

Voting – Yes, Your Vote DOES Count

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Your vote matters, yes it most certainly does. If you think that your vote doesn't matter, just review two of the closest presidential elections in recent history. The first was in 2000 when Al Gore narrowly lost the Electoral College vote to George W. Bush. According to National Geographic's website, the election came down to a recount in Florida, where Bush had won the popular vote by such a small margin that it triggered an automatic recount and a Supreme Court case (Bush v. Gore). In the end, Bush won Florida by 0.009 percent of the votes cast in the state, or 537 votes. Had 600 more pro-Gore voters gone to the polls in Florida that November, there may have been an entirely different president from 2000–2008. More recently, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton in 2016 by securing a close Electoral College win. Although the election did not come down to a handful of votes in one state, Trump's votes in the Electoral College decided a tight race. Clinton had won the national popular vote by nearly three million votes, but the concentration of Trump voters in key districts in swing states like Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Michigan helped seal enough electoral

votes to win the presidency. With a few states having more Electoral College votes than others, our country's Presidential candidates now seem to solely concentrate on those states like Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Arizona.

Let's take a look at the Electoral College. When you vote for

from serving as electors.

There are 538 electors in the Electoral College. A majority of 270 electoral votes is required to elect the President. Each state has the same number of electors as it has members in Congress: two senators and one for each member of the House of Representatives. With gerrymandering being frequently cited as deeply undemocratic, it is a way of one political party redistricting certain areas of a state to gain more votes and therefore prompting more visits from each candidate to gain those important Electoral College votes.

Massachusetts has 11 Electors and Connecticut has 7 Electors.

Most American citizens over the age of 18 are entitled to vote in federal and state elections, but voting was not always a default right for all Americans. The United States Constitution, as originally written, did not define specifically who could or could not vote—but it did establish how the new country would vote.

Article 1 of the Constitution determined that members of the Senate and House of Representatives would both be elected directly by popular vote. The president, however, would be elected not by direct vote, but rather by the Electoral College.

a Presidential candidate, you're really voting for the candidate's preferred electors. You're telling your state which candidate you want your state to vote for at the meeting of electors. The states use their popular vote to appoint their electors. Of historical importance, our Constitution's 14th Amendment provides that officials who have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States are disqualified



VOTING

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AUBURN SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
The Auburn Select Board has voted to schedule the fall special town meeting for Wednesday November 13 at 6 p.m. at the Auburn High School Auditorium, with a backup date of Thursday, November 14 at 6 p.m.

Auburn Town Clerk, Ginger Buteau, Comments on Voting Days and Times

BY JANET STOICA
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"One thing I remember about the importance of voting was when I was younger. I realized that if you wanted things to change then voting was the way to do it," said Ginger Buteau, Auburn Town Clerk. If you can't make it to the polls on Tuesday, November 5, you can take advantage of early voting two weeks ahead of time at the Auburn Town Hall. This year's early voting began on Saturday, October 19, and ends on Saturday, November 2. Voting hours are Saturday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Monday from 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Voting will take place on the 2nd floor of Town Hall located at 104 Central Street. Voting on Tuesday, November 5, will be held at the Auburn

High School gymnasium located at 99 Auburn Street. Hours are 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

On Election Day, November 5, all mailed in voting ballots will be removed from the town vault and counted. There will be 15 election workers on staff over 3 days to receive ballots to be alphabetized. There were 3,500 mailed ballots. Additionally, there will be 45 election workers on November 5, keeping the voting process running smoothly.

"In the 2020 Presidential election, we had an 86% turnout rate but I expect this election to be a larger turnout," said Town Clerk Buteau, "we just ask that all voters to please be patient as our election workers are working hard to ensure that all is fairly done and all actions are implemented according to state and Federal laws." Questions can be directed to the Town Clerk's office by phoning (508) 832-7700.

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VOTING

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The Electoral College assigns a number of representative votes per state, typically based on the state's population. This indirect election method was seen as a balance between the popular vote and using a state's representatives in Congress to elect a president.

Because the Constitution did not specifically say who could vote, this question was largely left to the states into the 1800s. In most cases, landowning white men were eligible to vote, while white women, black people, and other disadvantaged groups of the time were excluded from voting (known as disenfranchisement). While no longer explicitly excluded, voter suppression is a problem in

many parts of the country. Some politicians try to win reelection by making it harder for certain populations and demographics to vote. These politicians may use strategies such as reducing polling locations in predominantly African American or Latino neighborhoods, or only having polling stations open during business hours, when many disenfranchised populations are working and unable to take time off.

