

## Town Deliberates on Fire Station Project

BY JANET STOICA  
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

On Thursday, April 24, at 6 p.m., an informational public meeting about the town's new fire station will be held at the Auburn Elks building located at 754 Southbridge Street in Auburn. The Fire Station Building Committee, Tecton Architects, and LeftField project managers, will present the latest design, floor plans, project discussion, and tax impacts to interested Auburn residents.

Tours of the West Street Fire Station will also be available. The proposed new building located at the junction of Prospect Street and Route 20 westbound is the replacement for the West Street Station 2, formerly a school building, which will revert back to school property once the new station goes online. The Auburn Street Station will then become Station 2.

According to the town's website, town meeting members in 2024 voted overwhelmingly to approve \$4.6 million to purchase the Prospect Street property (formerly known as Chuck's Steak House). The former business has been demolished and the empty lot now awaits construction of the town's newest municipal building.

The Town has been working with Tecton Architects since 2018 on the conceptual design of a new fire station. The Town Manager appointed a committee of Auburn residents with various backgrounds known as the Fire Station Building Committee (FSBC). The 12 member committee sponsored



a warrant article at the fall Town Meeting on November 13, 2024 to re-appropriate available funds from the 10 Prospect St. demolition project to hire an Owners Project Manager (OPM). That article was approved and the committee posted a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) seeking bids for a qualified OPM. They conducted public interviews in mid-December and selected LeftField, an OPM company based in Boston, to manage the project. The OPM is now assisting with the final stages of design development of the building. After several iterations, the FSBC has approved a conceptual design of the building. The FSBC held a "Design Charrette" on Tuesday January 21 to encourage public participation so they could hear thoughts on the exterior design and materials. A survey was available to the public on the FSBC webpage to hear from residents who were not able to be at the charrette in person. The survey results

were presented to the FSBC on February 18 and as a result of the public feedback Tecton made several changes to the exterior design of the building to give it a more "traditional" look which is what the public expressed they wanted. The FSBC will work closely with Tecton Architects and OPM on a proposal that will seek full project approval through a Debt Exclusion Vote on May 20 to design, construct, equip and furnish a new Fire Headquarters.

The total project cost is estimated at \$31 million. This includes an additional million to account for any increases in steel prices from potential tariffs. The Finance Committee and Select Board voted unanimously to recommend the use of \$8 million from cash reserves to reduce the borrowing amount on tax payers. The

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## Oxford Roundabout Construction at Richardson Corner Soon and Road Closings

BY JANET STOICA  
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

The Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation (DOT) has advised there will be Route 20 lane and road closures at the Route 20 and Oxbow Road intersection. The closures began April 14.

According to the DOT website, Stage 1 involves temporary single lane closures in each direction on Route 20, between Oak Drive and Pioneer Drive in Oxford. While the right lane of Route 20 eastbound and westbound are closed, traffic will be shifted towards the center of the roadway. Stage 1 will be in place for approximately three weeks while crews construct the northern and southern portions of the roundabout at Oxbow Road.

Stage 2 will begin immediately following the completion of the northern and southern portions of the roundabout and will be in place for approximately three weeks. This stage will shift traffic on Route 20 eastbound and westbound from the center of the roadway to the outside lanes of the roundabout. In this stage, traffic will need to slow their speeds to 15 miles per hour while approaching the new roundabout to travel through the intersection.

To support construction of the roundabout, the Mass. DOT will implement a temporary overnight closure of Route 20 eastbound, between Oxbow Road and Leicester

Street, from 8:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25 through 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 26. Traffic will be detoured.

Emergency vehicles will have access at all times and local access will be provided during the temporary closure. Police details will be used to control traffic at major intersections along the detour route.

Detour Routes for April 25 and 26 are as follows: Eastbound traffic, can use the following detour:

- Turn left onto Oxbow Road, then turn left onto Hammond Hill Road
- Turn right onto Stafford Street
- Turn right onto Leicester Street (Route 56)
- Turn left onto Route 20 and continue to your destination

Weather and unexpected circumstances make all construction activities subject to change without notice

Mass. DOT is redesigning and reconstructing Route 20 in Charlton and Oxford to improve safety and traffic operations. Proposed work includes widening the roadway, replacing bridges over the Little River and the French River, adding sidewalks and shared use paths, installing a median barrier, improving safety and traffic operations at various intersections, and enhancing storm-water treatment.

## Auburn's Fiscal 2026 Budget is 2.10% Increase

BY JANET STOICA  
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

With many towns and cities in the midst of their next fiscal year budgeting, Auburn's Interim Town Manager Dori Vecchio advises that the next fiscal year's budget increase beginning July 1 and running through June 30, 2026 is a 2.10% increase of \$1,770,048.

