

Meet Dudley-Webster Parade Grand Marshal Jim Morrison

Webster native, Jim Reed Morrison is the son of another veteran, James Morrison Sr. a WWII Marine who survived the sinking of the USS Wasp, that was torpedoed and sunk in the Battle of the Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal) in 1942.

A product of the Webster School System, he graduated from Bartlett High School in 1966. He received a three year scholarship to Worcester Industrial Technical Institute encouraged by William Branch, Bartlett's guidance counselor. Jim has been most grateful for the gift that changed his life.

Soon after graduation at WITI in June 1969, Jim joined the United States Air Force. On June 15, he was inducted and on a plane to San Antonio Texas for Basic Training. After seven weeks in the blazing heat, he was on his way to Wichita Falls on the Red River for Technical School training on the Wright 3350 Super Compound Reciprocating Radial

Engine. This amazing engine powered the Super Constellation C-121, the Fairchild AC-119K Stinger and the mighty A1Sky Raider. Jim also maintained the Pratt and Whitney R- 1830 Twin Wasp that powered the iconic DC-3, C-47 'Spooky' Gun-Ships.

Jim spent the remaining 3 years of his enlistment in the war zones of Thailand and Viet Nam. He is particularly proud of his service on the Laotian border at Nakhon-Phanom Royal Thai AirForce

Base on the Mekong River, our closest base to Hanoi. The Mission of 56-FMS was to support the Laotian War effort and to rescue pilots shot down over the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Jim also spent time in Danang, Vietnam's Rocket Valley, as an engine mechanic on the AC-119K Stinger GunShip.

It was there in Danang that Jim witnessed the enactment of the Cease Fire Agreement on Jan. 27th, 1973, that ended the



American Air War in Viet Nam.

After discharge from duty Jim returned to school to pick up his Bachelors to teach high school math and sciences. He met his wife Deborah Liseno at Worcester State College.

GRAND MARSHALL
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Dudley-Webster Veterans Day Parade

The 19th Annual Veterans Day Parade will be held on Monday, November 11.

Prior to regularly scheduled parade activities; everyone is encouraged to attend a brief ceremonial tribute to local World War II veterans who made the supreme sacrifice for their country at the Memorial Monument located at the Webster Lake entryway off Thompson Road, Webster. In addition,

at this time we will be placing a wreath at the Women's Veterans Monument. This ceremony will begin promptly at 9:45 a.m.

Upon completion of the memorial tribute all marching veterans will meet with their respective colors/weapons at the St. Louis School yard parking area located next to the gymnasium at the bottom of the entryway at 10:15 a.m. Transportation by bus will leave at approxi-

mately 10:30 a.m. and proceed to the Municipal Complex in Dudley.

Upon arrival in Dudley, we will assemble at the Veterans Court of Honor. Ceremonies will commence promptly at 11 a.m. Our chaplain will lead us in prayer, immediately following will be a three-shot volley

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Webster's Town Meeting Quick but Residents Question Town Hall Renovations

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

With a quorum of 102 Webster residents, the town meeting kicked off with Randy Becker being nominated as temporary Town Moderator in the absence of Ted Avlas. The meeting was held at the Webster Middle School. Article 1 referred to the transferring of \$3,056.63 to pay unpaid invoices, passing by a vote

count of 91 to 1. Article 2 involved a free cash transfer of \$33,000 to fund projected police appropriations and town capital projects passing by 83 to 8. Article 3 involved National Grid's land easements and passed by the required 2/3 majority of 92 to 0.

Article 4 requested a \$62,921.40 appropriation for the remainder of the Bartlett High School feasibility study and passed by a vote of 85 to 10. Article 5 involved an

appropriation/transfer of \$500,000 for the purpose of a bio-solids dewatering study for the Water/Sewer Commission passing with a vote of 93 to 10. (See Yankee Xpress' September article about bio-solids for greater explanation.)

Article 6 concerned the leasing of the Town Hall Auditorium for renovation and restoration by Chris Roberts, a local town resident and town benefactor/supporter. The article was a non-binding

Friends of Charlton Public Library host Quilt of Valor

In honor of Veterans Day, the Friends of Charlton Public Library will display a special "Quilt of Valor;" during the month of November. It was designed by local quilter and quilting teacher Emily (Mimi) Strack, who died this year on September 9, following a lengthy battle with cancer.

Strack developed a passion for quilting after the birth of her first child and immersed herself in perfecting the craft. She designed

numerous quilts in her inimitable creative style, earning acclaim from others in the quilting field. Strack also taught the art of quilting in community centers, quilt shops, and craft schools in Massachusetts and Vermont. She was often called upon to serve as judge in quilting shows due to her expertise and experience.

In addition to creating numerous quilts for Quilts of Valor, Strack made hundreds of unique quilts for the Linus Project, which provides handmade blankets for children from 0-18 who are seriously ill,

traumatized, or otherwise in need. Her designs often inspired many others.

In 2003, Catherine Roberts dreamed that quilts could heal the wounds of war and launched

an organization that has awarded more than 400,000 quilts nationwide as of 2024. Machine or hand-quilted, a Quilt of Valor (QOV) is a quality quilt awarded to a service member or veteran who has been touched by war. The quilt expressly communicates a clear message: "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor in serving



our nation."

To use the term Quilt of Valor, Quilts of Valor, or QOV, the quilt must meet specific size requirements and bear a label with required information. These quilts are not a gift but must be awarded to the individual and recorded with the national organization.

The local Quilt of Valor group meets on the last Sunday of each month at the Christ Episcopal Church hall, 1089 Stafford Street, Rochdale, from 1 to 3 pm. The group is open to all interested parties.

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Jim taught for a year at the American College in Cairo, Egypt.

After returning home, Jim taught music in the Worcester public school system.

He later returned to Mechanical Design, and spent eight years at Alden Hydraulic Lab in Holden and five more at the Alden Lab in Westboro. He worked, documenting a Thyroid Imaging System in Sudbury at Scientific

Enterprises. Jim later did Mechanical Design work for Eastern Acoustics Works in Whitinsville for 25 years.

Through it all, Jim continued to play for the Pulaski Brass Band that he joined in 1961 at thirteen years of age. He remembers attending a burial when he saw the Webster- Dudley Veterans Honor Guard conduct their burial ritual, Jim says, "they were kind enough to let me bugle for them." That was 20 years ago and Jim is still playing Taps at Military Funerals.

Dudley Women's Club Meeting

The November meeting of the Dudley Woman's Club will be held at the Dudley Municipal Complex on Thursday, Nov. 14. Social time begins at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting following at 7 p.m. The DWC welcomes Alex

Diaz Salisbury for tips on holiday entertaining and creating festive centerpieces for your home. Our voluntary giving project this month will be Veterans' holiday baskets and gift bags for the YOU Inc. Adopt-a-Child for Christmas

program. DWC is open to all women from Dudley and surrounding towns; we welcome your presence! For more information please visit: www.dudleywomanclub.org.