It was not until the 15th Amendment was passed in 1869 that black men were allowed to vote. But even so, many would-be voters faced artificial hurdles like poll taxes, literacy tests, and other measures meant to discourage them from exercising their voting right. This would continue until the 24th Amendment in 1964, which eliminated the poll tax, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which ended Jim Crow laws. (Jim Crow laws were a set of state and local laws that enforced racial segregation in the United States from the 1880s to the

1960s.) Women were denied the right to vote until 1920, when the strong efforts of the women's suffrage movement resulted in the 19th Amendment.

With these amendments removing the previous barriers to voting (particularly sex and race), theoretically all American citizens over the age of 21 could vote by the mid-1960s. Later, in 1971, the American voting age was lowered to 18, building on the idea that if a person was old enough to serve their country in the military, they should be allowed to vote.

After the constitutional amendments and legislation like the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the struggle for widespread voting rights evolved from the Founding Fathers' era to the late 20th century.

Why Your Vote Matters
On Tuesday, November 5, pay attention to the swing states of Pennsylvania (19 Electors), Georgia (16), Wisconsin (10), Michigan, and Arizona (11).

Their Electoral College votes will really matter.

Your vote may not directly elect the president, but if your vote joins enough others in your voting district or county, your vote undoubtedly matters when it comes to electoral results. Most states have a "winner take all" system where the popular vote winner gets the state's electoral votes. There are also local and state elections to consider. While presidential or other national elections usually get a significant voter turnout, local elections are typically decided by a much smaller group of voters.

A Portland State University study found that fewer than 15 percent of eligible voters were turning out to vote for local offices. Low turnout means that important local issues are determined by a limited group of voters, making a single vote even more statistically meaningful.

If you don't vote, you really can't complain about the outcome, can you?

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Rob Pelczarski, Principal of Oxford's A.M. Chaffee School, shared these photos of the perfect day at the Kindergarten Pumpkin Hunt.



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Auburn Fire Station Building Committee

Conceptual drawings for a new fire station were presented to the Fire Station Building Committee at their October 15 meeting. Town meeting members agreed at a January 2024 town meeting to purchase the site of the former Chuck's Steak house

building complex. Salad addressed the proposed building's site plan, floor plan and two options for exterior renderings. The siting of the two story building located between Prospect Street and Route 20 al-

in the future. "We're trying to keep the site as compact off the back of Prospect Street as we can," he said. The travel lane around the building is 24 foot wide travel lane so it could accommodate two-way traffic, but with its

curling trajectory around the building, it is likely to be utilized as a one-way roadway.

FIRE STATION
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Exterior plans for the proposed Auburn Fire Station at 10 Prospect Street.

at 10 Prospect Street. The \$4.05 million deal was completed in April. Matthew Salad, project manager from Tecton Architects made the presentation with assistance from Fire Chief Stephen Coleman. Salad has been with the project since its inception in 2018, Coleman said, when ideas were first considered for a public safety

lowed almost 100 parking spaces between the fire station and the Veterans Memorial. The spaces are located in both the rear of the building for employees with about 20 spaces in the front for the public. There is a large green space to the side of the plan, Salad explained. The thinking is that there could be a police station or some other municipal use there

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Auburn Voting Information for the Nov. 5 Election

The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 5 state election is **Saturday, Oct. 26** from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the Town Clerk's office.

The polls will be open for voting from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. on election day, Nov. 5. Precincts 1 through 5 all vote at the Auburn High School gym, 99 Auburn Street, Auburn.

Early in-person voting will take place at the Town Hall, second floor, 104 Central Street, Auburn during the following hours:

Please note: this edition of YankeeXpress North is being mailed on October 25. We have included only the in-person early voting days after that date.

You do not need to make an appointment or apply early to vote in person. Simply go to the early voting location and vote like you do on election day. After you vote, seal your ballot in the ballot envelope and return it to an election official. After your vote is accepted, you cannot take it back or vote again.

SATURDAY, OCT. 26; 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.
MONDAY, OCT. 28; 8 A.M. – 7 P.M.
TUESDAY, OCT. 29; 8 A.M. – 4 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 30; 8 A.M. – 4 P.M.
THURSDAY, OCT. 31; 8 A.M. – 4 P.M.
FRIDAY, NOV. 1; 8 A.M. – 1 P.M.

Additional information can be

found by calling the Town Clerk's office at 508-832-7701 or online at www.auburnma.gov/256/Voting-Elections.

The last day to turn in a vote by mail (absentee ballot) request is **5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29**. Absentee ballots must be returned by mail or in person.

Oxford Voting for the Nov. 5 Presidential/State Election

Where to vote:

Precinct 1 and Precinct 4 are both located at the Chaffee School, 9 Clover Street, in the gym. Voters should park in the Locust Street parking area and must enter through the doors on Locust Street, not the front doors.

Precinct 2, Precinct 3 and Sub-Precinct 4A are located at the Middle School, 497 Main Street, in the gym. Voters should park on the northerly side of the building and

enter through the doors near the gym, not the front doors.

