Luke.” Just when I think he’s forgotten, he’ll turn his head one last time before we take the corner, just to be safe. “Woo!”

**NOSY LUKE**

Nosy Luke, as one might expect, can’t seem to keep his nose out of other people’s business. One sunny day, we were working in the garden. “Woo-woo-woo-woo!” I dropped the hose. “What’s going on, Luke?” Apparently, Luke didn’t like what was going on. Arlene, a trusted neighbor whom Luke has known for years, stood at the sidewalk in front of her house up the road. She was having a conversation with another man, and it wasn’t her husband, John. “Luke, leave it. Arlene can talk with him.” His bark felt invasive. The woman’s choice to talk with another man was none of Luke’s business! “Woo-woo-woo-woo.” But Luke refused to accept Arlene’s new man. What was my dog trying to tell me? “I know phony when I smell it. Woo woo woo woo.”

**FEARLESS LUKE**

Motorcycle drivers, along with their motorcycles, have been difficult for Luke to process. They are kind of like a car, but not so much. Something does not add up. “MOM!! THERE’S A MARTIAN IN OUR DRIVEWAY!!!” I feel his concern and, honestly, can’t blame him. The roar of the engine is scary. Not to mention the driver’s helmet and mask. Who’s behind that mess? “You are not welcome!!!! Woo-woo-woo-woo!” His bark is low and aggressive, perhaps the most threatening of all his barks. “Woo woo woo woo.” He goes on and on protecting until, finally, we learn that a friend of mine, Gretchen, is the driver behind the mask. She parks and removes her

helmet. “Ohhh, Gretchen, it’s you!” His personality flips. He breaks into a playful smile and wiggles towards her. “I was just messin’

fast! Where’d you go?” His big head darted in and out of our bushy rhododendron, where he’d practice clever offensive moves to stay one



games. He loves to grab stuffed animals and dash around the house, spooked yet exhilarated by Chase. The bunnies offer a genuine, “real-life” experience of his favorite game.

His knowledge of bunny behaviors has changed the way he watches and interacts with them. The first sighting came with serious intrigue, as in, “I find it fascinating that, unlike a squirrel, you will sit still and munch clover all day long. Does it ever get old?” He’d sit twenty feet away from the bunny, stare for minutes equally as long, then lie down (paws parallel) to creep inch by inch ahead until – “YOWZA!”—the stalked bunny decides, “I probably should run now.” By the summer’s end, Luke has learned every hiding spot and revels in poking his nose in and out of shrubs to find one. I once caught him gazing down at a bunny from the top of the deck stairs. His gaze no longer held the fixed, almost perplexed stare of early spring. Rather, his attention was casual and light-hearted. He smiled casually as though to say, “You are welcome to stay and munch on our weeds, Bunny. My name is Luke by the way. Want to play a quick game of Hide and Seek?”

I no longer worry about the bunnies.

**BOSSY LUKE**

Luke’s protection for us, his beloved family, is admirable. However, there are times when my pup’s attention to detail becomes hyperbolic. “Grrrrrrr. Woo.” What now? One cool September night, I decided to open the French doors in our family room to let in some fresh air. Luke’s bark was more of a suspicious, even paranoid growl, the kind he uses when he senses that something may be “off” in the air. “Mmmmm...” That “something” happened to be the new and distinct sound of night peepers, a nostalgic September sound for New Englanders, yet one Luke didn’t care for. “Stop your chirping or I’ll give you something to chirp about.”

Whether my dog watches a neighbor, a Martian, a bunny, or a night peeper, I suppose he is doing what is in his nature to do—that is to keep those he loves safe with unrivaled loyalty. A dog truly is a girl’s best friend.

Follow Luke on IG – livingwith-lukevalentino

Write to Amy – amyleclaire@hotmail.com

with you. Come on over! I’ll grab my frisbee!”