Webster and Dudley Giving Tree

If you live in Webster or Dudley and need help getting Santa to your house, sign up for the Giving Tree at United Church of Christ, Federated at 4 Church Street, Webster. If your child is 12 years old or younger and lives with you, you are eligible to sign up. You can sign up your child at 4 Church Street, Webster, in the Food Share driveway, every Tuesday and the Threads of Hope Community Closet in the

church courtyard every Thursday from 9-11:00 am through November 26, no appointment necessary. This year we will have evening hours from 6-8 p.m. on Mondays through November 25 in the church office. You must bring the child's ID (Birth Certificate, Passport, Baptismal Record, etc.) to sign up and your ID to pick up. No exceptions. First come, first served, available until our limit is reached. We thank

those churches and organizations that help make this happen.

People can also sign up on-line - email websterdudleygivingtree@gmail.com for more information.

Gifts will be available for pick-up in the front part of the church on December 17 and 19 from 9 - 11 a.m. and December 23 from 6- 8 p.m.. More information for pick-up is provided when you sign up.



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PARADE

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performed by the weapon detail and Taps. Our guest speaker, will then present a brief ceremonial message.

Upon conclusion we will march in procession from the Dudley Municipal Complex to the Webster Veterans' Court of Honor for a similar presentation with Chaplain's prayer, three-shot volley and Taps. Ceremonies will conclude at approximately 12:45 p.m.

All Scouting organizations that plan on participating are asked to meet at the Dudley Municipal Complex (Town Hall) at 10:45 a.m.

This year's Grand Marshal for our Veterans Day Parade is Vietnam Veteran Sergeant James Morrison, U.S. Air Force.

Please note: all former Military veterans wishing to join us are certainly welcome and are encouraged to march. Those who plan on doing so should meet at the Dudley Municipal Complex at 10:45 a.m.

A vehicle will be at the end of the parade and available for anyone having difficulty marching.

The Polish American Veterans (PAV) on Ray St. in Webster will act as host for refreshments. All those participating/marching are invited to attend immediately upon conclu-

sion of this event.

Please keep in mind that we are honoring all those who are serving and those who have served this great nation. We sincerely thank everyone for their participation with helping to make this day a memorable one. They are Chairman Veterans Day Parade and Master of Ceremonies: Andrew Kozlowski, U.S. Air Force; Guest Speaker: Colonel Bruce Finley, U.S. Air Force, Retired; Co-Chairmen: Stephen Rogerson, U.S. Army; Richard Holewa, U.S. Navy; Victor Jankowski, U.S. Army; Richard Norton, U.S. Air Force; John Kardis, U.S. Navy; Ronald Prest, U.S. Navy.

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Summer Memories Instead of Winter Blues

BY JANET STOICA
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Here we are! New England in November. The winter solstice begins on December 22, the shortest day of the year valued at just 7 hours and 14 minutes of daylight when Mother Earth's axis will be tilted the farthest away from the warmth of the sun—in the northern hemisphere. I always wait with avid anticipation for this day as I know December 23 will be a few moments longer in daylight and although I have never been diagnosed with SAD (seasonal affective disorder), I think we are all affected by the loss of the sun below the horizon at day's end. The anticipation of a longer day on December 23, if only by seconds, makes me hopeful and happy.

It does seem though that I have never heard so many friends, acquaintances, and people everywhere complain about how they just don't appreciate these shorter days of disappearing daylight. I've heard people say that when they arrive home from work they hear

their nightwear calling them. That they have no energy to do much of anything else except to wait for bedtime. I've heard their sarcastic remarks about the time change at November's beginning, I've heard them say that they'd give anything for a few more hours of daylight.

Is it me or has impatience really become part of just about everyone's personality? We do seem to enjoy instant everything these days, don't we? Instant messaging, instant pudding, instant noodles, instant oatmeal, instant-instant. If we don't get that quick response to anything now, it seems our patience has worn thinner than thin.

But let us think summer thoughts for a minute. Ahhh, the blissful days of a perfect summer vacation at the Cape or Hampton Beach or anywhere Maine or wherever you enjoy a peaceful and calming summer's day while sharing family time. For me, I like to remember summer times with my family well-spent in Dennisport on Cape Cod. We stayed in a two-story cottage walking distance to the beach. We'd stroll

across Old Wharf Road and down the stairs to our lovely beach to place our blankets and beach chairs. The sun would be bright, the sky so blue, and we'd check out the same families and their kids year after year. As each year passed, we'd watch those kids grow older and taller while watching the parents and grandparents settle in alongside our clan. Hellos were exchanged and then a beautiful day in the sun with frequent water dips was now underway. The sound of sea gulls calling, waves hitting the shore, and sun tan lotion aromas would soon hit your senses. To this day, the aroma of coconut suntan lotion takes me back to Dennisport, nowhere else. The lunch run at noon would consist of sending the older kids back to the cottage to make simple sandwiches for us while also returning to the beach with a large bag of chips and a cooler jug filled with lemonade. By mid-afternoon the bell-ringing of the ice cream truck could be heard which always prompted a children's chorus of "Can I have ice cream?" Money would be stuffed into their

hands and a stampede of little feet would ascend the stairs to meet the Ice Cream Lady to choose their cool treats.

Great memories of sunny warmth and absolutely cherished family times. It's good to return to great memories of the relaxing

beach in the winter, isn't it? Thank goodness for those memories to keep us going in the deep of winter. It's either that or move to Australia for the winter to catch their beginning of summer!

November happenings at the Dudley Senior Center

Nov.: Brown Bag Lunch with your choice of egg salad or turkey breast sandwiches. The cost of this is \$3 per person. Please RSVP by calling 508-949-8015 and advise on your sandwich selection. Please RSVP for this event! We need to know the sandwich you want and what condiments. Dominic from UMass Injury Prevention will do a presentation on safety.

Nov. 21: Memory Café from noon to 2 p.m. Cecile will entertain us with our favorite, Name That Tune. Lunch will be chicken tortellini soup, salad, garlic bread and assorted desserts. The cost is \$5 per person. Please RSVP by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the

Dudley senior center.

Nov. 27: Potluck Lunch will be meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetables and dessert. The cost is \$5 per person. Please RSVP by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Dudley senior center.

Activities at Dudley Senior Center: Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Pitch League; Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. The Dudley Senior Center Knitting group;

Tri Valley lunches served Monday and Thursday;

Book Club November 25, book to be decided call for information. Senior Center closed on November 11 for Veterans Day and closed November 28 for Thanksgiving.

goes forward.

Roberts indicated that 80 percent of funding would be raised and that he hoped a performing arts program could go forward. He personally committed to a \$4 million sum. He likened the Webster Town Hall to the size of Worcester's Mechanics Hall and that his goal would be recovery of all of the ongoing costs of the operations. The ultimate goal is revenue neutral and to enhance the experience of such a performing arts program. The non-binding vote passed by 83 to 18.

RENOVATIONS

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ongoing costs of the maintenance, building use, traffic impact, etc. LaFond replied and indicated that all cost factors would have to be addressed during the negotiation process and it is too soon to determine what the final costs would entail. He further indicated that the town is not interested in increasing any taxpayer costs and that the town is cognizant of these types of questions as the process



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November Events @ Charlton Public Library

For further details and to register for programs, please visit our website (charltonlibrary.org)

Additional parking is available across the street at Town Hall and at the Elementary School.

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

Movies @ The Library

All showings are on Tuesdays at 1:00 ONLY - No registration required.