The last day to register to vote in the Nov. 5 state election is **Saturday, Oct. 26**, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Early in-person voting will take place at the Oxford Senior Center, 323 Main Street, Oxford.

Please note: this edition of YankeeXpress North is being mailed on October 25. We have included only the in-person early voting days after that date. You do not

need to make an appointment or apply early to vote in person. Simply go to the early voting location and vote like you do on election day. After you vote, seal your ballot in the ballot envelope and return it to an election official. After your vote is accepted, you cannot take it back or vote again.

SATURDAY, OCT. 26; 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.
MONDAY, OCT. 28; 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.

TUESDAY, OCT. 29; 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 30; 9 A.M. – 7 P.M.
THURSDAY, OCT. 31; 9 A.M. – 5 P.M.
FRIDAY, NOV. 1; 9 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Voting by Mail

Your vote by mail (absentee ballot) application must reach the Town Clerk's office by Oct. 29. A postmark is not sufficient to meet the deadline. Once your ballot has been returned and accepted, you

cannot take it back or vote again.

The 24/7 Secure Ballot Drop Box is located at the rear of the Oxford Memorial Hall, at the top of the handicap ramp, located at 325 Main Street Oxford. Your vote by mail application must be post-marked by Nov. 5 and received no later than Nov. 8. The Post Office recommends you mail your ballot at least one week before Election Day.

Finding a Snowplower – It's Rough These Days

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

I should've known better than to choose the snowplowing company that I ended up with for my home's snowplowing and shoveling last year. I had seen their Facebook ad for landscaping and construction which was the original reason I had reached out to them back in September 2023. I needed a quote for reconstruction of my large stonewall that was showing signs of giving way.

They seemed like a nice husband and wife team. Their website showed them in action doing their

landscaping designs complete with several photos. Looked nice. When they arrived to my home, we exchanged pleasantries and proceeded to review the wall in question. The husband advised me that the wall would have to be extended at its base and would, therefore, be built on part of my neighbor's property. Of course, I realized immediately that this was a really bad suggestion. Legally and otherwise. Then, when he gave me the pricing, my head almost blew off. I told them I'd think about it.

We then went on to examining my driveway and sidewalks for a snowplowing/shoveling quote.

When I asked if there might be a senior citizen discount, I was immediately told "no." The husband stated "our snowplowing price is a really good price and, as a matter-of-fact, we might just guarantee the price contingent upon the stonewall construction." Alarms went off in my head that told me this was all a big, bad idea but I told them that I would be in touch in a few weeks. It was September, after all, and I was hoping I would/could find more reasonable pricing. As it turned out, I exhausted all my other contacts without success so I ended up telling the landscaping team that I would hire them to do my snow clearing.

Then came our first real snow of the season in early January. They made an initial swipe of my driveway and quick shovel of my sidewalks which were soon re-covered by a fresh blanket of snow as it continued to snow all day. The next morning, still no sign of a re-plow. Thank goodness my vehicle has four-wheel drive or I

probably wouldn't have made it out of my sloped driveway to get to work. When I texted the plowers to ask if they were returning to re-plow, I was advised that two



if two of their plows had broken down, did that mean they never properly prepared their equipment or checked their vehicles before the snow came? That sounded about right. The next day I received their email bill for \$340 and choked. They were charging me commercial rates. What a shock. Needless to say, after we reviewed their billing for a pricing adjustment, I paid the bill immediately and we parted company—forever.

Suddenly on Facebook I noticed many ads for snowplowers/shovelers. Apparently, the recent snow brought them out of their reverie. I interviewed and picked a young man who gave me a good price and seemed to know his business. He did an excellent

job for us after the next snowfall. You know, whenever discussing choices and options with friends and relatives, my frequent comment is "always go with your gut feeling." I should've taken my own advice even though there were no other options. I guess everyone's gotten out of the snow removal business now that our winters aren't that snowy anymore. If you know of any snow plowing and shoveling specialists let me know (my email is listed at the top of this article) or, better yet, take an ad or two out with our paper's two editions that reach every home in Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, and Webster. If you bring on just one new customer, this will surely cover the cost of your ad.

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FIRE STATION

continued from page 3

In the conceptual drawings, the public lobby is located on the first floor in the administration wing. The bunking quarters for firefighters is directly accessible to the apparatus bays, allowing for a quick and safe response when there is a call, not involving stairs or fire poles. To the back, there is a transition zone for decontamination of gear on the "hot" side of the station. There is an intentional separation between the living quarters and the hot side to keep the hazardous chemicals at bay, Salad explained.

On the second floor the dispatch room, training classroom and gym are located.

A vestibule for the public is on the ground floor with a reception window. The administrative suite has a treatment room for immediate medical aid for a walk-in. There is also a chief's and deputy chief's office with a small meeting room in between. Also a shared fire prevention room, conference room for the entire admin staff, two rest rooms, a captain's office, a lieutenant's office and the training office. There is also an EMS coordinator's office.