"There will be a pre-town meeting on Tuesday, April 29, for Auburn Town Meeting Members to review the town warrant," said

Vecchio, "there are 40 articles on our warrant which includes many citizens' petitions and zoning changes as well as a moratorium on multi-family home construction. We are asking the Attorney General to allow our town a six-month moratorium on multi-family home construction, so we may work out future planning for multi-family housing as part of our town planning."

The pause is a request that no new building permits be issued for 180 days so that a housing project plan may be reviewed along with

design requirements. The request is to draft additional zoning amendments as well as to conduct zoning workshops for Auburn residents. "We are not against housing," stated Vecchio, "we just want to ensure zoning and guidelines are all completed properly. We are very supportive of additional housing but many requests are coming in right now. We currently have Albert Street, Athens Street, Perry Place, and Wallace Avenue which are all in."

Auburn's Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May

6 at 6 p.m. in the Auburn High School Auditorium. Annual Town Elections will be held on Tuesday, May 20, from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. at the Auburn High School Gym.

"We are also gearing up for our Robert Goddard Memorial Event to be held on the weekend of March 14 and 15, 2026, said Vecchio, "we have a town group getting together along with town employ-

**BUDGET**  
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## FIRE STATION

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borrowing for the project would be \$23 million bringing the cost to \$46.73 per quarter and \$186.93 annually based on the median assessed home value of \$394,800. The use of \$8 million in cash reserves will bring the savings on interest to over \$3 million. The full amount of the borrowing would not occur immediately so this amount would

not hit the quarterly tax bill until fiscal year 2028.

All administrative functions will move to the new building which will also have expansion capabilities on its west side. With much foresight, an additional \$1 million was built into the new building's budget in the event of tariffs on steel. Fingers crossed that new steel tariff costs put in place by our country's current president will not affect the budget.

## BUDGET

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ees to schedule two days of events to properly celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Robert Goddard's successful rocket launch."

Goddard launched the first successful rocket using liquid fuel and is said to be as significant to

history as the Wright Brothers' plane flight in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. According to Road Trip New England, "Robert Goddard launched the world's first liquid-fueled rocket from a snowy field on his aunt's farm in Auburn. This first step into outer space came just 23 years after the Wright Brothers' first flight and, within a lifetime, man would walk on the moon."

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# Get The Led Out Returns with two shows at Indian Ranch

**D**ue to popular demand, Indian Ranch in Webster, MA has added a second show with Get The Led Out on Friday, August 22, 2025 and Aaron Lewis and The Stateliners on Saturday, August 23, 2025 as part of the White Claw Summer Concert Series. Tickets for both shows go on sale Friday, April 25.

From the bombastic and epic, to the folky and mystical, Get The Led Out (GTLO) have captured the essence of the recorded music of Led Zeppelin and brought it to the concert stage. The Philadelphia-based group consists of six veteran musicians intent on delivering Led Zeppelin live, like you've never heard before. Utilizing the multi-instrumentalists at their disposal, GTLO re-create the songs in all their depth and glory with the studio overdubs that Zeppelin themselves never performed. When you hear three guitars on the album...GTLO delivers three guitarists on stage. No wigs or fake English accents, GTLO brings what the audience wants...a high energy Zeppelin concert with an honest, heart-thumping intensity. A GTLO concert mimics



the "light and shade" that are the embodiment of "The Mighty Zep." Whether it's the passion and fury with which they deliver the blues-soaked, groove-driven rock anthems, it's their attention to detail and nuance that makes a Get The Led Out performance a truly awe-inspiring event!

Aaron Lewis, the Vermont-born powerhouse first found success with Staind – the 2000s-era hard rockers who injected meditative muscle into an era better known for mindless aggression. But while that band is still very much alive, it was never enough to satisfy Lewis' creative drive. Embracing his roots to earn a rare second round of success, a series of solo Country projects have led to two No. 1 Billboard Country Album debuts: "Town Line" (2011) and "Sinner" (2016).

He also had a platinum collaboration with heroes George Jones and Charlie Daniels ("Country Boy"), and a gold-certified Billboard No. 1 with "Am I The Only One" in 2021. Lewis' 2022 solo album followed suit, with "Frayed at Both Ends" emerging as the best-selling Country album in America but he never wrote songs for the stars. No matter the sonic setting, Lewis writes and sings to get his truth out and his latest album "The Hill" is no different.

For tickets: visit indianranch.com or call 1-800-514-ETIX (3849) or at the Indian Ranch Box Office. All events are rain or shine. No refunds. Indian Ranch is located at 200 Gore Road, Webster outside of Worcester and less than an hour's drive from Boston, Providence, Hartford and Springfield..