November 12 : WHAT'S COOKING. 2000. Rated PG-13. Runtime 110 minutes.

November 19 : ALICE'S RESTAURANT. 1969. Rated PG. 111 minutes.

Threaded Together Fiber Arts Group (formerly Silver Needles Knit & Crochet Group)

Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 - Upstairs Reading Room - No registration required

Bring your current project and relax with friends. All are welcome regardless of skill level.

Fantastic Fall Soups

Saturday, November 2, 1:00-2:00 - Community Meeting Room - Registration required.

Join Therapy Gardens for a heartwarming and healthy presentation on fall soups. Whether you're an experienced cook or just starting, this presentation will inspire you to bring the flavors of fall into your home. Space is limited to 30, so registration is required.

Better Read Than Dead Book Club - AMONG THE BROS: a fraternity crime story by Max Marshall

Wednesday, November 6, 11:00-12:00 - Sibley Reading Area - No registration required

A monthly meetup to discuss fascinating true crime books. Books available prior to discussion.

Genealogy Group Meeting

Thursday, November 7, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

The Charlton Library Genealogy Group is a friendly group of people who share an interest in genealogy. Meetings alternate between general discussion topics and guest presenters. Tonight's meeting is general discussion and story telling. The meetings are free and open to the public.

Take Great Photos With Your Smartphone

Saturday, November 9, 11:00-2:00 - Community Meeting Room - Registration required.

This class is for those interested in producing high-quality images with their smartphone cameras. Everything necessary for taking great smartphone pictures will be addressed

Friends of the Library Meeting

Tuesday, November 12, 3:30-4:30 - Community Meeting Room
Monthly meeting of Friends of

Charlton Public Library. All are welcome.

Pie Season Pennant Craft

Wednesday, November 13, 10:00-11:30 - Community Meeting Room - Registration required

We'll be crafting our own pie pennants to celebrate the season. This program is for adults and teens ages 13 and up. Registration is required.

CPL Book Discussion - ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE by Elizabeth Strout

Thursday, November 14, 6:00-7:00 - Community Meeting Room - No registration

Books are available for checkout at the adult circulation desk one month prior to discussion.

Check library event calendar listing for Zoom link.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group

Thursday, November 14, 6:00-7:30 - Local History Room - No registration required

Led by experienced caregivers and offers information, resources, and strategies specific to caring for someone with Alzheimer's and other Dementias along with support for transitioning to different care settings. No registration
Co-sponsored by Tri-Valley and Charlton Public Library.

Saturday Acoustic Roots Jam

Saturday, November 16, 12:00-1:30 - Community Meeting Room

An acoustic only music jam. Open to all 18+. From September through May the group meets at Charlton Public Library, and from June through August the group meets at an off-site location. Email Rich at Cule5632@gmail.com for more information.

Book Banning in Massachusetts

Tuesday, November 19, 6:30-7:30 - Community Meeting Room

Local journalist Jeff Raymond moonlights as an activist and founder of MassTransparency (www.masstransparency.org) in Millbury, Massachusetts. He successfully fought a book banning effort in his hometown, and will discuss those efforts as well as MassTransparency's attempt to learn more about book banning statewide. He will discuss his experience as well as provide tips and recommendations on how to fight censorship in your community.

Charlton Ukulele League & Ensemble

Thursday, November 21, 6:00-

CHARLTON LIBRARY

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Local Residents Named to Simmons University Dean's List

The following local residents have been named to the 2024 spring semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

- Eva Llopiz, Douglas
- Leah Callahan, Oxford
- Ella Staltare, Oxford

- Grace MacSween, Uxbridge
- Naleigha Evans, Webster
- Victoria Lavelle, Webster

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

About Simmons University

Located in the heart of Boston, Simmons is a respected private university offering nearly 50 majors and programs for undergraduate women and graduate programs open to all on campus, in blended formats, or entirely online in nursing and health sciences, liberal arts,

business, communications, social work, public health, and library and information science. Founded in 1899, Simmons has established a model of higher education that other colleges and universities are only recently beginning to adapt: the combination of education for leadership in high-demand professional fields with the intellectual foundation of the liberal arts. The result is a Simmons graduate prepared not only to work, but to lead in professional, civic, and personal life - a vision of empowerment that Simmons calls preparation for life's work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at @SimmonsUniv, and on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/school/simmons-university/>.

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Charlton Public Library Presents: The Organized Parent Virtual Workshop

Tuesday, November 12 at 6:30-7:30 p.m. (Virtual Event)

Are you a parent struggling to keep track of school papers and assignments? Is your afterschool schedule of commitments over-

whelming? This fun and informative virtual workshop, presented by Jenna Elliott, will give you new ways to approach the clutter and commitments that school days can bring into the home. She will share tips on:

1. Combating over-committed schedules
 2. Entry and exit strategies
 3. Tips on tackling the paper trail
 4. Fun and helpful resources
- Jenna Elliott is the founder

of "The Naked Flower", Professional Organizers. She has been an organizer and re-designer for over 20 years and works with various clients in the office and at home. Before starting The Naked Flower

(www.thenakedflower.com), Jenna was a master floral designer and project manager for a Fortune 500 company.

To register for this workshop, please visit www.charltonlibrary.org.

CHARLTON LIBRARY

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7:30 - Community Meeting Room - No registration required

Experienced musicians and newbies all welcome. Questions? Email Cule5632@gmail.com

Death Cafe

Thursday, November 21, 6:00-7:30 - Sibley Reading Area - No registration required

A group-directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or course of action, no set conclusions and no judgment. Questions? Email kwalker4@mac.com.

Critical Thinking Discussion Group - THE TIPPING POINT by Malcom Gladwell

Friday, November 22, 1:00-2:00 - Sibley Reading Area (Main Floor) - No registration required

No experience with critical thinking discussion groups is necessary. Books/materials are available for checkout one month prior to discussion. Questions? Email saga3@charter.net.

Puzzle Race

Saturday, November 23, 11:00 - 1:00 - Community Meeting Room - Registration required

Each team will receive the same 500 piece puzzle provided by the library. The team that finishes first or completes the most before time is called wins! Registration is required- only one person from each team should register. Teams can have up to six members.

Charcuterie Workshop

Tuesday, November 26, 6:00-7:30 - Community Meeting Room - Registration required in person

Kick off the holiday season with this hands-on workshop! For adults and teens ages 13 and up. This class is limited to 24 participants and requires a non-refundable copay of \$10.00. Please

visit the adult circulation desk to register and pay.

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

Lego Club

Friday, November 1, 3:30-4:30 - Story Time Room - No registration; drop-in

LEGO Club encourages children to learn while having fun! Creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork are some of the skills that "playing" with LEGOS can teach children. LEGO's provided. For ages 5 - 10.

Me and My Mini with Sunflower Movement Therapy

Mondays, November 4, 18, 25 from 10:30-11:15 - Community Meeting Room - Registration required

A 45-minute creative movement group for ages birth through 2.5 with a grown-up. Focused on adult and baby spending quality time together, fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others their age. 3-week session - Mondays on November 4, 18, 25. Register for each week you can attend.

Sing and Swing with Deb Hudgins!