On the living quarters side, off the back of the building is the main staff lobby, and a series of bunks – nine bunks plus three officer bunks. Four individual lockers are in each bunk room. There are individual rest rooms with showers and a study room for firefighters to study for promotional exams and do report writing. The main living quarters houses a dining area and a large kitchen along with a day room. The quarters are designed to accommodate firefighters working 24 hour shifts.

A small housekeeping area which includes a laundry is also in the living quarters.

Two transition zones – a large and a small – along the back and front of the building will aid in managing the HVAC pressurizations, so things stay positively pressurized into the apparatus bays, acting as a giant airlock. There will be hand sanitizing stations and maybe a boot wash to add another layer of decontamination as a firefighter is coming out of the "hot zone."

There is also a decontamination station for turn-out gear in the "hot zone."

Firefighters coming back from a call go into the decontamination space, drop their gear, clean it and once it's clean, they bring it into the turnout gear room where it is stored.

Regional dispatch plans

A 4000 square foot space on the second floor was planned as a regional dispatch center, but it was discovered that that plan would most likely be scrapped.

Regional dispatch centers now tend to separate communications from police and fire departments, said the chief Coleman. Towns want a third party, separate building. Regional dispatch conversations have taken place with Charlton, Leicester, Sturbridge and Spencer, he said.

"None of those communities have an interest in joining a regional dispatch center that sits in a police station or a fire station," Coleman said. This is due to the change in dispatch duties over the past several decades which previously centered on assisting local police and fire along with administrative tasks.

"The idea originally was to house a regional dispatch center. If no-one's going to come, it is not cost-effective to move dispatch from the police station to the fire station," Coleman said.

It will be up to the town if they want to keep the planned dispatch square footage for another use or change the design in that instance, Salad said.

The space could be kept empty for future use, eliminated or the building expanded out longer making it all one story, he said. They all have cost implications and effects.

Two exterior versions of the proposed station were presented. The first was in a traditional New England style with the administrative and housing side of the building clad in white fiber cement clapboards with gabled ends in board and batten styling. Multiple windows allowing for natural light and a red brick water table beneath the first floor. The apparatus bay section of the building was pictured as red brick.

The pitched roof is planned to be made of standing seam metal. A second exterior showed more brick work.

Committee members emphasized the importance of anticipating future needs, and had suggestions for moving various rooms. Salad said he can't give a timeline on the new plans without the dispatch room, until the town is able to give him a definite direction and the Select Board would need to give their input first.

The plans so far still include looking for funding approval from the voters at the Spring town meeting.



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Crocodile River Music Brings Africa to Oxford

Oxford Middle School recently had the excitement of a visit by Crocodile River Music. Crocodile River Music's mission is to connect audiences with African artists, and cultures through performance and artifact education. Our partnership with them included the loans of African art pieces and artifacts for our art classes so that they could learn about the art mediums and create art in the likeness or style of the piece.

Crocodile River Music also provided drum circle lessons on the djembe and dundun drums as well as the kashishi to our grade 7 students. Grade 7 students rotated through these drum circle

lessons as an extension of our music program on October 3. Students learned about each instrument, how they are made, the sounds they make, and how to play the instruments with rhythm.

Finally, our entire student body attended a performance by Crocodile River Music where Crocodile River Music performed native pieces from across Africa for our students, explained their meaning and welcomed students to engage through singing along in a call



and response, clapping, dancing, and also joining the musicians on stage to learn an instrument.

OMS would like to extend a special thank you to OMS teachers Ms. Krutcher, art teacher, and Mr. Kim, music teacher, for their collaboration in writing a grant application to bring this experience to us, and thank you to the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for providing this grant opportunity to bring Crocodile River Music as well as musical instruments to Oxford Middle School.



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Enrollment Now Open for Massachusetts Home Energy Assistance Program

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities today

announced that the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) enrollment period for the 2024-2025 winter heating season will open on October 1. This critical program provides financial relief to eligible households to help them pay their winter heating bills, ensuring they can keep their homes safe and warm during the colder months.

HEAP is a free, statewide resource that assists eligible renters and homeowners by paying a portion of their winter heating bills directly to their heating companies. Starting Oct. 1, homeowners and renters can apply online or through local administering agencies across the state. The assistance period runs from Nov. 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025. HEAP offers grants that do not need to be repaid; however, households must meet specific eligibility requirements to qualify.

"No resident should have to worry about heating their home during the winter," said Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities Ed Augustus. "With high costs

continuing to strain household finances, the Home Energy Assistance Program is more critical than ever. We urge anyone in need of heating assistance to explore their eligibility by applying online or visiting the nearest administering agency. Please share this valuable information with loved ones or neighbors who could benefit from this support during the colder months."