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### Contact us:

Patty Roy, Editor: [proy@theyankeeexpress.com](mailto:proy@theyankeeexpress.com)

Submit business news and community events to [news@theyankeeexpress.com](mailto:news@theyankeeexpress.com)

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Jen Schofield, Advertising Director: The Yankee Xpress, Blackstone Valley Xpress, Local

Town Pages, Milford and Upton Mendon Free Press; [jenschofield@yankeeshopper.net](mailto:jenschofield@yankeeshopper.net)

Bill Cronan, Blackstone Xpress North and South (Douglas, Uxbridge, Northbridge;

Millbury, Grafton, Sutton); [bcronan@theyankeeexpress.com](mailto:bcronan@theyankeeexpress.com)

Christine Hodecker, The Yankee Xpress North and South (Auburn, Charlton, Dudley,

Oxford, and Webster); [chrishodecker@yankeeshopper.net](mailto:chrishodecker@yankeeshopper.net)

Susanne Odell Farber, Upton, Mendon, Hopedale: [sue@sodellconsult.com](mailto:sue@sodellconsult.com)

Laura Gleim, Billing & Sales: [lgleim@theyankeeexpress.com](mailto:lgleim@theyankeeexpress.com)

Kimberly Vasseur, Production Manager

Sally Patterson, Graphic Artist

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

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

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# Auburn's First Librarian

## The History of the Auburn Town Library - Part 3

BY HELEN POIRIER

This is a little late for Women's History Month, but it's a story worth telling, none the less. Abby B. Shute was Auburn's first long term librarian, and she helped to develop the free public library in Auburn.

Abby was born May 4, 1860, to Charles and Eliza Jane (Wellman) Shute. They lived on Malvern St. in Worcester where her father was listed as a carpenter on the 1860 census. At that time Abby had a sister, Mary, a brother, Charles Jr. and a stepsister, Elizabeth, whose mother had passed away about 1849. There was a brother, Arthur, who died at two and William Augusta who came along later.

Abby graduated from the State Normal School, which is now Worcester State University. Abby did one term of teaching in 1879 at the #2 School in Auburn during the summer for 10 weeks when she was 19 yrs. old. It was the only time, according to the town reports, that she taught for the town. Then she taught in the Worcester public school system for 20 years.

She was hired as head librarian in 1907 and held that position for 20 years before retiring in 1927. During that time, Abby worked diligently to make the Auburn Free Public Library the best it could be even though it was only open two days a week. She adopted the Dewey Decimal System of cataloging books and assisted with creating a branch at Stoneville School. In 1911, Leander Merriam donated the funds to have a separate building erected for the Merriam Library to honor his late parents and sister. This is the building that



Abby B. Shute was Auburn's first librarian.

Abby helped to set up and where she worked for the majority of her career as head librarian.

Abby started many programs that carried on long after she retired.

She developed lectures and welcomed civic groups to hold meet-

ings at the library, so it became a community gathering place. Reading programs for children were developed with certificates of achievement given out to those who exceed the expectations of the state library association for sum-



mer reading.

During the First World War, Auburn's public library was the place to get information about conserving fuel and food, and supporting the military. Additionally, in March 1918 a book drive was held and over 300 books were collected for the soldiers overseas.

In 1900 there were 1,435 books were on the shelves of the Merriam Library, but when Abby retired more than two decades later, the library boasted over 6,300 volumes. The Merriam family is memorialized in the room that bears their name in the rebuilt Auburn Public Library.

Outside of the library, Abby was a staunch supporter of her family. The 1910 census had her living with her 88-year-old father, who was still listed as a carpenter, and widowed stepsister, Elizabeth Darling. By 1920 her dad had passed, but brother William was in the household. Between 1920 and 1930 Abby moved to 23 Pakachoag Street, which was originally built by John Elder Between 1799-1803 on land purchased from the Chapin family. In 1907 Abby was one of the charter members, along

with her sisters, of the General Ebenezer Learned Oxford Chapter National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She also belonged to the Auburn's Women's Club and the Bay Path Library Club. She attended the Auburn Congregational Church. Abby passed away in May 1933 at the age of 72 after a long illness.

Throughout her life Abby and her family were avid supporters of the Auburn Free Public Library with donations of money and books. Abby set high standards for the library and with the help of the Library Trustees during her tenure, tried to impress upon the town's people the importance of their library for the benefit of growth.

Next month the history of the library from 1950 - 2000 (or present) will be featured. The facts in this article are from the Auburn Historical Society & Museum, 41 South Street. The museum is open Tuesday and Saturday mornings 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. and may be reached at auburnmuseum@verizon.net or 508-832-6856.

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**ONGOING ACTIVITIES:**

The Blood Pressure Clinic is the first Monday of each month from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Provided

by the Care Central VNA and Hospice Inc. No charge. First come, first served.

Mondays – Adult coloring, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy this relaxing hobby; Canasta at 12:45 p.m. \$2  
 Tuesdays and Thursdays - 11 a.m. Feb. 4 and Feb 18. Cornhole.