Tuesdays, November 5 & 19 from 9:45 - 10:30 AM - Story Time Room

Join Deb Hudgins for a rollicking, fun time of dancing, singing, and playing instruments! This program is best for ages 2-5, but younger and older siblings are welcome. Registration is required.

Wiggles & Giggles for Littles (YFCP)

Thursdays, November 7, 14, 21 at 9:45 & 10:30 (2 sessions) - Community Meeting Room

Join the YMCA Family & Community Partnership for a free music and movement series created and facilitated by music teacher Laine Hanlon! Children, ages 6-23 months, with a parent/caregiver, will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm, and listen

to stories. Siblings are welcome.

Fiber Arts Club for Tweens & Teens

Fridays, November 8 & 22 - 3:45 - 4:30 - Story Time Room

Are you interested in knitting, crocheting, needle felting, or other fiber art? Join us to practice your craft, learn from more experienced friends, or teach others! Don't forget to bring your current projects! Best for tweens and teens ages 9 -18. Registration required.*Please only register the tween or teen attending the program, not parents/caregivers. Younger siblings are not allowed to attend this program due to the presence of sharp objects.*

The Organized Parent Workshop (Virtual Event)

Tuesday, November 12, 6:30 - 7:30 PM - Virtual via Zoom

Learn new ways to approach the clutter and commitments that school days can bring into the home.

This is a VIRTUAL event. Please register online; the Zoom link will be sent prior to the event.

Crafternoon for Kids

Friday, November 15, 3:30-4:30 - Story Time Room

Drop by the Storytime Room and make a fun craft! Best for ages 5-10.

Let's Dance a Story for ages 3-6

Tuesday, November 26, 10:00-10:45 - Community Meeting Room

- Registration required.

Children will explore dance and movement inspired by the words in a storybook. This group will learn how to help the brain and the body work together, discover new vocabulary words, and foster a love of books with full-body learning. Please register children in this age range only. (Younger siblings should not be included in the

registration.)

My Little Pony Club

Wednesday, November 27, 4:00 - 4:30 PM - Story Time Room

Do you love My Little Pony? Meet up with other My Little Pony fans and do a fun activity! Don't forget to bring your favorite pony (if you have one)! This club is for ages 5-10.



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Pearle L. Crawford (Dudley) Library Programs & Events

40 Schofield Avenue, Dudley
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Join us for one of our programs at the Pearle! Do you want to be the first to know about events happening at the Library? Check out our event calendar at www.crawfordlibrary.org or sign up for our eNews letter by calling 508-949-8021.

Gentle Yoga

Mondays in November
10:00-11:00 AM

Join our new yoga instructor Patricia, for a traditional "on the mat" yoga class with chair yoga modifications. This truly is a one size fits all class. Patricia will be there to help with all your needs

Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class.

Movies @ The Pearle!

Tuesdays in November at 1:00
Nov. 5: Borderlands
Nov. 12: A Quiet Place: Day One
Nov. 19: Kinds of Kindness
Nov. 26: Twisters
No registration required.

Picking Parlor Jam a "mostly" Bluegrass Focused Jam Session

Saturday, November 2
10:00-12:00 in the Fels Community Room
This is an unplugged acoustic jam. All talent levels welcome... beginners on up!

Don't want to play? No problem, listeners are welcome too!

Once Upon A Crime Book Club

The Stranger Beside Me
by: Ann Rule
Friday, November 1
11:00-12:00
Adult Reading Area
Do you have a passion for true crime and examining the details of each case? This book club is for you!

The "Once Upon A Crime Book Club" meets the first Friday of every month in the adult reading area.

All books will be pre-ordered and available for pick up at the circulation desk.

Katharine's Remarkable Road Trip: An Author Talk by Gail Olmstead

Tuesday, November 12
1:00-2:30
Join Gail Olmstead for an in-depth talk about her latest book, Katharine's Remarkable Road Trip.

In the fall of 1907 Katharine decides to drive from Newport Rhode Island to her new home in Jackson New Hampshire. Despite the concerns of her family and friends that at the age of 77 she lacks the stamina for the nearly 300-mile journey Katharine sets out alone. Join Katharine as she embarks upon her remarkable road trip. Registration required.

Refreshments funded by the Hugh W. & Harriet K. Crawford Endowment Fund for the Pearle L.

Crawford Memorial Library

Fall Office Hours with Senator Fattman's Staff and State Representative John Marsi

Wednesday, November 6
10:30-11:30
Meet with District Director Amanda Hellyar and John Marsi to seek guidance on issues related to a state agency, find out about upcoming events, and learn more about legislative affairs on Beacon Hill.

Johnny Cash - Songs and Stories performed by Matt York

Thursday, November 7
6:00-7:45
Longtime New England musician/author Matt York will perform the songs of Johnny Cash and tell stories about Cash's career spanning from the 1950's to his passing in 2003. He'll discuss Cash's emergence as a groundbreaking artist in the 1950's, his marriage to June Carter and many of his other career highlights.
No Registration Required.

Community Input for Strategic Plan Session

Wednesday, November 6, 11:00 or Thursday, November 14, 6:00
The Crawford Library is due for a new strategic plan that will take us through the next 5 years. This planning helps to ensure that the priorities we set are in line with what the community wants and needs.

The next step is a SOAR exercise. A SOAR, is a group exercise used to set goals for the Library. It will help identify Strengths - Opportunities - Aspirations - and Results that may affect the Library today and in the future.

If you would like to participate in the community SOAR exercise here is your chance! We are offering two sessions: Wednesday 11/6 at 11:00am and Thursday 11/14 at 6:00pm.

Registration Required.

Crafternoons With Lena

Pinecone Flowers
Wednesday, November 13
2:00-3:00
Spend the afternoon with our experienced and enthusiastic instructor, Lena. You'll leave with a one-of-a-kind creation to enjoy!
Registration is required.

Crawford Library Book Group

Thursday, November 21
6:00-7:30
Book: Honor
Author: Thrity Umrigar
Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion.
No registration required.

Mahjong at the Pearle

Every Wednesday in November
10:00-12:30 Fels Community Room
The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy. Everyone welcome!
No registration required.

Quilting Group

Wednesdays @ 1:30
Are you a quilter? Would you like to learn how to be one? All skill levels are welcome to this informal group. Bring your projects and join the fun!
No registration required.

Knit & Crochet Group

Thursday 5:30-7:30 and Friday 10:00-12:00
All stitchers are welcome for this informal group. Bring your project and enjoy the company!

Dungeons & Dragons Game

Thursdays, 6:00-7:30
Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama? Come play the world's number one role playing game. This program geared towards kid and teens that are looking to learn more about playing and some short adventures!

Storytimes at the Pearle

10:00-10:45

Tuesday-Pre-K Power (best for ages 3-5)

Wednesday-Toddler Time (best for ages 0-2.5)

Friday-Open Baby Play (best for ages 0-12 months-pre-walkers)
Registration not required, siblings always welcome!

Deb's Sing and Swing

Friday, November 1
10:30-11:15 AM
Pre-K Music & Movement offers a 45 minute interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, rhythm instruments, stories and variety of fun props, including a parachute, beanbags, scarves, and pom poms. These programs are theme-based, and cover everything from holidays and seasons to dinosaurs and bugs!
Registration Required.