**BUNNY WATCHING LUKE**

I used to worry about the bunnies. Every spring we have them. Every year, as a dog owner, a new shenanigan awaits, and this year was no exception. Luke was fascinated by the quiet, harmonious nature of his backyard friends. “You appear so soft and gentle. I want to play with you! Hey, not so

step ahead of the bunnies. “The bunny is about to rush out of the opposite side now, I just know it.” He’d change directions, making fast 180 degree turns around the shrub before engaging in a terrific high-speed chase across the yard.” He hasn’t caught a bunny yet, but I’ve learned something about Luke. I don’t believe he wants to catch them, so much as he does play with them. Chase and Keep Away have always been Luke’s favorite

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REAL ESTATE

# Don't Fall for These Real Estate Agent Myths

When it's time to buy or sell a home, one of the most important decisions you'll make is who you'll work with as your agent. That choice will have an impact on your entire experience and how smoothly it goes.

As you figure out who you'll partner with, it's important to



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

know what to expect and what to look for. Unfortunately, there may be some myths holding you back from making the best decision possible. So, let's take some time to address those, and make sure you have the information you need to find the right agent for you.

**Myth #1:** All real estate agents are the same. You might think all agents are the same – so it doesn't matter who you work with. But, in reality, agents have varying levels of experience, specialties, and market knowledge, which can have a big impact on your results. For example: you'll get much better service and advice from someone who is a true expert in their field. As an example, if you were planning to get your hair done for a special event, you'd want to visit a stylist who specifically has experience doing that type of

work — you wouldn't make an appointment with someone who primarily does kids' hair. The same concept applies to finding a real estate agent. If you have a smaller budget, you probably don't want to work with an agent who exclusively sells multimillion-dollar properties. Take some time to talk with each agent you're considering. Ask about their experience level and what they specialize in. This will help you find the one that's the best fit for your search.

**Myth #2:** You can save money by not using an agent. As a seller, you may think you can save money by not working with a pro. However, the expertise, negotiation skills, and market knowledge an agent provides generally saves you money and helps you avoid making costly mistakes. Without that guidance, you could find yourself doing something like overpricing your house. And that's a misstep that'll cost you when it sits on the market for far too long. When it comes to buying or selling your home, hiring a professional to guide you through the process can save you money and headaches. It pays to have someone on your side who's well-versed in the nuances of the market and can help ensure you get the best possible deal.

**Myth #3:** Agents will push you to spend more. You may also be worried an agent will push you to buy a more expensive house in order to increase their commission. But that's not how that should go. A good agent will respect your budget and work hard to find a

home that truly fits your financial situation and needs. With their market know-how, they'll point you toward the best option for you, rather than try to pad their own pockets on your dime. Among other things, a good buyer's agent will find homes for sale. A buyer's agent will help you understand the type of home you can afford in the current market, find listed homes that match your needs and price range, and then help you narrow the options to the properties worth considering.

**Myth #4:** Market conditions are the same everywhere, so why do I need a pro? Maybe you believe housing market conditions are the same no matter where you are. But that couldn't be further from the truth. Real estate markets are highly localized, and conditions can vary widely from one area to another. This is why you can't pick just anyone you find online. You should choose an agent who's an expert on your specific local market. Real estate is very localized, and you want someone who's extremely knowledgeable about the market in your specific area.

You'll know you've found the right person when they can explain the national trends and how your area stacks up too. That way you're guaranteed to get the full picture when you ask: "how's the market?" Don't let myths keep you from the expert guidance you deserve. With market knowledge and top resources, a trusted local real estate agent isn't just helpful, they're invaluable. In what could be one

of the biggest financial decisions of your life, having the right pro by your side is a game changer. Con-

nect with an agent to make sure you get the best outcome possible.

## Free Admission for Educators during October

Massachusetts educators are invited to visit the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster with no admission charge during the month October.

The history museum opened in 2022 to tell the story of Samuel Slater and his impact on the American Industrial Revolution. It explores technological innovation, the realities of child labor, mill communities, education, immigration, and industrialization as colonial life moved from the farms to towns.

The museum uses multimedia technology with immersive video and interactive exhibits to create a unique experience that is both educational and entertaining.