Eligibility is determined by several factors, including household size and the combined gross annual income of residents 18 and older. Qualifying households, including those with the cost of heat included in the rent, can receive assistance for all heating sources, including oil, electricity, natural gas, propane, kerosene, wood and coal. Households do not need to be on public assistance or have unpaid heating bills to qualify.

For more information on applying, visit: www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-home-heating-and-energy-assistance

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Last Chance for "Phantoms by Firelight" at OSV

Old Sturbridge Village will transform into a realm of haunted history and spell-binding performances through 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

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



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 rituals, including an authentic 1830s wake. Popular activities returning this year include "Clues and Candy" and spooky ghost stories 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 Productions in association with American Circus Theatre, 'Phantoms by Firelight' showcases the talents of

down," said P. J. Griffith, director of Cyrkus Vampyr.

The event will be open from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on event nights. 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/



Oxford Middle School recognizes students each month who exemplify the "Be The 3" goals of Respect, Responsibility and Safety as well as showing that attendance matters, displaying citizenship and showing growth in a variety of ways. This month OMS celebrates Marquis Gagne, Joshua George, Tucker Harrity, Liam Harrity and Jayden Rosario as the September Students of the month.



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SPORTS

Football for Fun

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Upon entering Auburn High School, Tommy Hayes was looking for something that he could do with his friends. Having played flag football in his younger days he decided to give football a shot and found that he and the sport clicked; it was also something that he came to really enjoy playing.

“At 5 foot-10 and a 155 pounds I wasn’t that big, especially for a linebacker, but I was going to make it work,” he said. “I had no clue where I wanted to play and my freshman coach put me at linebacker. I fell in love with the position although I honestly can’t tell you why, but I’m happy that the coach made that decision back then.”

In addition to playing linebacker Hayes also was a running back for the Rockets, but that would quickly change when the team’s fullback got injured. Taking over as the team’s fullback, Hayes found that he loved the position as well, but just not as much as linebacker.

“I enjoying playing linebacker much more because of the hitting and playing a part on the defensive unit trying to hold the other team from scoring,” Hayes said.

Although he didn’t know a lot about the game that first season, he made sure that he would learn as much as he could thus bringing him to where he is today as a senior.

“As a freshman he had similar traits to how he plays today. He steps onto the field with a never give up attitude,” Auburn Coach Jeff Cormier said. “He’s a solid player at both positions and despite being undersized he finds a



way to make plays. He’s been that way for four years; he’s a lead by example, character guy.”

Cormier went on to say that the coaching staff occasionally puts Hayes in positions where his size should be an issue, but the senior always come through and makes the plays needed to help the team be successful.

“He goes about his business quietly; he may not have huge tackles or break away runs, but you can always count on him being there. He’s a hard-working kid on and off the field,” the Auburn coach said. “He’s the type of guy you may not notice, but when he’s not out there on the field he leaves a big hole to fill and I man

this in a good way. We don’t have to worry about him not giving a total effort all of the time.”

In the early days, Hayes found himself getting bounced around on the offensive side of the ball but noted that he didn’t care where they put him as long as he was on the field with his teammates enjoying the game. During those days he didn’t consider himself a physical player, but things would change during his sophomore campaign.

“The JV coach was coaching us up and gave me a couple of tips and I acted upon them during a

game and realized that I could actually do this and wasn’t that bad,” the linebacker said. “That’s when I started to become physical and not afraid of contact; I was becoming a true linebacker.”

Although he was able to play a physical game with the bigger players, the opposition didn’t really see his talent until it was too late. They would see him lineup and thought that they were going to be able to take advantage of his size, but they were so wrong.

“I may be smaller, but I believe in my skills,” he said. “I also believe in the other 10 guys with me on defense – I know that they have my back as well as I have theirs.”

Coach Cormier believes that Hayes is a much better linebacker than a full back. At fullback, you can say he’s a complimentary player, but the coach says he is much more than that – he’s an important piece to the Auburn football team.

Playing in his senior campaign for the Rockets Hayes would like to surpass the number of tackles (97) that Nathan Cook had last year. The now senior linebacker found Cook to be a really good leader and one that helped him considerably to improve his game. With that, he wants to honor his mentor by matching what he did last fall on the field for Auburn.

In addition to surpassing Cook’s 97 tackles, Hayes would also like to see Auburn win on Thanksgiving Day and earn a spot in the tournament. The Rockets have played in the State Tournament the last two seasons, but unfortunately have not made it out of the first round. Hayes is hoping that he can help his team turn things around in that aspect. Following the season, Hayes would like to sit down and figure out if collegiate ball is something that he might be able to do, but for right now it’s all in for Auburn football.