Guest Reader Story Times

Monday, November 4, 6:00:
Music Teacher Julie Winans

Local Author Carmela Szklarz

Wednesday, November 13
4:00-4:30
Join us for a hopping good time with local author, Carmela Szklarz. She will share her newest picture book called Helping Friends.

Graphic Novel Book Club

Thursday, November 14
6:00-6:45
Do you love graphic novels? Join us for Graphic Novel Book Club! Each month we will meet to discuss the graphic novel of the month. Copies of the book will be located at the circulation desk in the Children's Room. Best for ages 8 and up.

Registration not required. This is not a drop off program.

Pokemon Club

Thursday, November 21
6:00-6:45
Do you love everything Pokemon? Join us for Pokemon club! Each month we will have exciting crafts and activities! Best for ages 6 and up.

Registration not required. This is not a drop off program.

Webster's Community Cat Connection Receives \$1,000 Walmart Grant

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

On Saturday, October 26, Webster's Community Cat Connection ("CCC"), a no-kill cat shelter, received a \$1,000 Grant from Walmart's "Days of Giving Program." Brett Bergeron, Pharmacy Manager of Walmart's North Oxford store, awarded the \$1,000 check to the CCC while standing alongside Trudy Charette, the founder of the CCC who now lives in Florida but was available for the award presentation.

Bergeron presented the check along with a prepared company statement asserting that "For years Walmart Health and Wellness has been able to support and connect with our local communities through our "Days of Giving Program." This program allows us to focus on our local organizations with missions that improve the health and wellness of our community. It is an honor to provide Community Cat Connection with this grant. The funds greatly help their spay and neuter program, which in turn aids in getting these wonderful little furry friends into our homes enhancing our minds and spirits."

Bergeron and Wendy Beauregard have been volunteering their time and assistance to the shelter for nine years, but the shelter can always use more caring and nurturing volunteers to help with

giving love and assistance to these furry bundles of joy. Duties include feeding, cleaning cages and rooms, doing laundry, and other essential tasks.

"I'm a cat lover," said Beauregard, "and I saw an article in the Yankee Xpress about the need for volunteers and I've been here for the past nine years now cleaning, feeding, loving, snuggling, and petting our beautiful residents here. It's a great mood booster to interact with them. If you're having a bad day, you can come in here and immediately decompress when you see their cute little faces. They're so playful and loving. Their presence helps relieve anxiety when they are with you appreciating your presence."

Many volunteers attended the ceremony including Trudy Charette who was instrumental in getting the cat shelter established.

"I began my cat assistance program in 2004 when I lived in Dudley," she said, "there were so many little kittens we'd found across the street from our home who were abandoned and in need of good food and good homes. We turned our home into a shelter." Trudy and her husband, Walter, used their dining room as the kittens' shelter and soon through word-of-mouth potential kitten adopters came to visit and adopt their kittens. Trudy had her own adult cats to care for but when she saw the need for the kittens to be taken care of, she took

them in and sheltered them.

"Elderly neighbors were feeding the little babies in our neighborhood," said Charette, "and we just knew we had to do something for the kittens' welfare." Trudy had located new litters of kittens in her neighborhood that were only days old but needed to be fed. She named them "bottle babies" as she had to feed them every three hours with eye droppers. She would set her bedside alarm to be up every three hours so she could take care of their needs.

Soon Marilyn Fels, local benefactor, heard of the program and offered her assistance. The CCC was first established in the former's Maggie's Fish World location on Webster's Main Street near the French River bridge. After moving to a location near the former Dugan's Drug Store, Fels and other donors were able to have a beautiful building built on Thompson Road across from the former Colonial Club Restaurant. The building has dedicated rooms for kittens, other cats in need of quarantine before being exposed to the more established felines, a cleaning room, wash room, and a well-maintained caging area for their cat residents who can be visited by potential adoptive pet parents and families on select weekend days and hours.

Ashley Burke, Charette's granddaughter, related how she would spend every weekend and sum-



Community Cat Connection photo: L-R Patty Cournoyer-Fitting, Trudy Charette, Brett Bergeron, Wendy Beauregard, Doris Bemis

mers at her grandmother's house. "We'd pick up the traps and get the cats to safety," she said, "my grandmother lived and breathed cats. She always loved animals. She put all her efforts into helping them since they couldn't help themselves. She was always there for them. When I heard about today's donation award, I told her I'd be there for her." Ms. Burke received her college degree in sports management and currently coaches at Putnam Connecticut's middle school in the areas of soc-

cer, basketball, and softball.

If you would like to donate a few hours of your time to the Community Cat Connection, you'd be joyfully welcomed. Please contact them to have a conversation about their needs and the welfare of these beautiful and truly wonderful companions.

Community Cat Connection, 289 Thompson Road, Webster MA 01570. (508) 949-0779. CommunityCatConnection.org

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 lo-

cal 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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SPORTS

Just Missed Qualifying Again

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Each year the Bartlett golf team seems to add another win to their total. Two years ago, the Indian golfers went 5-9 and last fall they pushed that win total to 6 – it was only logical that the team would play good enough golf to garner that seventh win this season and earn themselves a spot in the post-season.

Unfortunately, Bartlett went 6-8 once again and missed out on qualifying by one game for the second year in a row. To make matters worse, the Indians lost two matches by a single stroke and two other matches by five strokes leaving them looking at the other qualifiers from the outside.

This fall Coach Alex Hetherman had a minimum requirement of

four golfers gracing his roster: two veterans and two newcomers. The foursome lead by senior captain Adam Urato gave it everything that they had each and every time they stepped onto a golf course. The captain was playing in his fourth season with the varsity team and put together another great season for the Indians shooting an average of 41 over nine holes.

The other returning golfer for Hetherman was junior Mason Sebestyanski, who was playing in his third season with Bartlett. The junior not only averaged a 39.5 shooting score, but he also finished ninth in the Southern Worcester Country League (SWCL) Tournament with an 82 over 18 holes. He was fifth at the Sectionals, shooting a 79 and finished 30 out of 80 golfers that participated in the State Tournament.

His coach had a feeling that the junior would put together the type of season he had after the summer-long work he put in at improving his game.

“There wasn’t a day all summer long that he didn’t have a golf club in his hands. He surprised a lot of people with all the work he did, but I knew that he was primed for a good season,” the Bartlett coach said “He was going to be a very good golfer for us this year and he played his best when it mattered the most. It was a huge leap in his game.”

Hetherman noted that despite all the success Sebestyanski was having throughout the season it never went to his head and he was always at practice trying to continue to



improve his game as well as his other golfers with his advice.

Coming into the season, the coach had a feeling that the junior golfer was going to accomplish the things he did this year.

“I was not surprised at the things

that he did this year,” Hetherman said. “He was prepared and had worked his butt off and came in ready to play.”

When Sebestyanski first walked onto the Bartlett golf team, he, too, was a newcomer to the sport, but the coach said that he picked up the game quickly while enjoying the sport. During his freshman season he shot in the high 40’s and dropped that score to the mid- to low 40’s while occasionally scoring in the high 30’s.