Teachers, curriculum developers and administrative staff are all

welcome to tour the museum and speak with staff about school field trips, logistics, and transportation funding.

Regular museum open hours are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to

4 p.m. Other touring times can be arranged.

For more information, email [admin@samuel Slater Experience.org](mailto:admin@samuel Slater Experience.org) or call 508-461-2955. Samuel Slater Experience is located at 31 Ray Street, Webster, Mass.

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Rain, rain, made the electrics go away

**Q.** I recently left my driver's side window on my 2006 Audi A6 open during a bad rainstorm. My radio wouldn't work, my high beams headlights didn't work, and my parking brake indicator is showing malfunction. My radio turned back on after a day, but high beams lights and parking brake warning are still a problem. My low beam headlights function properly. Do you think this is a fuse or a relay?

**A.** I suspect the headlight switch got wet and shorted. Looking at a diagram on the AllData technical database I use, the vent on the driver's side of the dash looks like it could funnel water directly to the switch. There is no relay, it is part of the headlight module according to the wiring diagram. The module is located on the passenger side behind the glove compartment. The parking brake also uses a module that is in the trunk. I suspect the water caused an issue with the headlight switch. At this point, I would continue to let it dry out. If time doesn't solve the problem, then someone with a professional level scan tool needs to look for trouble codes and see what is going on to further diagnose the issue.

**Q.** I have a strange problem with my Toyota Highlander. When I go away on long drives in hot weather, one day the air conditioner is fine but the next day it will all of a sudden stop blowing air. I can hear the fan going and a leak of cold air, but not enough to feel it without putting your hand right on the vent. You can hear the fan speed up when you select different speeds, but the air flow doesn't change. Usually, if I stop for an hour, it will start working again. Of course, it always happens when we don't want to stop,

like after lunch on our way home. This has been happening since we bought the car used, but other than this the car works great. Although the car has 286,200 miles on it, and I am planning on keeping it for another few years.

**A.** I would check the cabin filter first then next is checking the ducts and fan. Although you can hear the fan motor running, the actual fan may be the issue. I have seen some of these fans (looks like a hamster wheel) have broken fins which slows the air flow.

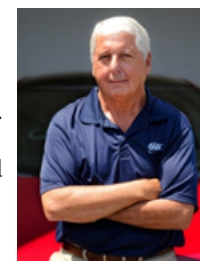
**Q.** Here is my issue and need to know how to proceed. My 2023 Honda CRV Hybrid has 8000 miles. Under "Honda Care," they will not change the oil until light comes on and is at 10% of oil life left. So, no service has been done since bought new Aug 2023 I took it upon myself to have the tires rotated. The tire person found a hole along the outer edge of the tread. A clean hole down to the tread about pencil-sized. Tech at Honda says that's not covered under the new car warranty. He said to try and speak with the service manager. This hole definitely looks like a tire defect and not something that occurred while driving. Any thoughts?

**A.** Honda is specific about at least yearly oil changes. Here is what Honda states "If a Maintenance Minder indicator does not appear more than 12 months, change the engine oil every year." So based on Honda's own recommendation, it is time for an oil change. As for the tire, I would go to a tire store that carries that brand, if it is defective they can take care of it under the tire manufacturer's warranty.

**Q.** If I get an oil change with full synthetic oil, can I later add synthetic blend oil?

**A.** It is always best to use the same brand and type of oil because of the various additive packages that the oil

manufacturer uses. The problem with a synthetic blend oil is you never know what percentage is synthetic. I use full synthetic oil and keep a quart in the car just in case. But yes, if you are on the road and find your car is low on oil and all you can find is conventional or a synthetic blend use it. Driving with low engine oil will most certainly cause engine wear.



