

Celebrating a Prolific Career

BVT superintendent intends to retire at the end of the school year

Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, a highly esteemed and nationally recognized leader in vocational-technical education, has been a cornerstone of the Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional



School District since 1994, serving as the superintendent-director. His remarkable career, which includes significant advancements and achievements, has left a proud and profound mark. He has announced his plans to retire at the end of the 2024-25 school year, marking the end of an era.

“Leading this incredible organization and serving our district’s families and students has been an honor,” Dr. Fitzpatrick said. “After more than three decades in a role I have profoundly enjoyed, it is bittersweet to share that this will be my final school year as superintendent-director. The decision to retire has been made collaboratively with our district school committee and with forward-thinking and advanced planning with our leadership team for continued success.”

Dr. Fitzpatrick became BVT’s fourth superintendent on January 3, 1994. Previously, he was director of the Center for Vocational Technical Education at Fitchburg State College for four years, the director of statewide curriculum projects at Westfield State College and Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical School District for three years, statewide conference coordinator for vocational-technical leadership personnel at Fitchburg State College and Westfield State College for 13 years and assistant superintendent at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical School District for 13 years.

During his tenure, voters approved bond issues, significant repair projects, a major expansion, and the opening of new vocational and adult programs. The school has received a Silver Award and was named Pacesetter Site for High Schools That Work program of the Southern Regional Education Board in 1997, 2007-2010, and 2010-2013. The school was also named a Commonwealth Compass School by the state in 2003, one of six schools in the country to receive the 2004 National School Change Award from Fordham University, and earned designation as a 2005 Vanguard Model School by Mass Insight Education.

Dr. Fitzpatrick is the only superintendent in Massachusetts to have served as the president of the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators, the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS), and the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools. Additionally, he served on the American Asso-

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A crowd turned out at Plummer Place to learn about scams targeting seniors from (l-r) FBI Special Agent Chris Reinke, Lt. John Ouillette and Sgt. Brian Patrinelli, both of Northbridge Police Department.

No Scams Here

Fraud and Scam Prevention and Detection Program at Plummer Place

Seniors and older adults participated in a roundtable discussion presented by Special Agent Chris Reinke from the FBI Boston-Worcester office and Lieutenant John Ouillette and Sergeant Brian Patrinelli of the Northbridge Police Department last week at Plummer Place, Home of the Northbridge Senior Center. The group discussed fraud abuse and national and local scams targeting the senior population.

The panel educated the audience on scams such as internet scams, door-to-door scams, email

“phishing” scams, phone/mail scams, new texting scams, gift card scams, and charitable donation scams.

“I got so much out of this program and learned a few things about scams I didn’t know about,” shared Yvette Ayotte-Kind, one of the attendees.

“I know a lot more since having attended this program and will also know what to look for in the future,” she added.

“We found the Fraud/Scam program very interesting and there was a lot of beneficial information provided by the Northbridge police officers and the FBI agent,” said Charly Dubiel.

Charly’s wife, Kendra, further added, “we learned so much from the panel members and appreciated their feedback on various scenarios both nationally and locally — knowledge is power!”

For more information on Plummer Place or its special events such as this one, please contact Amy Cowen, program and volunteer coordinator at (508) 234-2002.

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SUPERINTENDENT

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ciation of School Administrators (AASA) Executive and Governing Boards and as chairman of the New England School Development Council. Dr. Fitzpatrick was also named Massachusetts Superintendent of the Year 2011 by MASS and AASA.

At Blackstone Valley Tech, as educators prepare students to take what they have learned and find their true passion and purpose in their professional careers, the district will celebrate Dr. Fitzpatrick's prolific career, which exemplifies this sentiment with planned events throughout the school year. His last day as superintendent-director will be June 30, 2025. This timely notice

allows the District School Committee to prepare for a smooth transition in its search for its next superintendent.

The Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge.

The BVCC Celebrates its 20th Anniversary Year!