Bartlett’s other two golfers were playing the sport for the high school for the first and last time. Seniors Kole Sebestyanski and AJ Heenan both decided to try out the sport on the high school level this season. According to the coach, he believes that the duo found a new found enjoyment of the game and wanted to give it a try before they graduated.

The elder Sebestyanski is a basketball player for the high school and Hetherman was glad to have him take to the golf course this fall. His scoring on the golf course got better as the season went on and he showed a steady improvement and was a key contributor to the team’s success.

Heenan was in a similar situation to Kole’s.

“He focused on his game all summer long and although he was not the best golfer on the team (shot a 50 in his very first varsity match), he was able to get his average down by the end of the year,” Hetherman said.

Having only a handful of golfers on the team and needing a minimum of four to participate during the season for the high school Hetherman knows the younger Sebestyanski will be the only returning golfer come next fall with three seniors vacating the squad due to graduation.

“That only means that Mason and I are going to have a lot of recruiting to do,” the coach said. “We’ve gone through this before when we lost three golfers to the football team, so we’re going to have to wait and see what happens when next year rolls around.”

Hopefully, the two will not only be able to recruit at least three more golfers but find some golfers that will be able to get them over the 6-game win total and into the post-season.

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TALES FROM BEYOND

tomdagostino.com

Assonet Ledge and the Phantom Fires

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

Within the Freetown/Fall River State Forest, many strange occurrences related to King Philip's War and the Wampanoag people that once called the area home can be witnessed. The forest covers over 5,000 acres within the city of Fall River, the town of Lakeville and one-third of Freetown. The publicly-owned preserve has over fifty miles of unpaved roads and trails. The forest is also home to a 227-acre Wampanoag reservation. Author and historian Christopher Balzano has written extensively on the area called the Bridgewater Triangle and the Freetown Forest which lies within the triangle.

What can be seen on occasion in different areas of the woods are what witnesses call phantom fires. When the beholder of the phenomenon investigates, they find that the fires give off no sound, smoke or heat. The glow of the fire is contained to a small area above the ghostly flame. As soon as they appear, they vanish, leaving no trace of a blaze in the spot. In some cases, the woods are so thick or difficult to navigate that it would be improbable or senseless to set up a camp in the particular spot where the fire is seen.

Many believe the phantom fires are a residual haunt, a moment in time recorded long ago and replaying when the conditions are right. The fires are replays of the past when Indigenous people camped on the land. They tend to appear randomly within the forest, giving the illusion that someone or something has set up camp for the night.

One of the most haunted places within the Freetown State Forest is a rocky outcropping called Assonet Ledge. The cliff one sees today was mostly formed by the Fall River Granite Company in the 1800s. For years, local youths have used it as a gathering place for parties. Not so for the Wampanoags, who shunned it due to the

negative energy surrounding the precipice. It is not recorded how much of a ledge or rocky outcropping existed before the company began quarrying, but there had to have been some sort of cliff for them to discover and commence digging the granite from the earth. The presence of an existing ledge of some sort gives credence to the Wampanoags relating the fear of a ledge before the company began taking the granite from the area.

Shadow people are often seen in the surrounding forest. Reports of hideous-looking creatures flitting among the trees and brush have scared many a visitor to the preserve. Some people who climb to the top of the Assonet Ledge report a very heavy feeling of sadness suddenly overcoming them. The feeling becomes so intense that they are compelled to leap off the edge to their possible demise.

Several people have died from falling over the ledge or drowned in the waters below. Some who have taken the plunge claim they were pushed by an unseen force—which may be a mystical creature called a Pukwudgie, known to entrance people to the top of the cliff before pushing them over. Pukwudgies are small creatures of Indigenous lore. They can appear and disappear at will. They reside predominantly within the area called the Bridgewater Triangle, where they remain mostly unseen. Many people in the region of the triangle, either residing there or visiting, have witnessed Pukwudgies roaming about. They are said to be very dangerous. When seen, do not approach or attempt to communicate with them, as they will surely lure you to your death.

One of the main theories about why the ledge may hold such negativity dates to King Philip's War. Many of the Natives, knowing that capture by the English meant torture, dishonorable death or being sold into slavery, chose to climb to the top of the ledge and jump off rather than face the indignity of surrender.

To this day, visitors roaming the area of the ledge hear what sounds like war whoops and see the ghosts of warriors moving about the trees and rocks of the

ledge. The area where the state forest sits is obviously magical, whether it be positive or negative energies permeating the land. Legends, haunts and strange tales

abound in the forest. It is obvious the Indigenous people were aware of the unworldly powers the woods held—and still do.

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LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Luke Has a Relaxing Spa Day

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

We weren't necessarily looking for a new groomer. But sometimes the best things happen when you're not looking. "I think I know that dog." The owner of a pet grooming service not far from my home noticed Luke behind the front desk at the local gym where I teach. A hectic morning (with no one available to watch our most loyal family member) inspired the decision to take Luke along to my Tuesday morning Zumba class.

"How do you manage to bring your dog to work?" I've been asked. "I grab his leash and go," I've said. I'm someone who concentrates on all that can go right, versus all that could go wrong. On that Tuesday morning, the odds were stacked in my favor. Coloring outside of the lines proved worthwhile.

"My ancestors may be from Scotland, but I swear I'm part Latino. These rhythms are in my bones." A leashed Luke laid down comfortably, head over paws, while my Zumba students danced in the group fitness room. I winked over at him every now and then as though to say, "thank you for being patient," and he broke into smile. "Do the Ricky Martin song, Momma." Dogs know who we are and love us unconditionally. Little did Luke know that he was about to meet a person



from his past. "Luke? You're at Zumba?" the groomer asked. "Hey! What's going on?" Luke wiggled and whimpered while he pretended to work behind the

front desk. Dog Groomer and Happy Client reunited while I learned about the dog grooming salon located close to my gym. My mind connected convenient dots. I could drop Luke off, teach class, then come pick him up afterwards! This new dog groomer would be extremely compatible with my schedule!

I wanted to acclimate Luke to the new place before his first Drop Off, so stopped in after class. "Look! A dog bed and stuffed animals!" Luke found the break room. "There are even pillows on the couch, just like at home!" Gone were the quivers of the past as he stepped into a dog-scented salon



Luke experiences Shear Love with his groomer, Rachel Nieminen



of this particular pet parlor? He hopped up on the shaggy pink couch designed, perhaps, for a freshly groomed poodle. "Be easy, Luke," I commanded while he exposed a more confident side, thrashing a pillow back and forth.

The friendly groomer whose canine expertise dates back nearly 25 years, took Luke's behavior in stride. "Do you want to see the grooming studio?" Luke stared up at his friend, a decorative pillow stuffed in his mouth. "I thought you'd never ask!"

The prospective client sniffed around the floor, smiled and assumed his signature move, putting on the brakes when something felt wrong. "Your shop meets my standards, but I don't want anything to do with that high table. I have a height trauma, triggered by a time when my parents, though well intentioned, allowed me to jump off the deck stairs. I wasn't developmentally ready."