BY JOHN PAUL

**Q.** My 2007 Subaru Outback will sometimes not start when I turn the key. The lights on the dashboard come on but nothing else happens. This recently happened so I turned the key back to off and waited a few seconds. Tried to start it again with the same result. The third try went the same way. I turned the key enough so I could shift to neutral and this time the car started right up. This has happened before, but it is weeks or even months between instances. The rest of the time the car starts fine on the first try and it runs great. In previous cases it would start on the third try. Any ideas on why this is happening? I use the same key every time and the car is old enough that there is no fob.

**A.** There are a couple of possibilities. After testing the battery and voltage drop looking for poor connections, the next step would be the transmission range switch (neutral safety switch). Then the starter relay and finally the starter itself. I suspect the starter and by moving the shifter may be just enough to jar the starter to work again. The bigger issue is, this is all guess work unless a mechanic can catch the issue when things are not working. It is hard to fix something that is operating properly. There are some issues, that time is the best diagnostic tool.

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**TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING**

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# Take advantage of open enrollment

If you work for a midsize or large company, you may soon be able to review your employee benefits package, as we are entering the open enrollment season. So, consider your options carefully, with an eye toward making changes appropriate for your needs.



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Here are some of the key areas to look at:

- **Retirement plan** – Depending on your employer, you could change your 401(k) or similar retirement plan at any time of the year, but you might want to use the open enrollment season to review your contribution amounts. If your salary has gone up over the past year, you might want to boost your pre-tax contributions (including catch-up contributions beginning at age 50). At a minimum, try to put in at least enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered. At the same time, look over how your contributions are allocated among the various investment options in your plan. You'll want your investment mix to reflect your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

- **Life insurance** – If your employer offers group life insurance at no cost as an employee benefit, you may want to take it – but be aware that it might not be enough to fully protect your family should anything happen to you. You may

have heard that you need about seven to 10 times your annual income as a life insurance death benefit, but there's really no one right answer for everyone. Instead, you should evaluate various factors — including your mortgage, your income, your spouse's income (if applicable), your liabilities, the number of years until your retirement, number of children and their future educational needs — to determine how much insurance you need. If your employer's group policy seems insufficient, you may want to consider adding some outside coverage.

- **Disability insurance** – Your employer may offer no-cost group disability insurance, but as is the case with life insurance, it might not be sufficient to adequately protect your income in case you become temporarily or permanently disabled. In fact, many employer-sponsored disability plans only cover a short period, such as five years, so to gain longer coverage up to age 65, you may want to look for a separate personal policy. Disability policies vary widely in premium costs and benefits, so you'll want to do some comparison shopping with several insurance companies.

- **Flexible spending account** – A flexible spending account (FSA) lets you contribute up to \$3,200 pre-tax dollars to pay for some out-of-pocket medical costs, such as prescriptions and insurance copayments and deductibles. You decide how much you want to put into your FSA, up to the 2025 limit. You generally must use up the funds in your FSA by the end of the

calendar year, but your employer may grant you an extension of 2½ months or allow you to carry over up to \$640.

- **Health savings account** – Like an FSA, a health savings account (HSA) lets you use pre-tax dollars to pay out-of-pocket medical costs. Unlike an FSA, though, your unused HSA contributions will carry over to the next year. Also, an HSA allows you take withdrawals, though they may be assessed a 10% penalty. To contribute to an HSA, you need to participate in a high-deductible health insurance plan.

Make the most of your benefits package — it can be a big part of your overall financial picture.

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

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## Job change?

Whether retiring or changing jobs, you'll want to know your retirement account options.



There are four potential options for your 401(k) when leaving an employer:

- Leave it in your former employer's 401(k) plan, if allowed by the plan.
- Move it to your new employer's 401(k) plan, if you've changed employers and your new employer plan allows for it.
- Roll the account over to an individual retirement account (IRA).
- Cash it out, which is subject to potential tax consequences.

We can talk through your financial goals and find the option that works best for you.