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Free Diabetes Lecture at UMass Memorial Health

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month

On Wednesday, November 20, UMass Memorial Health – Milford Regional Medical Center and Milford Regional Physician Group is sponsoring a free, in-person community lecture. “What’s New in Diabetes,” will discuss some of the newer products and trends to help individuals with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. Topics include newer medications, food trends, exercise options and newer monitoring devices that may help you meet your goals and make life easier. This discussion will be led by Milford Regional Physician

Group Diabetes Education’s Amber Redden, RN, CDCES and Caron Grupposo, RN, CDCES, who specialize in diabetes care.

The lecture will begin at 6 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Visit milfordregional.org and view “Classes and Events” on the homepage and then select “Lectures.” For questions, contact 508-422-2827 or msanford@milreg.org. An email will be sent to registrants with information on parking and lecture location 48 hours prior to the event.

BVT Annual Admissions Open House Nov. 13

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School will hold an Open House for prospective students

demics, student support services, student activities and admissions. Information sessions will run from 5 – 5:30 p.m. about the



and their families on Wednesday, November 13, from 5:30 – 8 p.m. No registration is needed.

The evening is a chance to make a self-guided tour of the state of the art school located at 65 Pleasant Street, Upton. Each department will offer insight into the curriculum, projects and caadisplays and staff will be available to answer your questions pertaining to aca-

Special Education program in the cafeteria. The Spanish Immersion program will be hosted at the same time in the cafeteria annex and have information on how to enroll your child.

To learn more, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/admissionso-penhouse.

TALES FROM BEYOND

tomdagostino.com

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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LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

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

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



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

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

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.

Prayer



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

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

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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.

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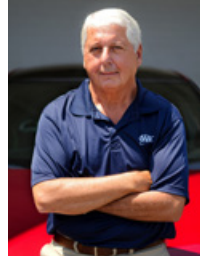
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Mechanic stumped by brake failure



BY JOHN PAUL

Q. I have a 2011 Lincoln MKX with 126,000 miles. Back in July, I had a one-time occurrence where my brake pedal went to the floor with braking capability very much diminished. There was no issue with the brake fluid and my mechanic could not come up with a physical reason that caused this. This happened again last week, and he did a “deeper dive” and still couldn’t give me a reason. He had this same problem once before with a Ford Explorer. After changing the master-cylinder and one other part which I don’t remember, he told me he would not give his customer a guarantee that it would not happen again. Are you aware of anything about this or has Ford/Lincoln issued any bulletins about this problem? Also, with proper maintenance (I drive about 10K miles/year), what life expectancy can I expect from this vehicle?

A. The brake master-cylinder is the typical cause of a dropping or fading brake pedal. The system will typically present itself while waiting at a stop light with your foot lightly resting on the brake pedal. So as a pure guess it is a pretty good one. I found no technical service bulletins that addressed this specific problem. Regarding how long this car can last depends on how it is driven and maintained. With normal care it should be able to reach 200,000 miles with ease. Now of course there could be some expenses on the way. The transmissions in some of these models can be problematic. Also, as the car continues to age, it would not be unusual to have issues with the climate control system, power windows/locks and even the infotainment system. Keep in mind that it is almost always cheaper to fix an old car than buy a new one.

between mid-October and mid-May, would two years between charges make sense?

A. Mercedes has one of the most sophisticated oil monitoring systems of most any manufacturer. Although Mercedes does state that yearly service is recommended. We have a VW Beetle convertible that sits for six months, and I still service the engine each year. Could you go two years between oil changes? Probably. Would I? No.

Q. Do you have any suggestions for how to prevent mice from eating the wires of your car? My understanding is that many newer cars have soy-based wiring that mice love. Is there anything you can put inside the car to keep them out?

A. Soy is used in wiring and foam, but it is not a food product. Old wiring was petroleum based which may have been somewhat of a deterrent. That being said I have repaired many old cars whose wire was eaten by rodents. Some things you can try, Shake-A-Way (there are others) which is supposed to give off a

Q. I am very diligent regarding oil changes, but I have a frequency question; I am the original owner of a 2005 Mercedes CLK 320, and the car presently has just under 70,000 miles. The car is used about five months a year, and probably gets driven around 2500 miles a year. I have been getting annual oil changes to date. My question is as follows; considering that the V6 engine requires eight quarts of synthetic oil, and considering that the car sits unused

CAR DOCTOR
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TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING

dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com

Saving for college? Or retirement?

If you're a parent, you want to do everything you can to help your children succeed in life. Therefore, you might think that one of the best things you can do is to save for your children's college education. And this is certainly admirable, but could it conflict with your ability to prepare for another key goal — your own retirement? Of course, this would not be a problem if you had unlimited means, but most of us don't fall into that category. So, given the financial resources and income you do have, how should you approach the college-versus-retirement issue?