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

Since its inception, the BVCC has been dedicated to bringing the joy of music to the Blackstone Valley Community. The multigenerational members, ranging from talented amateurs to seasoned performers, have shared their passion for choral music through countless performances and community events. The BVCC hosts two choral concerts every year showcasing a diverse repertoire including pops, showtunes, holiday favorites, and classical works. The chorus has had the pleasure of collaborating both with local groups like the Blackstone Valley Concert Band and Blackstone Valley Bluegrass and with the larger music community, hosting concerts and masterclasses with faculty from the Ithaca College School of Music. The BVCC has performed throughout the Blackstone Valley

at holiday festivals, Octoberfests, Memorial Day ceremonies, and fundraisers. The chorus has also had the opportunity to travel throughout Massachusetts and sing at notable institutions such as Worcester's Mechanics Hall, the Worcester Art Museum, The Hanover Theater, and at the State House in Boston.

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



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Doug Howgate
President at the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation
2024 Keynote Speaker

Doug will provide an overview of the Massachusetts Fiscal Picture, state finances, FY 2025 budget, and ongoing demographic trends for the state and our region, with plenty of time for Q&A.

Registration Begins at 7:15AM
Breakfast Buffet Opens at 7:15AM
Program Begins at 8:00AM
Event Concludes at 9:45AM

www.BlackstoneValley.org/events

BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

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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

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Wendy Brown,

VP Director of Retail Banking, UniBank
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44th Annual Waters Farm Days

Wrap up your fall excursions with a trip to Waters Farm on October 19 & 20th, from 10:00

a.m. to 4:00 p.m., where the past & present combine to produce a family-oriented weekend full of activities

& educational experiences. Waters Farm is a not-for-profit (501c3) all-volunteer run living history center

located on 120 beautiful acres in West Sutton, MA.

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

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

The restored hearths in the Waters Farmhouse will be in operation to enhance your house tour. Stop by the Peddler's Shop on your way out of the house to purchase clothing and gifts. Be sure to visit the Darling Barn to see pottery demonstrations and other

artisans. Check out local history with the Sutton Historical Society and meet with Ross Weaver to see if you share lineage with the Waters family.

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

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

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

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

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



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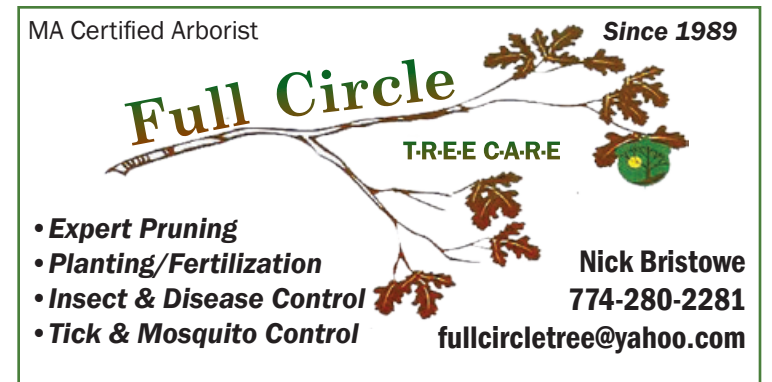
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If you're planning to retire in a few years, are you looking forward to it? Or are you somewhat apprehensive? Are you asking yourself: "What sort of retirement can I afford?"

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

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.

Contact Mark today to discuss this topic or any of your financial goals.

Mark Freeman
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Figuring out who to call can be challenging. If you contact one of the big haulers, they route you to a phone center where they've never even heard of your town, plus their pricing seems vague and full of extra fees. No wonder you've let the stuff pile up—it's too much of a hassle to get rid of it!

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Jay Schadler started his business in 2005. Back then, it was just him and a beat-up pickup truck taking small jobs and working nights and weekends when he could. As the years rolled on, his business grew, but his commitment to customer service never wavered. Now he's got a staff of ten, along with eight trucks, servicing eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island.

Affordable Junk Removal specializes in house and estate cleanouts. If your garage, attic, or office is overflowing with

Business spotlight

stuff, take back your space and let the pros do the heavy lifting.