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

Wednesdays - Tech Clinic (be sure to check calendar) 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.; Pitch at

1 p.m.; Cribbage at 6 p.m.  
 Thursdays – Bingo at 12:45 p.m.; iPad Club at 1 p.m.  
 Fridays - Bridge 12:45 p.m.; Dominos at 12:45 p.m.; Pitch 6:30 p.m.

**INSTRUCTION:**

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

Fridays - Meditation class at 11 a.m. Free with Usha Verma; Quilting – 12 p.m.

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Exercise and Movement Mondays at 10 a.m. Senior Sweat \$3 donation with Dr. Clermont. Balance, stretch and strengthening. Also posture, coordination and working essential muscle groups.

Mondays at 11 a.m. Tai Chi \$3 donation with George Chase, certified instructor. Slow, rhythmic patterns of movement.

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

Tuesdays - Gentle Flow Yoga at 11 a.m. with Angie Lavache, certified fitness instructor. \$3. Slow-paced for strength, flexibility and mobility.

Tuesdays – Classic Cardio Blast at 1 p.m. with Angie Lavache. Strength and cardio activities to

improve health and fitness. \$3 donation.

Wednesdays and Fridays Strength & Balance class at 10 a.m. \$3 with Lin Hultgren, ACE certified fitness instructor. Strengthen and tone your body.

iPad Club Thursdays at 1 p.m. No fee. Investigate the world of iPad and iPhone apps.

Mediation Class Fridays at 11

a.m. No fee, with Usha Verma. Positively affect your health, well-being, sleep problems, chronic pain, anxiety and depression.

Quilting Fridays at 12 p.m. No fee or experience necessary. The class is adapted to students' skill levels.

**AUBURN SENIORS**

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## Community Resource Dog – Meet Cooper

The Oxford Police Department is proud and excited to announce the departments first ever Community Resource Dog Program. Officer Heather Picking is a 10 plus year veteran officer who puts community first. She can be seen on the day shift, always with a smile on her face, and always looking to engage with the citizens of this great community.

The CRD is going to be a huge asset to the Town of Oxford, the Police Department, the schools and most importantly the citizens. Since before Chief Daniels took the reins of OPD he has stood by his word of “Community First.” This is a prime example.

Officer Picking did a ton of research of different dog breeders and after a lot of searching found. The absolute perfect fit for our amazing town and department. We look forward to working with Boonfield Labradors for this amazing experience. The breeder will work with Officer Picking to see which puppy in the litter best suits her personality, so together they can serve the community here best.

We could go on and on about all of the positive this amazing puppy will bring to Oxford, but for now let's leave it at this, and let us prove to you all how special it is going to be.

As always Oxford, your unwavering support has enabled us to be what we are today.

## AUBURN SENIORS

*continued from page 4*

Chat with Auburn police officers-Thursday, May 8. Join our Auburn police officers for lunch or a cup of coffee/dessert at 12 p.m.

Grief & Loss Support Group – Tuesday, April 15 at 1:30 p.m. Facilitated by Metrowest Hospice. Call 508-832-7799 to register.

Men’s Club – April 8 at 9 a.m. Drop-in program.

Senator Moore’s Office Hours – Wednesday, May 7 at 9:30 a.m.

Caregiver Support Group - Monday, May 12 from 1-2:30 p.m. at the Senior Center

Veterans Agent Coffee Hour - Wednesday, May 21 at 9 a.m.

SHINE (Serving the Health Information Needs of Everyone) is a state program that provides free health information. If you would like an appointment with our SHINE counselor, Patrick Morris, call the Senior Center at 508-832-7799.

Take a lesson on preparing Spanakopita (Greek Spinach Pie) on Tuesday, April 1 at 2 p.m. Samples will be served! RSVP: 508-832-7799. No charge, limit of 15 people

Planning for Medicare - Wednesday, April 9 at 1 p.m. Led by a BC/BS of Massachusetts representative. Call 508-832-7799 to reserve a seat.

Lori Brooks singer and guitar player entertains on Monday April 14 at 1 p.m. Call if you plan to attend.

Grief and Loss Support Group -Tuesday, May 20 at 1:30 p.m. call to reserve a seat.

The Auburn Senior Center and the WRTA offer a transit service for the residents of Auburn who

are age 60 and over and for people with disabilities of all ages. This is a shared ride service that will pick you up at your home. The van may make stops to pick up/drop off other passengers while you are on the way to your destination. Call the WRTA to set up an account and schedule service at 508-752-8283.

Flower Arranging with Sam’s Stems on Wednesday, May &

Free for the first 16 people who register, based on a first come, first served basis. Supported in part by the Auburn Cultural Council. Includes flowers and materials. Step by step instruction, Perfect for all skill levels. Call 508-832-7799 to register.