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

an "either-or" scenario. However, it may make sense to prioritize saving for retirement over college, for two reasons.

First, your children have a lot more time to pay for college than you have to save for retirement. In addition to any grants or scholarships your children may receive, they might need to take out loans. While it's a good idea to keep this debt load as manageable as possible, it's also true that most student loans can be repaid over a long period of time.

And here's the second point: One of the best gifts you can give your children is to be self-sufficient in your retirement. You could easily spend two, or even three, decades as a retiree, so you will need to build considerable financial resources to pay for all those years. Your adult children will have their own financial needs to address,

so you'll be doing them a great favor by relieving them of any financial responsibilities on your behalf.

Taking these factors into account, you may want to direct most of your saving and investing efforts toward achieving a comfortable retirement. Consequently, think about putting away as much as you can afford into your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Even with this focus on retirement, though, you may find opportunities to save and invest for your children's education. For example, if you receive bonuses or income tax refunds, or your salary goes up, or you're able to free up money from your budget by reducing your debts, you could use these funds to invest in an education savings vehicle, such as a 529 plan. When you invest in a 529 plan, your earnings

and withdrawals are federally tax free, provided the money is used for qualified education expenses such as tuition, room and board, books, and computers. Depending on where you live, you may also get some state tax benefits from your 529 plan. And a 529 plan isn't just for college — it can be used for K-12 private school tuition costs, plus expenses from qualified apprenticeship programs, such as those found at trade schools eligible for Title IV federal student aid.

It might not be easy to save and invest consistently for your retirement and your children's education. But both goals are

worthy — after all, retirement can last a long time and college is expensive. So, try to develop a financial strategy that can allow you to make progress in both areas — your efforts may well be rewarded.

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

CAR DOCTOR

continued from page 12

predator scent. Peppermint oil in tea bag like packets is supposed to work. Other people have told me they leave Irish Spring soap shaving in the car. If parked in a garage, block any entry holes and remove any food (pets or human). If parked outside, try to stay away from trash cans. There is also a heavy car cover from Cover Seal (www.getcoverseal.com). This is a heavy weighted cover that can keep out rodents.

Q. I purchased a new 2024 Subaru Crosstrek with cloth fabric seat covers. After about two months and 500 miles we now see premature wearing (fuzzing) of the driver's seat bolster area. I did some online research and discovered this problem of wear going back as far as 2014. A TSB was even issued by Subaru (# 12-165-14) stating that the original fabric was defective, and a better-

quality fabric was available for replacement. I brought the car to the dealer, and they ordered a replacement "part" which is covered under warranty. It is still on back order. I see online that this continues to be a problem with Crosstreks. My question is what about the rest of the fabric in my car's interior? One writer on a recent forum said his seat fabric has been replaced three times. Have you heard anything about this issue and has Subaru finally solved the premature aging defect? What is my recourse if this continues when the car is out of warranty? My wife and I are both retired and have never worn any type of rough clothing that would cause fabric damage.

A. I have seen no technical service bulletins listed for 2023/24 Subaru seat wear. I did find a Reddit posting about premature cloth seat wear that spans several years. At this point all you can do is work with Subaru of America and have them replace the seat. I did locate the TSB from 2014 and over the past 10 years, the

seat material and even the supplier could have changed several times. It has been my experience that once the situation with a defective product is resolved with an improved product, there will be no extension of the warranty. Once the warranty time and mileage are met then that is the manufacturers' only obligation. Now if the replacement product is the same as the original product, I have seen manufacturers step up and replace items outside of the warranty period. It also helps if the dealer is on your side to pursue the issue with the manufacturer. I recently road tested the 2024 Crosstrek with cloth seats. The car has been driven by many journalists and had about 9000 miles on it and showed no signs of seat wear. Based on that perhaps the issue has been resolved.

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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.

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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.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

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

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27

• Pakachoag: Where the River Bends Film Screening & Discussion: 2 – 4 p.m. When College of the Holy Cross was founded in 1843, it was built on land that had been home to Indigenous people for centuries. This film by Holy Cross faculty and staff, community leaders and students seeks to illuminate that history. After the film, stay for a discussion with Sarah Luria, Chair, Environmental Studies, Colin Novick, The Greater Worcester Land Trust, and Jo Elle Moody and Gordon Ward, Officers of the Quinsigamond Band of Nipmuc. Presented in partnership with the College of the Holy Cross and the Scholarship in Action program. This program is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. An adult must accompany children. Blackstone Heritage Corridor Visitor Center at Worcester Department of Conservation and Recreation - 3 Paul Clancy Way, Worcester. For the most up to date programming information,

call (508) 373-7056.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

• Halloween At The Museum: Come join the spooky people at the Auburn Historical Society and Museum, 41 South Street, Auburn, from 6:30p to 8:30p. You'll be able to meet some "characters" that will be telling you scary stories of Auburn's past, solve some vampire jokes, and partake in "Trick or Treat" bags. A tour of the museum, a glass of cider, and B000000000000000!
• The Oxford Free Public Library and the Oxford Conservation Commission have teamed up to host a Seed Saving Presentation from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Carbundle Beach House, 12 Carbundle Drive, Oxford. Learn from a Massachusetts Master Gardener the benefits of saving seeds and basic techniques. This topic is being presented in anticipation of the new Seed Library that will be introduced in Spring 2025. To get the Seed Library started, seed donations will be accepted at the Oxford Free Public Library beginning in November.