Jay and his team have handled it all. They've dismantled above-ground pools, hauled away ancient hot tubs, taken down old fencing, and stripped away worn carpeting. They'll come for a single item, or they'll clean out an entire house. And they can take almost anything. They can't accept hazardous materials, brush, dirt, or con-



crete, but everything else is fair game for them to take away.

Not everything ends up in a landfill—not if Jay can help it. He first tries to either recycle or donate items. Only after he tries to repurpose items do they end up at the transfer station.

Working with Affordable Junk Removal is simple. First, you can load stuff yourself if you want by renting a 15-cubic-yard dumpster for a week and chucking up to a ton of your unwanted stuff. If you need to get rid of more weight, then Jay prorates that tonnage—you never pay for what you don't use.

If you don't want to be bothered with the dumpster, they've also got a driveway special where they'll take away a truckload of your unwanted things if you pile it up. Or if you don't want to lift a finger, then you can point at the items, and the team will fill up their truck and haul away your unwanted things. However you do it, you're left with more space and more peace of mind.

Jay and his team beat the big waste haulers on both price and customer service. When you call Affordable Junk Removal, you aren't connected to an any-

mous call center. Your phone call goes right to Jay.

And speaking of pricing, Jay is upfront about it. His website shows the truck sizes and prices, so you can save time knowing your costs before you call for an appointment. There aren't any hidden costs or surprise fees with Affordable Junk Removal.

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They also have a thriving commercial business, working with contractors and roofers to clear away debris and keep the job site clean. They can even handle commercial and residential emergencies with same-day service.

Jay and his family are deeply involved in the community. He and his wife, Christine, run the Corner Market restaurant in Holliston. It's not uncommon for someone to reach Jay at the restaurant, order a sandwich, and then schedule a junk removal appointment. Yes, the local small business really can handle everything!

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with the new Rhode Island regulations. Successful completion of the course will certify any minor, from 12 - 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal Water Craft (PWC) / Jet Ski (for 16 and 17-year-old operators), on Massachusetts waters; in conjunction with the Mass. Environmental Police. Certification requirements for Mass. 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. The Webster course is limited to 30 students; an additional course at this popular location may be scheduled with interest.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary 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 or additional information: email phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or

call (508) 478-3778. Register by October 28, 2024 – Space is limited

Bag Toss at Open Sky

Open Sky Community Services announces the 10th Annual Valley Bag Toss, an inclusive cornhole tournament from 12 – 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 19 at the Alternatives' Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville. The Valley Bag Toss presents the perfect opportunity to show off the cornhole skills you developed over the summer at barbecues and picnics. Besides being a lot of fun, the funds raised at the tournament support Open Sky's health and wellness programs for the nearly 8000 individuals served by the agency throughout Central Mass.

People of all abilities, age 14 and over are invited to participate in this friendly competition. The Bag Toss will feature live music

by Smooth & Company, food will be available for purchase from the BBQ and y Mas food truck, a cash bar, airbrush tattoos and other activities, a raffle with over \$500 worth of prizes, and of course, the cornhole competition.

Keep in mind, the cornhole boards used at this competition are not at all typical. Handmade by local artist, designer and woodworker Nick Hollibaugh, each set of boards is unique and beautifully crafted. The top team will win a set of Hollibaugh's boards. Prizes will also be awarded for the first and second runners up, best team name, team spirit and team costume. Competitors of all levels and abilities are invited to join the fun! Spectators will be warmly

welcomed.

Sponsors include Arbor Associates, Koopman Lumber and Foxy Travel. Sponsorship opportunities are available and information can be found at www.openskycs.org/valleybagtoss.

Open Sky Community Services, Inc. offers a wide range of services for adults, adolescents and children experiencing mental health challenges, developmental and intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other complex challenges.



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October Events at Old Sturbridge Village

Old Sturbridge Village will transform into a realm of haunted history and spellbinding performances this October with the opening of 'Phantoms by Firelight' on October 4. Running every weekend until October 27, the spooktacular Halloween event brings twelve nights of enchanting entertainment, thrilling new attractions and a lineup of distinguished performers.