Afternoon Tea on Monday, May 12 at 1 p.m. Fancy hats welcomed! Join us for a tea and etiquette program with Carol McGuiggan M.A., Etiquette Consultant. Reservations required by May 6.

Make Your Own Fresh Flower Pot on Wednesday, May 14 at 1 p.m. Cost \$15. (due at registration). Design the flower pot, add soil and beautiful flowers. Color choices will vary. All materials included.

Weather. Did you know the first published weather forecast was in the Bible? Learn more about weather forecasting and why it is accurate only about 50 percent of the time. With Sari Bitticks on Thursday, May 15 at 10:30 a.m.

Name That Tune with Larry Lewis on Monday, May 19 at 1 p.m. Test your Skills.

Join Home Instead on Wednesday, May 21 at 1 p.m. for a free red, white and blue craft event.



## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

*Oxford Middle School recognizes students each month who exemplify our 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. In March, OMS celebrates Ethan Campbell, Kaliyana Padilla, Reina Williams, and not photographed, Elijah Sims and Chayse Bouthiller as our March Students of the Month. Submitted photo*

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# A Wild Job For Sure

BY JANET STOICA  
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

**D**o you know anyone who's stayed at their job for more than five years? If you do, these people are the exception. Most young graduates tend to be job jumpers seeking job satisfaction quickly or they're out. However, if you have a job that you love, it's not really a job after all, is it? You're just lovin' it. For myself, writing articles, stories, texts, and letters is, for

the most part, fun and enjoyable. I came to write for newspapers 15 years ago when the editor of a local publication was looking for writers. My bachelor's degree is in Business Administration but it should have been in journalism! Even though I had never written professionally before, she asked me to write a few samples for her. Apparently, she liked what I wrote as here I am 15 years later. I've had a few or more jobs in my life with one in particular that was a winner for sure.

I was working at a manufacturing company (let's call them company A) as a sales administrator for several years and when my manager was terminated, I was called upon to make a presentation to a medium-sized out-of-town corporation (company B) for one of the products we manufactured. I took this very seriously and prepared my sales materials with the help of my production manager, purchasing manager, etc.

After my presentation and after company B's visiting president and vice president had departed with promises for follow-up and a possible sale (after all, no sale is ever final until that sales agreement is signed), I received a phone call from company B's vice president offering me a job and asking if I would like to work for them.

I was totally blown away and had never experienced a job offer in this way before. I was on cloud nine for several days while I mulled over my final decision. I enjoyed making the sales presentation to the prospective customer and also considered the pros and cons of accepting that new position. I told the VP that I'd have a decision in a week and did they have any questions about my product presentation? The VP advised me that they'd like to go forward with the sale and that I should prepare the sales agreement documentation.

The sale was signed, sealed, and delivered in two days with my visit to company B's offices leaving with a deposit check in my hand. Three days later, I had also negotiated a company B em-

ployment offer with a substantial salary increase and had given my two-weeks' notice to company A.

After several months with company B, I realized that I had made the biggest mistake of my employment life. The first few weeks of my employment were filled with factory tours, product immersion, and customer backgrounds. I soon realized that my job was purely a quota fill for having more women on their staff as my responsibilities were almost non-existent. I also saw that there were no other women managers in the organization. In meetings, whenever I was asked for product suggestions or other comments which I willingly offered, there was lots of head nodding and thank you's given for my ideas, but not one of my suggestions, no matter how minor, was ever implemented. I felt useless. It was as if my job entailed sitting at my desk, smiling, and answering the few phone calls that came my way. I was bored beyond belief. I couldn't wait for my days to end, it was pure agony to even drive to work.

One day, in my 30-something year old life, I saw and heard an exchange between the owner and his production manager. The office I sat in was surrounded by a half-wall of glass to the ceiling. The outside cavernous hallway leading to the production area was clearly visible from my desk. As I hung up from one of the rare phone calls I received, I saw and heard the owner and his production manager in the hallway having a heated disagreement. Heavy profanity-laced words and phrases were flying and echoing

off the hallway walls like bullets. Wicked phrases, the likes of which I had never heard, were enough to make me wonder if both men had gone mad. After this five-minute spectacle that seemed like forever, they walked into the manufacturing area continuing their ranting as their spit flew and eyeballs bulged. I was incredulous. In all the previous jobs I'd held, I'd never seen a more unprofessional and degrading form of disagreement. I knew immediately that this company was definitely not for me.

I had met a consultant at company B whom I had known from a previous employer. He had been hired by them to offer suggestions to improve sales into new areas. We had many talks about this company's future, its management, and how I did not feel that I fit into their management style. Between the well-respected consultant and myself, we came to a tentative solution of my employment dilemma. I would have a sit-down meeting with the vice president who had hired me with the consultant at my side. It was done. I expressed to them that I felt I had made an error in accepting the position. A cloud immediately came over the face of the vice president and he expressed his dismay that they had not fulfilled my job expectations and indicated that he would speak with the owner/president and would get back to me the next day.