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**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, 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@mystpatricks.com](mailto:officesupport@mystpatricks.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](mailto: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](mailto:Purgatory.Chasm@mass.gov)

• Booklovers' Gourmet, located at 72 East Main Street in Webster, MA, invites you to a book signing event with local author Robert Racicot, retired Air Force Lt Col and Professor of Chemistry with his book *The Haunting of the Oxford Library*, on Saturday, October 12th from 11a.m.-1p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Do you believe in ghosts? The Library Rats: a small group of middle school students who regularly meet at the Oxford Library never thought about that question until they witness a strange sighting. The Rats begin the hunt to find evidence of the possibility that the library could be haunted by a real ghost. Signed copies will be available for purchase. For more information or to RSVP, call 508-949-6232.

**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](mailto: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](http://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.

• The 6th Annual Uxbridge Lions Club Car Show has been rescheduled to this date due to inclement weather. The club will host

**HAPPENINGS!**  
*continued on page 15*

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**HAPPENINGS!**

*continued from page 14*

participants from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Valley Chapel parking lot, 14 Hunter Road, Uxbridge. This year the Southern Worcester County Bar Association joins the Uxbridge Lions in their main fundraising effort. The registration fee for every car category is \$15 and admission is free. Judges will choose the top 24 cars with an additional Best in Show singled out. Fans will elect the People's Choice Award. Sponsorships are available to businesses priced from \$50 - \$250 in exchange for on air announcements at the event and display signs. Contact Diane Seely at dmseely@hotmail.com.

**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.
- Please join Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf volunteers and others on Sunday, October 20, for the annual Crop Hunger Walk. It's a fun way to get together with family, friends and neighbors while supporting a worthy cause - helping to end hunger in our community. We begin our easy 3.5-mile walk through town at the First Congregational Church on 355 E. Main St., Oxford, at 1 p.m. Registration at the church is at 12:30 pm. Everyone is welcome! We're looking to raise \$3500 this year. To participate, please go to: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crop-walks/event/oxfordma> and follow the steps from there - Or just show up on the 20th! You can find additional information on the Oxford Food Shelf Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OxfordMAFoodShelf>. You may also call the Food Shelf at 508-987-1062.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25**

- Be a part of Webster's annual Main Street Trunk or Treat event from 4-6 p.m. For busi-

nesses 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](http://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.
- Free Shred Day: bankHometown invites customers and members of the community to free Shred Day Millbury Public Library, 128 Elm St.. 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. 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 per
- St. Peter's Parish in Northbridge will be holding its Annual Holiday Fair on Saturday, November 2nd from 9:00am-3:00pm in the parish hall, 39 Church Avenue, Northbridge. Come out with your family and friends

to enjoy the day! We will have all of your favorites: White Elephant Table, Baked Goods Table, Holiday Table, Craft Table with beautiful handmade quilts. There will also be tables filled with raffles (you never know what will be there!), a silent auction, scratch ticket raffle, quilt raffle and a gift basket raffle. Stay and enjoy a bite to eat with all of our favorite foods being served. For more information, please contact the parish office at 508-234-2156 or email: [parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org).

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3**

- The Dudley Woman's Club most popular fundraiser is back! Pocketbook Bingo will be held Sunday, November 3 at the PACC, 37 Harris Street in Webster. Doors open at 1 p.m. with bingo starting at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$35pp for this fun afternoon of BINGO with the gals plus the chance to win 10 designer handbags! Lots of laughs, giveaways and raffles. The DW's voluntary Giving Project for this event will be gently used pocketbooks and shoes for the Webster-Dudley Food Share. Tickets online at [www.dudleywomansclub.org/pocketbookbingo](http://www.dudleywomansclub.org/pocketbookbingo)

**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](mailto: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.suttonlights.com](http://www.suttonlights.com)

**THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH**

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**Live Bands Every Friday 7-10**

- October 11 **Fifty One**
- October 18 **Nostalgica**
- October 25 **The Ed Sullivans**

**Sunday Football**  
Kitchen open 1-6 Speciality Appetizers

**ALL Are Welcome! Membership Not Required!**  
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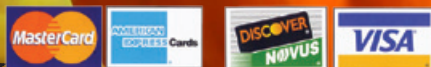
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