Guests can expect a stunning array of live performances, featuring hand balancing, fire breathing, breathtaking aerial acrobatics, and Cyr wheel acts. New attractions this year include a labyrinth winding through the dark countryside, eerie carnival games, and haunting tales of historical tragedies.

In addition to the performances, attendees can engage with Halloween traditions through activities such as coffin-making demonstrations and reenactments of early American mourning ritu-

als, including an authentic 1830s wake. Popular activities returning this year include "Clues and Candy" and spooky ghost stories

Productions in association with American Circus Theatre, 'Phantoms by Firelight' showcases the talents of Cyrkus Vampyr, with performances from acclaimed artists including viral sensation Ashlee Montague from 'America's Got Talent,' Richard Hanke, Joel Herzfeld, Eleanor Parker, Joseph Kerr, Samantha Bergman, Brian Klimowski, and Andre Sguerra.

"A mysterious troupe of gravity-defying performers returns to Old Sturbridge Village this October, setting up their mysterious, death-defying acts in the most unexpected of places as the sun goes down," said P. J. Griffith, director of Cyrkus Vampyr.



around the bonfire, accompanied by a seasonal menu featuring themed food and drinks.

"Phantoms by Firelight" is an unforgettable Halloween experience, allowing guests to explore the Village at their own pace by the flickering glow of firelight," said Rhys Simmons, Director of Interpretation at Old Sturbridge Village. "We've crafted an immersive experience that weaves together mesmerizing performances and historical tales that bring the spirit of Halloween to life. We invite families and friends to join us this October for an experience like no other!"

Presented by ClockJack

The event will be open from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on event nights. Discounted tickets are available for members (\$28 Adult / \$14 Youth) and the public (\$34 Adult / \$16 Youth) until October 3. After opening night, tickets will be available at the door for \$40 Adult / \$20 Youth or can be purchased online in advance for \$36 Adult / \$18 Youth.

'Phantoms by Firelight' is made possible by Country Bank, a full-service financial institution in Massachusetts. For more details and to buy tickets, please visit www.osv.org/event/phantoms-by-firelight/.

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CHILDREN'S BOOK CLUBS

(Registration Required)

Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 4 p.m. Book Bunch (Grade 2-4), Megabat by Anna Humphrey

Tuesday, Nov. 5 at 4 p.m. Young Reader's (Grades K-2), Nora's Ark by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock

Thursday, Nov. 14 at 4 p.m. Book Wizards (Grades 5-7), Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

FALL STORYTIME

(Registration Required)

Mondays, Oct. 21; 28; Nov. 4 at 10 a.m. Fall Storytime Ages 2-4

Tuesdays, Oct. 15; 22; 29; Nov. 5 at 10: a.m. Fall Storytime Ages 15 mos - 2 yrs

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Wednesdays Oct. 16; 23; 30; Nov. 6; 13 at 11:30 a.m. "Young Scientists" STEM

Program Ages 3-6 (Registration Required)

Tuesdays Oct. 22; Nov. 5 at 11:30 a.m. Music & Movement with Deb Hudgens

Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 3:30 p.m. Lego Club II (Registration Required)

Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 6 p.m. Reading to Gabby (Registration Required)

Thursday, Oct. 17 at 6 p.m. Disney Movie Trivia Night

Saturday, Oct. 19 at 10:30 a.m. Douglas Homeschool Network

Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 3:30 p.m. Lego Club III (Registration Required)

Wednesday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. Tricks & Treats with Robert Rivest, a Mime for All Seasons

Wednesday, Nov. 6 at 3:30 p.m. Lego Club I (Registration Required)

Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 3:30 p.m. Lego Club II (Registration Required)

Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. Owls and their Prey (Registration Required)

ADULT BOOK CLUBS

Tuesday, Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m. Sci Fi Book Club, The Murderbot Diaries, Books 1 & 2 by Martha Wells

Monday, Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m. Plot Twisters Book Club, When You See Me by Lisa Gardner

Thursday, Nov. 7 at 6:30 p.m. Greatest Book Club Ever, The Crucible by Arthur Miller

Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. Intrepid Readers, The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris

ADULT PROGRAMMING

Thursday, Oct. 17 at 6 p.m. Disney Movie Trivia Night

Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. Short Cuts Film Club

Thursday, Oct. 24 at 5:45 p.m. Fiber Arts Friends

Thursday, Oct. 24 at 6 p.m. Community Skills Program I

Tuesday, Nov. 5 at 5:30 p.m. Sci Fi Film Club, Tron (1984)

Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 12 p.m. Senator Ryan Fattman Office Hours

Thursday, Nov. 14 at 5:45 p.m. Fiber Arts Friends

Thursday, Nov. 14 at 6 p.m. Community Skills Program II

October Take Home : Tea of the Month : Hot Cinnamon Spice

Brain Bundles Puzzle Packet

Build-A-Pumpkin Craft Project



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Closing early 10/31 at 6 PM for Halloween

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The more minutes you read, the more chances to win one of four raffle prizes. Track your reading on the Beanstack app or the Beanstack website. For ages 0-100. Ends October 31.

THE HISTORIAN IS IN
Wednesdays from 2-3 PM
Drop-in between 2-3 on Wednesdays to get in-person assistance with your local history research from Northbridge Historical Society member Carol Brouwer.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT WITH MISS DEB
Wednesdays at 10:30 AM
Join Miss Deb for singing, dancing, games, stories, and lots of fun. Ages 1-5. Registration required.

STORYTIME WITH MISS ISABEL
Thursdays at 10:30 AM
Register for storytime with Miss Isabel to read some books, sing songs, and do a craft. Ages 2-6.

TEEN CREATIVE WRITING CLUB
Monday 10/7 from 4-5 PM
Grab your favorite notebook and join Miss Isabel on the first Monday of every month for the Teen Creative Writing Club! We will discuss different genres of writing, complete writing prompts, and use time at the end to journal and/or work on our own writing pieces.

Grades 7-12. Registration required.

KNITS & KNOTS
Wednesday 10/9 & 10/23 from 6:30-7:30
Calling all fiber artists! Bring whatever craft project you're working on and join us at the library on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month for crafting and conversation. Light refreshments provided. Register.

MINI PUMPKIN PAINTING EVENT FOR TWEENS & TEENS
Thursday 10/24 from 3:30-5 PM
Get into the holiday spirit and paint your own mini pumpkin to take home. For ages 10-17. Registration required.

BOOK CLUB FOR INTROVERTS
Thursday 10/24 from 6-8 PM
Come gather at the library with fellow book lovers to read and relax. There are no assigned readings. Bring your own book or browse and borrow one of the library's. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Meeting starts at 6, silent reading starts at 6:30. Small talk is not required. All ages. Please register.

BLAST TO THE PAST BOOK CLUB
Monday 10/28 from 4-5 PM
Calling all history lovers in 3rd-5th grade! October's book club pick is "What Is the Story of the Headless Horseman?" by Sheila Keenan. Along with discussions, we will complete a fun activity related to the book. Snacks will be provided. Not a drop off event. Registration required.

PAGES AND PALS BOOK CLUB
Tuesday 10/29 from 4-5 PM
The perfect book club for beginner readers in K-2nd grade and their caregivers. Along with discussions, we will complete a fun activity related to the book. For the month of October, we will be reading "Pete the Cat: Scaredy Cat" by Kimberly and James Dean. Snacks will be provided. Registration required.

CHAPTER CHATS YA BOOK CLUB
Wednesday 10/30 from 4-5 PM

Join Miss Isabel to discuss the October young adult book club pick, "The Disappearance of Rachel Price" by Holly Jackson. Snacks will be provided. Ages 13-17. Registration required.

HALLOWEEN STORYTIME WITH MISS ISABEL
Thursday 10/31 at 10:30 AM
Join Miss Isabel for a Halloween themed storytime and costume parade! Ages 2-6. Registration required.