The following day I was presented with an offer I could not refuse. I was given a three-month full-pay severance package complete with medical insurance, longer if needed, along with the use of the retired executive vice president's private corner office complete with computer, printer/fax, phone, etc. and anything else I needed for my new job search. I could come and go as I pleased. What? Who does that? Where was I, on another planet? Well, I did find a new position within the three-month timeframe and learned a huge lesson in life... ..a big paycheck does not mean that the job will be fulfilling. I felt like the luckiest person in the world to have had such a generous departing gift from the company that wanted to fill its quota of women-on-board. They could have just terminated me and even though they were a wild and crazy group, they finally had treated me with respect with a sharp eye on employment laws.



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# Independent Bookstores Day Celebrates its 12th Anniversary

Annual Indie Bookstore event celebrated on April 26, 2025

Booklovers' Gourmet in Webster is happy to announce its participation in the 12th Anniversary of Independent Bookstore Day!

The shop will have several exclusive items for sale and as giveaways, including specialized tote bags, exclusive signed books,

posters & more. There will be refreshments, raffle prizes, a scavenger hunt for free audiobooks and activities such as bookstore bingo.

"It's really a time to put indie bookstores back in the center of the story. Indie Bookstore Day is a way to say thank you to our

loyal and supportive customers," according to Deb Horan, owner of Booklovers' Gourmet, who also celebrated 30 years in business this month.

Independent Bookstore Day (Indie Bookstore Day) was established in 2013 to promote, celebrate, and highlight the value

of the Independent bookstore community. The day has been observed on the last Saturday of April every year since 2013. This year there are over 1,200 stores participating across the country.

Independent Bookstore Day is organized by the American Booksellers Association, a national

not-for-profit trade organization, that works with booksellers and industry partners to ensure the success and profitability of independently owned book retailers, and to assist in expanding the community of the book.

# Sheriff Says Spring "Smishing" Scams Surge

Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is warning residents about a recent wave of "smishing" scams targeting cell phones across Massachusetts. Smishing, a combination of "SMS" (short message service) and "phishing," involves scammers sending fraudulent text messages with website links to residents' cell phones.

According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), a typical smishing scam message may appear to be from your bank or another trusted organization. These messages often contain a link or phone number designed to entice you to click or call. If you engage with these messages, you risk falling victim to the scam. Once you interact with the scammers, they may manipulate your personal information, which they can sell or use for further scams. Additionally, "smishers" may try to lure you into downloading malware onto your personal electronic devices.

Recent reports state that the following scams have been identified:

• **\*\*MassDOT Toll Scam\*\*:** In this scam, individuals receive a notification, often via email or text, claiming that they're being contacted regarding unpaid highway tolls. The text may demand payment via fake payment links or phone numbers.

• **\*\*USPS Undeliverable Package Scam\*\*:** In this scam, individuals receive a notification, often via

email or text, claiming that a package sent through the United States Postal Service (USPS) could not be delivered. The message typically includes a link to resolve the issue, which leads to phishing sites designed to capture sensitive personal and financial information.

• **\*\*One-Ring Scam\*\*:** This scam involves receiving a phone call that rings only once or twice before hanging up. When victims return the call, they are connected to a premium-rate number, resulting in high charges that are billed to their phone. Many area code numbers used in this scam are international, leading to significant unexpected charges on victims' phone bills.

"Residents need to beware of any unsolicited calls that ask for their personal or financial information," commented Sheriff Evangelidis.

"These callers can sound convincing, may be aggressive, and try to intimidate you with threats of jail time or steep fines. We encourage anyone who gets a suspicious call to hang up and contact their associated institutions directly to verify any requests."

Finally, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is issuing a warning to residents regarding a "spoofing" phone scam involving the Sheriff's Office. The phone scammer poses as an employee of the Sheriff's Office and informs the victim that they have an arrest warrant, charges filed in their name,

or missed jury duty. The scammer then demands payment of a fine to avoid being arrested and serving jail time.

Sheriff Evangelidis says, "In general, if you do not initiate contact and an unknown caller is requesting money or making threats of arrest or loss of utilities, it's likely a scam."

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office encourages people to be aware of text and phone call scams like this and to never give personal or financial information to an unknown number soliciting payments. For more information on the Worcester County Sheriff's Office, please visit worcestercountysheriff.com.



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\*Rent may be adjusted based on annual income limits provided by HUD.  
\*\*Minimum Income Requirement does not apply to households receiving housing assistance such as Section 8 or MRVP.