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
• 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.
• Our popular, annual Harvest Fair fundraiser to benefit the combined 3 Grafton Churches now known as Our Lady of Hope Parish will be held at St. James Church Hall, 89 Main Street, S. Grafton on Saturday, November 2nd, 2024 from 9AM - 3PM. There will be something for everyone. Come browse, buy, have breakfast or lunch, meet friends, and have fun!
• A Poetry Book Signing & Open Mic with

HAPPENINGS!
continued on page 15

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HAPPENINGS!

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Alan Ira Gordon featuring "Pittsburgh and Other Poems", will take place at 2 p.m. at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, Webster. To sign up for the Open Mic portion of the event, please call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com. All of the poems in this book explore in poetic form various ideas of sense of place, whether physical locations, points in time or ideas of place that could only exist (for now, at least) within the creative realms of science fiction, fantasy and/or horror.

• The Douglas Historical Society is hosting a Spaghetti Supper with limited seating, so reservations are necessary. Seatings are at 4 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. The Society relies solely on the generosity of others to keep their doors open and is asking for donations of \$15 for adults and \$7 for children under 12 years. To go orders will be accepted. To make a reservation or place your to go order, call Ursula at 508-723-3484 or email enjenckes1833@gmail.com.

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

• The Uxbridge Polish American Club Social and Civil Club is hosting a Polka Party from 1 – 5 p.m. with Dennis Polisky & Maestro's Men. The Club is located at 217 Mendon Street, Uxbridge. Tickets are \$15 per person at the door or at the Polish Hall. For more information, call 508-278-7583.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

• Salute to Veterans Comedy Night. Come and meet the members of your Veterans Advisory Committee and enjoy a fun night with us. 6 p.m. at the Delisle-Goulet Post, 60 Worcester St., Grafton. Cash bar and light refreshments and food available.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

• Charlton City United Methodist Church will once again host Dynamic Cards, Collectibles and Craft Show at 74 Stafford Street, Charlton from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Two full floors of Trading Cards, Collectibles and Crafts of all kinds! The show will be jam-packed with 60+ tables and feature lunch, baked goods, and other goodies for purchase. Add to your collection or begin a new one. In addition to a very large variety of vendors and crafters, we'll also have lunch and baked goods for sale. Partial proceeds help support many local community causes. You win with all the sellers, and the world wins when you come to support the show. Admission is FREE. There is plenty of parking and the building is handicap accessible. For further information, including vendor inquiries: Joe Dupont. joedupont@dynamiccardcollectors.com

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

• The Auburn Select Board has voted to schedule the fall special town meeting for Wednesday November 13 at 6 p.m. at the Auburn High School Auditorium, with a backup date of Thursday, November 14 at 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

• Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 268 Main St, Oxford, MA will hold a Fall Festival on Saturday, November 16, 2024 from 9 AM to 2 PM. There will be a huge basket raffle, attic treasures and an incredible bake sale. Lunch will be available - a choice of chili or corn chowder. All are welcome!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

• Auburn Historical Society & Museum's No-

member 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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

• The United Presbyterian Church of Whitinsville invites everyone (kids and adults) to our annual Cookies and Carols event to be held on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 4 PM in the church's sanctuary (51 Cottage Street in Whitinsville). We will kick off the Advent Season with the singing of Advent and Christmas Carols led by a guest organ player (William Cudmore) and pianist (Eileen Straub). William Cudmore has played for the Woo Sox. Eileen Straub is the church's Minister of Music. We will have activities for the kids and the singing of seasonal songs. The event will be capped by the eating of cookies and the drinking of punch. All are invited! For more information, please call the church office at 508-234-8220.

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

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I was a military instructor/trainer, and full-time public-school teacher. In my last 5 years, I worked with high school students having learning challenges. **My daughter is a Doctor of Physical Therapy** in a local hospital.

Over the last **"30 YEARS"**, I was elected and served 5 times on Millbury's Planning Board. I also served on the Local Housing Partnership, Ponds and Lakes Commission, Master Plan Committees, Fair Housing Committee, EMF Study Committee (electromagnetic fields), Youth Commission, Water Study Committee, and CMRPC Planning Board delegate (Central Mass Regional Planning Commission).

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