MINI PUMPKIN PAINTING EVENT FOR KIDS
Thursday 10/31 from 3-4PM
Celebrate Halloween by painting your own mini pumpkin to take home. Costumes encouraged. For ages 2-9. Registration required.

CRAFT HOUR FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS, AND TEENS
Saturday 11/2 from 12-1PM
On the first Saturday of every month, drop in to enjoy a craft hour in the Tween & Teen room.

FICTION BOOK OF THE MONTH
Monday 11/4 at 6 PM
November's book is "The Fraud" by Zadie Smith. Books are available for pick up at the library. Ebooks are available via Overdrive/Libby. Meeting takes place at the library. Refreshments provided. Registration required.

THE WHODUNNITS
Tuesday 11/12 at 11 AM
Discuss "Someone We Know" by Shari Lapeña. Copies of the book are available at the circulation desk or via Libby. Refreshments provided. This book club for readers of mystery and suspense meets the second Tuesday of each month. Registration required.

MEMOIR BOOK CLUB
Wednesday 11/13 at 6 PM
Join us in a discussion of "Nobody Will Tell You This But Me" by Bess Kalb. Books are available for pick up at the library. Ebooks are available via Overdrive/Libby. Meeting takes place at the library. Snacks related to the book will be provided. Please register.

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Join BVCC for Bites & Insights with Brooke Cooper

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC) Women's Success Network is excited to host Leading the Field: An Evening with Brooke Cooper on Tuesday, October 22, from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Whitinsville Golf Club, 179 Fletcher Street, Whitinsville.

Brooke Cooper, the trailblazing Executive Vice President and General Manager of the Worcester Red Sox, will share her inspiring journey in the male-dominated world of sports management. Attendees will learn from her experiences as the first woman to hold this prestigious position in the franchise. The evening will be filled with networking, cocktails, hors

d'oeuvres, a delicious dinner, and an opportunity to build meaningful connections.

We would like to extend a special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, Millbury Credit Union (MCU).

"As the newly appointed General Manager of the Woo Sox, Brooke Cooper is the perfect keynote speaker for the BVCC's Women's Success Network Dinner. Navigating success in what has been previously thought of as a male dominated career is not an easy task. We are looking forward to hearing what it has been like for her since taking the helm," said Jeannie Hebert, President and CEO of the Blackstone Valley Chamber



Brooke Cooper, EVP and GM of the Woo Sox. Photo courtesy: WooSox/Ashley Green

of Commerce.

Register online at www.blackstonevalley.org/events. Members \$50, future members \$65. Please RSVP by October 15. For more information, please contact Liz O'Neil at 508.234.9090 ext. 102 or email Liz at loneil@blackstonevalley.org.

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, immi-

gration, 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@samuelslaterexperience.org or call 508-461-2955. Samuel Slater Experience is located at 31 Ray Street, Webster, Mass.

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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



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’ 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 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 step ahead of the bunnies. “The bunny is about to rush out of the opposite side now, I just know

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

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 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 casu-

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LUKE
 continued on page 13

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As you figure out who you'll partner with, it's important to know what to expect and what to



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

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

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LUKE
continued from page 12

ally 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. "Grrrrrr. 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

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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 lover'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.

Uxbridge Lions Car Show Rescheduled

The 6th Annual Uxbridge Lions Club Car Show has been rescheduled to Saturday, October 19, due to inclement weather. The club is ready to host participants from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Valley Chapel parking lot, 14 Hunter Road in 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 only \$15.00 and admission is free.

Judges will choose the top twenty-four with an additional Best in Show singled out. Fans will elect the People's Choice Award.

Local businesses can support the Lions' charities and projects by

purchasing sponsorships at various levels from \$50 to \$250 in exchange for on air announcements at the event and display signs. Contact Diane Seely at dmseely@hotmail.com.

A novelty this year is a Zulu Nyala safari to South Africa to be offered in a live auction. It consists of six nights' lodging, all meals and two safaris each day.

Last year, there were over one hundred vehicles to enjoy, along with entertaining music, picnic fare, local vendors, and the Sweet Wise Ice Cream Truck.