Thankfully the groomer, who reportedly has been "bit, peed on, barked at and pooped on," comes to the grooming table with several years of experience. She studied Animal Science at Becker College,

and buried his face in my lap. "I don't want to go." Still, had Luke grown a bit too comfortable with the cozy climate

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REAL ESTATE

Planning to Sell Your House in 2025? Start Prepping Now

If your goal is to sell your house in 2025, now's the time to start prepping. Even though it might seem like there's plenty of time between now and the new year, you should get a head start on any updates or repairs you want to make now. Now is the time to start thinking about what you need for your next home and then taking those steps to prepare to list. Survey data exists that says 47 percent of sellers are taking longer than a month to get their home ready to sell, so starting that process early can mean more flexibility. By starting your prep work early, you'll give yourself plenty of time to get your house market-ready by the end of the year. But be sure to partner with a great agent before you get started, so you have expert insight into what repairs are worth it based on your local market.

Starting early is key: To get the best price and sell quickly, it's important that your home looks its

best. That means it's up to you to make the necessary repairs, declutter, and even consider updates that could add value as part of getting your house ready to list. By starting now, you can tackle things one task at a time. Whether it's fixing that leaky faucet, refreshing your landscaping, or painting a room, getting an early start gives you the flexibility to do the job right and with as little stress as possible. Because, if you wait to knock items off your list later on, they could quickly stack up and get overwhelming. There are some important repairs to make before selling a house, so don't be in too much of a hurry to get your home listed, if you move too fast, buyers see right through the fact that you skipped important home renovations. This might end up costing you time and money.

What should you focus on: Feeling motivated to start chipping away at that to-do list, but not sure where to start? Marzeotti Group is trained to identify home inspector items so these can be done before they are called out after you are under agreement. They range in order from: paint, improve the kitchen, bath, landscaping, worn carpet or flooring, touch-up paint outside, replace non-working appliances to name a few. While that data gives you a starting point, it

shouldn't be seen as a comprehensive list. What buyers want in your area may be different, and only a local agent will have this in-depth understanding. For example, if homes in your area are selling quickly with updated kitchens, your agent might suggest focusing on minor kitchen improvements rather than spending money on other areas that won't offer as much return. They'll also help you figure out if tackling larger projects, such as replacing your roof or upgrading your HVAC system, is worth it based on other recently sold homes.

It's not just big-ticket items that can have an impact. Your agent will also speak to some of the smaller details – like cleaning up your yard, adding fresh mulch, or painting your front door to make a real difference in how buyers feel about your home. This type of expert eye is crucial to help your house sell fast and for top dollar.

Thinking of selling your house next year? Don't wait until the last minute to get it ready. By getting a head start now, you can ensure everything is in place by the time the new year rolls around. Call The Marzeotti Group for a free consultation today or your trusted Realtor.



BY MARK MARZEOTTI



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LUKE

continued from page 10

worked at Tufts University and, more recently, has spent time in the brush, bathe, shampoo, cut and nail trimming trenches.

Luke, a happy client, thoroughly enjoyed his spa day experience, which included a blueberry bath, a traditional Golden Cut, specialized attention, and the Autumn patterned scarf which barely fit around his big head.

My two-year-old Golden

received an excellent report from his groomer. "Luke was a chill dog who goes with flow," she said. "He's very smart. He has a stubborn side, but he knows that haircuts and baths are part of life."

What does Luke have to say about the diva treatment?
"It feels like home. And I highly recommend the shaggy sofa."

Write to Amy
amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Visit Luke @IG
livingwithlukevalentino

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.

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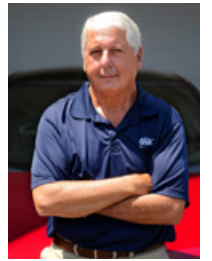


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Engine Shut Off Feature Won't Wear Out Starter



BY JOHN PAUL

Q. We recently purchased a new car which has the automatic engine shut off feature every time we come to a stop sign or stoplight. This is my first experience with this, and I was wondering if this would lead to the starter prematurely wearing

out. We tend to keep cars a very long time, usually 10 years or more. I understand we can override this feature, but we would have to remember to do it every time we start the car.

Your Volvo is not designed to run on gasoline with more than 15 percent ethanol. I would not suggest trying to be a chemist and mixing some percentage of E-85 fuel with any other fuel. The result could be quite expensive.

A. The battery and starter are more robust and should not wear out any sooner than a similar vehicle without this system. I answered a very similar question recently from a new Toyota owner with the same concerns. I have read that Toyota vehicles will actually generate a fault code when the starter needs replacement. This code appears after nearly 400,000 starting cycles. This to me looks like about 20-30 starts per day for 50 years. If the system in your car is as stout as the Toyota system, I don't think you need to worry.

Q. Are there any federal guidelines on "front collision stopping or warning" on cars. My dealer told me my 2023 Lincoln Corsair is two feet. No one can react to a warning in that little time.

A. The guidelines are not for distance, and this may be where the dealer is confused. The rule making is more about speed of the car. The systems are designed to work above six miles per hour. The systems are also designed to provide both visual and auditory warning. The system will also apply the brakes when a collision is imminent with a pedestrian or vehicle. Some systems only provide brake assist, others apply full braking in an attempt to fully stop the car. The systems typically work between 6-50 MPH. Curves, light, glare

Q. I have a 2025 Chevy Trax that takes E-85 fuel or higher octane. I was told I can mix and match octane. I also have a Volvo that takes 87 octane or higher. Can I mix E-85 and 87 octane regular fuel in my Volvo? I haven't tried it yet, curious if it's safe for my Volvo?

A. E-85 is fuel that can contain up to 85 percent ethanol alcohol. E-85 has a higher-octane rating than even most racing fuel. The typical octane of E85 is 100 or more.

CAR DOCTOR
continued on page 13

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TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING

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Which IRA is right for you?

The individual retirement account (IRA) is celebrating its golden anniversary. Created in 1974, this savings vehicle has helped millions of people build resources for retirement. And in 1997, the Roth IRA was introduced. But which IRA is right for you?



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Let's look at the basic differences between the two IRAs. With a traditional IRA, you generally invest pretax dollars, so the more

you put in, the lower your taxable income. Your earnings grow tax deferred, meaning you pay no taxes on them until you start taking withdrawals. (If you take withdrawals before you reach 59½, you'll be subject to ordinary income tax and a 10% IRA penalty.)

When you invest in a Roth IRA, your contributions aren't deductible, but they can be withdrawn at any time, tax- and penalty-free. And you can typically withdraw your earnings on these contributions tax free once you're 59½ and you've had your account at least five years. (If you don't meet these conditions, withdrawals of earnings are subject to income taxes

and the 10% penalty.)

So, are you better off by taking the immediate tax break offered by a traditional IRA or the long-term benefits of tax-free withdrawals available with a Roth IRA?

If you think you'll be in a higher tax bracket when you retire, you might want to consider a Roth IRA, especially if you have a long time until retirement. This will give you more opportunities to put away funds that can be withdrawn tax free. Conversely, if you think you might be in a lower tax bracket upon retirement, you might lean toward a traditional IRA, as you'd get the tax benefits now, when you're in a higher bracket, and can eventually make your taxable withdrawals when you're in a lower one.