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- Minimum 1 person per BR

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SPORTS

# Oxford Numbers Moving Up

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Oxford head coach Chris Pietro and his father James have been part of the Pirates track team for the past eight years. When they first joined the program they had a total of 12 athletes, but over the years the athletes started to come out in larger numbers. Each year, the program continues to expand and this year, although Oxford will be on the younger side, they are posting their largest grouping of athletes (33) since the Pietros have been at the helm.

“We have a lot of newer guys to the sport this year; they are learning and trying to figure out their niche,” Chris Pietro said. “Hopefully by the end of the season we’ll find where they fit in; it’s an ongoing process, but we’ll figure it out.”

Senior co-captains Nate Davis and Aidan Van Arsdelan will look to help the Pietros guide this team throughout the year and into the post-season.

Davis participates in the 200, 400 and long jump, where in the first meet of the season he looks to be ready for his final campaign with the Oxford track team.

“Nate opened the season with a 20’ 2” jump right out of the gate,” the coach said. “Now we’re hoping that he can build upon that and eventually qualify for all three events once again this year. Last year, he finished outside of the top 10 in all three events and is looking to push his way into a top eight finish and medal.”

Arsdelan threw the javelin 148’



From left: Devyn Quashire, Cole LaMountain, Savior Aiguier, Aidan Van Arsdelan, Nate Davis and Kaius Monson.

last spring to earn his way into the State Tournament but unfortunately was unable to take part in the post-season event. Mid-way

through the season he hurt a ligament in his elbow and the rest of his season was scratched. Coming into this spring he is looking to take it slowly as he builds back up; he wanted to open the season with a throw of at least 120’ and improve upon that throw with each meet.

Once he feels Arsdelan is comfortable with his javelin throwing, Pietro would like to get the senior involved in some running events. He is unsure of which events as of yet, but he’ll worry about that once the senior is up to speed with his original event.

Junior Kaius Monson is making his return to track this season after a two-year hiatus away from the sport. When he walked away he left to focus fully on his football career. Monson will be hurling the discus and shot put for the Pirates this year. In the team’s first meet he grabbed first place in both events with a throw of 95’ in the discus and 39’ 10” in the shot put. In addition to being a huge asset to the team Pietro anticipates he’ll only get better as times goes by.

Although the Pirates are boosting their largest numbers in years, the squad is made up of a lot of younger athletes that should bring Oxford into the future. Sophomore Cole LaMountain is an all-around athlete that is very versatile when it comes to which event the Coach can use him in. During the first meet LaMountain took first place in the high jump and should see some action in the 100 and 4x100 relay due to his extreme speed.

Freshman Devyn Quashire, like LaMountain is another football player, looking to use his power to throw the shot put and discus. According to the Coach, he has a great work ethic and is someone to keep an eye on in the future of the sport.

One other younger athlete that will sit up for the Pirates this spring will be sophomore Savior Aiguier. The second-year student gives Pietro another versatile individual that he can use in just about any event. So far he is participating in the long jump, where he finished second in his first meet and also took third in the javelin with a

throw of 113’.

“Savior shocked me at practice one day when he just decided to pick up the javelin and throw it,” Pietro said. “He is also a speedster and will take part in the 100 and 4x100.”

Having a younger team may take some time to adjust and learn the different events, but in time Pietro knows he will have a solid team with a foundation.

“This year I would be totally happy if we were able to go .500 while being competitive in a lot of our meets,” he said. “I really think that we’ll be competitive the entire year and hoping that we can have 7 or 8 athletes qualify for the State Tournament.”

The Oxford coach is also looking for his team to finish around fifth or sixth in the 12 team Southern Worcester County League. If the squad can build upon their first meet they should be able to accomplish all of the coaches goals by the time the season ends.

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TALES FROM BEYOND

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# Foss Hill Cemetery

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

**F**oss Hill, located on a knoll in Middletown Connecticut's Wesleyan University, has a unique site not seen in most facilities of higher education. Nestled between the Van Vleck Observatory and the Nicolson and West College dormitories sits a small graveyard. The burial ground was not there when the college was founded but instead, put there for the specific purpose of burying the university's teachers, staff and scholars who wished to be an eternal part of the institution. The graveyard is quite intriguing and to some, quite scary.

It was originally called "Wesleyan's God's Acre" when the university was a Methodist college. The cemetery was considered by the early founders a place for students to reflect on nature, their role in the history of the facility and the future of things to come. What started out in 1832 as a collection of partridge trees for students to study under, became in 1837, the burial that now graces the

land. Since then, past presidents, professors and students have been interred in the small lot.

In August of 1925, Charles Colvard Adams, class of 1859, published an article in the Wesleyan University Alumnus in regard to the burial ground,

"An emotion of pathos is experienced as one discovers that twelve Wesleyan students lie buried in the college cemetery."