"Attending the Lions Car Show is a great way to enjoy the height of autumn and support a great service organization," says Mike Sulham, President.

Winter Coat Drive

The People First Food Pantry of Uxbridge has announced the beginning of their 2024 NEW Winter Coat Drive!

Volunteers will be collecting NEW winter coats, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for the children served by the People First Food Pantry.

Coat sizes needed are infant sizes

- adult large. This coat drive will run now until 12/17/24. Donations can be dropped off on Tuesday nights from 6:30 - 7:30 pm at the People First Food Pantry located at 19 Douglas Street Uxbridge, MA. For more information please Call 508-278-5506. Thank you for your support!

UniBank to Host Free Shred Event

UniBank will host a Community Shred Event at its Uxbridge Branch, 25 North Main Street, on Saturday, Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. The event is open to the community and guest may bring up to 10 boxes for secure destruction. It is asked that you bring a non-perishable food item to donate

to People First Food Pantry. New England Security Shredders will be at UniBank to provide the service. Document shredding will take place on-site. The event provides a secure and responsible way for individuals to dispose of paper and reduce the threat of personal identity theft.

Scholarship Opportunity

The Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild is pleased to announce that they will again be awarding a scholarship to a graduating senior who is pursuing a course of study in the field of visual arts, design, or textiles. This year's scholarship award will be \$2,000.


Applications for the scholarship are available in the Guidance Office of their local high school or available to download at <http://www.thimblepleasures.org>. The deadline for submission of the application is May 1, 2025.

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



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SPORTS

Uxbridge Striving for Fourth Straight Title

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

After concluding a 17-1 regular season where they were awarded the number in the Division 4 State Field Hockey Tournament Uxbridge continued through the play-offs with one thing in mind – taking home its third straight Championship.

The Spartans did just that in convincing fashion as they beat all four of their opponents via the shutout and when tournament concluded with a 3-0 win over Monomy, the number three seed in the Championship game, Uxbridge had scored 27 goals while its opponents were blanked out and unable to score a single goal.

Having won State Championships in 2021, 2022 and 2023 the Spartans are taking to the field this fall with number four on their minds. According to Spartan head coach Kelly Rosborough, Watertown has won four straight championships and Uxbridge would love nothing more to be in that elite company. Prior to getting to the State Championship game in 2021 Uxbridge had only been involved

in one State Championship game back in 1999 when the Coaches younger sister was part of the team.

Since the MIAA adjusted its post-season play and went to the power ranking system Uxbridge has been a beneficiary. In the past it was only teams that were over .500 during the regular season that made the tournament and were placed in one of two divisions, now there are four divisions of participants.

“Timing has been everything, but I firmly believe that we would have still been a strong contender in the old Division 2,” Rosborough said. “We have the talent and discipline and would be right there with the best of them had they not changed the system.”

Over the three years Uxbridge has been nothing short of amazing and dominant. The Spartans have taken home the championship after defeating the likes of Ipswich (2021), Manchester Essex (2022) and Monomy (2023) while outscoring their opponents in the tournament by an astounding 81-3 ratio. Twice (2021 and 23) they completely ran the table while not allowing a single goal to be scored

upon them and in 2022 they gave up all three goals: one in a 7-1 victory and the others in a 3-2 double overtime win.

As the Spartans entered the 2024 season they had six starters on the squad that could very well be part of four State Championship teams in four years, should Uxbridge accomplish the feat.

game; we’ve become so accustomed to being there.”

What’s amazing about these girls is that all six of them will be attending colleges on athletic scholarships (five of them playing field hockey and one softball). Senior captains Elyse Bouchard will be headed to Bryant University in Smithfield Rhode Island, while

the ball for Uxbridge, while her co-captain is an offensive threat for the Spartans. Last fall, Bouchard notched 32 goals to push her over the 100-goal threshold for her career and the most in school history.

“I’ll be looking for these two to provide consistency and energy while on the field,” Rosborough said. “They will be the ones lifting the team up and the main source of communication between the coaches and the players. I’m hoping that that have a great senior season.”