Here's something else to keep in mind: Once you turn 73 (or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later), you must start taking taxable withdrawals — technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — from your traditional IRA. But if you have a Roth IRA, you won't face RMDs and can essentially keep the money in your account indefinitely. If you don't need all the funds in your Roth IRA for your retirement, you can pass them on to your heirs.

Ultimately, though, your income may determine which IRA is right for you. You can earn any amount

and contribute to a traditional IRA, though if you exceed certain income limits, your contributions may no longer be tax deductible. If you and your spouse don't have a 401(k) or other retirement plan through your employers, you can make a full, deductible contribution to a traditional IRA regardless of your income.

But you may not be able to contribute to a Roth IRA, or at least not make the full maximum annual contributions, if your income is above certain levels. Your tax advisor can explain these levels, which often increase from year to year. (In 2024, the most you can contribute to either IRA, depending on your income, is \$7,000 per year, or \$8,000 if you're 50 or older.)

Under some circumstances, you can convert a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, though you'll need to pay taxes on the conversion. In any case, think carefully about your options and make the choices that are appropriate for your needs.

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

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and weather can impact these systems and may even cause them to turn off completely. As good as some of this technology is never assume it will make up for being an engaged driver.

Q. I would like to know if, when I replace my battery in my Toyota Avalon, can I use a Noco GB50 battery jump starter to keep all my data when taking battery out? I understand if I don't the car may not run correctly.

A. You can use your jump pack, but you need to trick it into staying on. The NOCO like most won't produce electricity unless it sees electricity of over 2-volts. In this case you need to use the manual override feature. Here is a link to the video from NOCO. <https://noco.com/support/gb50-manual-override>.

Q. It is time to put away my summer equipment. Unlike you I haven't switched to battery powered lawn mowers, blowers and trimmers. What do I need to do to make sure my lawnmower, backpack blower and gas trimmer start next spring? Also, what do you know about Ethanol Shield stabilizer? Is this what you would use?

A. Well I haven't completely switched away from gasoline but the battery tools I have do make it easy for off season storage. I typically add fuel stabilizer to anything gasoline engine

that is being put away. This could be cars, boats, power equipment, anything that burns gas. Years ago, I ran things dry, but more times than not I had a problem with rust build up in the fuel tank or carburetor. If storage is more than just a few months I would add premixed two-stroke fuel plus stabilizer. The idea here is the extra oil in the fuel mix helps keep things lubricated. As for Ethanol Shield, I had not seen it until just recently at a local hardware store. I typically use Sta-Bil or Lucas fuel stabilizer.

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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@theyankeexpress.com.

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

• Music at the Farm season seven fall concerts continue Nov. 10 at 2 PM. with artists in residence Yunwen Chen, cello and Xiyu Deng, piano. They will play Bach Suite No. 3 in C Major, Schubert "Arpeggione" Sonata and Brahms Cello Sonata No. 2 in F Major. These indoor concerts are at Grace Note Farm 969 Jackson Schoolhouse Rd. Pascoag, RI. Tickets are \$30, children \$15., call 401-567-0354 for reservation. Weather permitting, audience members are welcome to enjoy visiting the farm animals and walk the farm trails prior to the concert. These concerts are sponsored by Grace Note Farm, Virginia Sindelar, Artistic Director and the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council. www.gracenotefarmweb.com

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

• A ceremony will be held at the WWII monument at 9:45 a.m. in Webster. Those marching in the Webster Dudley Veterans Day should meet at St. Louis School parking lot at 10:15 a.m. The bus to Dudley will leave at 10:30 a.m. The Court of Honor in Dudley will start at 11 a.m. All Scouting

organizations that plan on participating are asked to meet at the Dudley Municipal Complex (Town Hall) at 10:45 a.m.

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.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

• Coffee Break, a non-denominational community Bible study for women—will begin a new study on the "The Gift of Christmas" from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at Fairlawn Church, 305 Goldthwaite Road, Whitinsville. Held each Thursday, it is free and open to the community. The author writes, "Come face to face with the Christ of Christmas and discover the real meaning of this miraculous story. You'll not only learn facts that may be unfamiliar and challenge some assumptions, but you'll also grow in understanding why Jesus came to live among his people." The study will be in small groups at Fairlawn Church. Refreshments are provided, and child care is available for infants through pre-school age. Each lesson is independent, so if you can't attend every week, you won't feel "lost." There's no "homework" required, and no previous Bible knowledge is necessary. Study guides and bibles are provided free of charge. For information, visit fairlawncrc.org/outreach/coffeebreak.cfm.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

• Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 268

HAPPENINGS!
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HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 14

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 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, NOVEMBER 23

• Our Lady of the Valley Regional School hosts its 40th Annual Holiday Fair from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 74 Mendon Street, Uxbridge (behind St. Mary's Church). The OLV Holiday Fair, run through the Parents Guild, is one of the school's largest fundraisers of the year with funds going to support Catholic education and activities for over 230 students in the region. The Fair includes something for attendees of all ages, including over two dozen local vendors selling unique gifts just in time for the holidays.

Kids will have a great time participating in various activities, including a video game truck, bounce house, kids' crafts, inflatable ax throwing, a special kid's raffle table, a scavenger hunt, and much more. Santa will also be dropping in for free pictures. The Fair will also offer a variety of freshly made meals and baked goods. Pancakes will be served from 9-10 AM. Lunch options include a choice of a chicken parm sub, meatball sub, hot dog, or pizza, with fries also available. Snack options include fresh popcorn, soft pretzels, or chips. Additionally, there will be a wide selection of fresh cookies and baked goods available. The Fair offers multiple opportunities to win great prizes. In addition to the kids' raffle, participants can try their luck at the grand raffle, super raffle, and basket raffles, which feature over 50 unique baskets.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

• Holiday Lighting Celebration on the Douglas Common from 6-7 p.m. Carols by the Very Merry Dicken Carolers and photos with Santa or reindeer.

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

• Breakfast with Santa at St. Denis Church Parish Hall, 23 Manchaug Road, Douglas. From 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Adults \$10, Children (6-12) \$5 Enjoy Christmas movies and there's a prize for best Ugly Sweater. Bring your phone or camera for photos! Santa will be in his workshop, not in the main hall with the breakfast diners. Each family will have the opportunity to meet Santa and pose for pictures in a quiet, comfortable space. Visit saintdenischurch.com/santa

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

• Jingle Jaunt 5K, Sutton Town Common at 10:30 a.m. Registration: \$22 Race Day Packet Pick Up 9:15-10:15 Mail checks to: First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Road, Sutton. No day-of registration. Sign up early, there may be a limit this year. T-Shirts for registrations received by November 28 or race closure

Refreshments available. Wear some bells! Sorry, no strollers, roller blades, bicycles, walkers, wheel chairs or pets. Contact: 508-865-0198, howie189@verizon.net, or fccs@suttonfirstchurch.net • The Douglas Winter Stroll will take place Saturday, December 14 from 4-7 p.m. with participation of organizations and businesses throughout Douglas. Do some holiday shopping, listen to carolers, explore the Museum and take part in special events and treats at the Library (special guest appearances, too!), visit the Orchard, get your trees and wreaths, grab an app or meal...best of all, take in the holiday lights on Main Street all the way up to the Common! For inquiries, please email Allyssa Gniadek allyssamanyak@gmail.com

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