Outside the two senior captains Rosborough will be starting four juniors who are on the verge of four championships over their high school career. In Uxbridge the Middle School is made up of sixth and seventh graders while the high school is grade 8 through 12.

Those four athletes are Amelia Blood (committed to wake Forest); Kendall Gilmore (Maryland); Juliana Casucci and Julia Okenquist (both will be committing but have not made where known as of yet). Okenquist has been the team’s



“It’s an amazing run we’ve been on,” the Spartan coach said. “It will be weird when the day comes and Uxbridge field hockey is not involved in the State championship

Bailey Dzivasen will be playing softball for Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire.

On the hockey field, Dzivasen will play on the defensive side of

SPORTS

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THE CAR DOCTOR

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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.

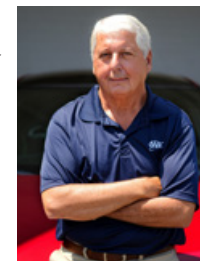
Q. I have a strange problem with my Toyota Highlander. When I go away on long drives in hot weather, one day the air conditioner is fine but the next day it will all of a sudden stop blowing air. I can hear the fan going and a leak of cold air, but not enough to feel it without putting your hand right 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.



BY JOHN PAUL

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.

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

CAR DOCTOR
continued on page 17

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SPORTS

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goalie – last year she had 16 shut-outs in 24 games and didn't allow any goals during the tournament.

"Having five of those six girls committed to play field hockey on the collegiate level says that we're doing things right here," the Uxbridge coach said. "It's something that I've instilled from the very beginning – 'Believe in Yourself.' To have that many athletes going to play Division 1 is very unique."

Rosborough recalls that when she first arrived at Uxbridge the Spartans were not a contending team playing in the SWCL, but the tides started to turn once they implemented a youth field hockey program within the town. Uxbridge had always been a solid field hockey town, but never to the level where they are playing now. The program has become a big thing, not only allowing the girls to learn about the game of field hockey, but as a feeder program to the high school team. The coach also noted

that a lot of the parents have given their dedication to the program as well, enabling the girls to play the sport year-round.

At the time of this writing the Spartans were on their way to another successful campaign sitting at 6-0 with four non-league wins over Division 3 Foxboro, Division 2 Doherty and Division 1 teams Bishop Feehan and Acton Boxborough. Rosborough noted that everyone on the team is a talented individual and wants to be competitive as well as successful.

"Years ago, we were lucky to have two or three solid players on our team," Rosborough said. "But now they are all top-notch players and every one of them is a versatile athlete that can play just about everywhere on the field."

The remainder of the Spartans starting lineup includes sophomores Addie Blood (center back), Aubrey Bouchard (right midfield), Brooklyn Kaferlein (attack, center-mid) and Maddie Cammuso (left defensive back). Freshman Ava Rosborough (left forward) rounds out the starters.

Coming into the season Ux-

bridge had some nig games on their schedule with the goal being to take care of business and win those games: Walpole, the defending Division 1 State Champion and Andover, a rematch with the only team to beat Uxbridge last fall.

"I told the girls that we have a big target on our backs and now that Max Field Hockey has named us the number 25 team in the Nation they've upped the intensity of team playing us," Rosborough said. "We want to go out and be focused and disciplined, but also have fun while playing."

The extended starting lineup or those first off the bench for the Spartans to get some quality minutes are junior midfielders Morgan Charbonnier and Sydney Vanderzicht and sophomores Aubrey Beland (forward) and Emma Peloquin (midfielder).

CAR DOCTOR

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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.

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.

A There are a couple of possibilities. After testing the battery and voltage drop

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

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 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

• Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street in Webster 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*, 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, 508-949-6232.

tober 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.

• 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 - 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 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

HAPPENINGS!
continued on page 19

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HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 18

• 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/cropwalks/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/OxfordMA-FoodShelf>. 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 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 indi-

viduals, 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.

• 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.

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 DWC'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

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

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November's theme: *Saturday Night Fever*

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Questions? Michelle.Benjamin@openskycs.org or visit openskycs.org/openmic



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