The first interment took place in 1837 with most recent in 1980. Among the 40 or so graves are the university's first president, Wilbur Fisk, and third president, Stephen Olin, their families, two members of the original faculty, two early trustees, faculty sons and daughters who died in childhood, several students who died while on campus, and several alumni. One corner contains several burials of students who died in 1918 and 1923, a few of them foreign students from China.

Of the many stories that circulate about the burial ground and it being haunted includes a tidbit of television history. Joss Whedon,

class of 1987, lived in the West College Up-Four dormitory overlooking the burial yard. He would later go on to create the famous series, Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Popular belief is that the small graveyard became an inspiration for his creation.

Another story tells of students digging up the bodies in the 1960s, but leaving the burial markers. Because of this legend, the lot is sometimes called the cemetery with no bodies. The claim is mostly unfounded, but the fact that the spirits of those who were buried there still remain has become quite established.

Students tend to avoid walking through the graveyard, especially after the sun has set below the horizon and darkness blankets the campus. A popular sentiment is that the spirits of the burial ground do not like anyone cutting through their final resting place. This is probably an aftermath of former students cutting a well worn path past the graves over the centuries. Many feel the presence of the spirits in the Foss Hill

graveyard lingering about them as they pass through its confines, especially around Halloween when the veil between the living and the dead is at its thinnest. One student claimed that the ghost of a Civil War veteran tried to proposition her while she was passing by his grave one night. She made a comment in regard to the lack of "politeness of its occupants." The aforementioned Mr. Adams had an encounter with a few of the eternal tenants buried there. According to his account,

"I was drawn to the college cemetery where I was in commu-

nion, as it were, with the spirits of Fisk and Olin."

Another legend is that of the Wesleyan Grim Reaper who haunts the graveyard looking for those who wander through its confines at a certain time of the year when the veil is thin and his ability to reap a soul is more powerful than usual. It may be a legend, but it is still told when tours are given where the stories are brought to life. Whether they are wholly accurate or not, may be a matter for you, the reader to decide.

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LIVING WITH LUKE

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# Luke's Spots Remain

BY AMY LECLAIRE

I'm not only a dog person, but also an animal person. I love the winged and fringed, the clawed and pawed, the burly and curly, and the whiny and tiny of creatures. Animals are fascinating. Have you ever noticed how certain animals seem to match our personalities? Some of us possess the free spirit of a bird and, others, the fearlessness of a lion. Some hold the luck of a ladybug, while others sting like a scorpion. The idiom that a leopard can't change its spots pertains to the belief that people are unlikely to change their fundamental characteristics. What about the chameleon, who thrives in many colors? Animals teach us about behavior, adaptation, survival and instinct.

Luke, also an animal person, has fallen in love with the guinea pig.

"I know they're here. This way. Hurry up." Leashed and ecstatic, he pulls me towards the glass case at the back wall of the pet store. The guinea pigs are reliably present. Luke stares through the window of their cluttered living room and smiles. One guinea pig nestles inside of a tube. "Woo woo!" Luke is annoyed that he hides, but not for long.

"Who are you?" His nose twitches. "What are you?" A guinea pig with bed head pops up as though to announce spring.

"I'm Luke, of the dog species, a pedigree golden retriever with



a thirst for knowledge." His dimpled smile is curious yet calm.

He wants to keep things casual and check out the behavior of the



Northeast guinea pig. Bed Head, satisfied, skitters to his water bottle and nibbles at a small pipe. Luke startles to the movement then freezes, on guard. Clearly, he is unaware of the disparity of size between them. "Bro, you move fast." Deep indents crease his leonine head and face. His ears lift like miniature tents. His concentration to learn, to question and analyze runs deeper than a scientist's. "Look how tiny their hands are, Luke!" I egg him on though, truthfully, I take the time to respond to text messages on my phone. I feel like a Dog Mom using the hamster tank as a Day-

care provider. I look up from my phone. No change. Luke fixates on the guinea pigs with a loving smile. I imagine them in my yard together. Luke would never catch a rodent on the run, much less study one. Allowing him a few minutes to soak up a rare opportunity seems responsible.

"Well, hello there." A pet store boss wearing a blue vest appears. I presume he thinks otherwise. Is it against store policy for a dog to stare at a guinea pig? "Let's go, Luke." I decide to cut our rejec-

**LUKE**

*continued on page 11*

## Aaron Lewis And The Stateliners to Perform At Indian Ranch

Aaron Lewis and The Stateliners are bringing their American As It Gets Tour to Indian Ranch in Webster on Sunday, August 24, 2025. This is the band's first time on the road together in five years. Aaron Lewis, the Vermont-born powerhouse first found success with Staind – the 2000s-era hard rockers who injected meditative muscle into an era better known for mindless aggression. But while that band is still very much alive, it was never

enough to satisfy Lewis' creative drive. Embracing his roots to earn a rare second round of success, a series of solo Country projects have led to two No. 1 Billboard Country Album debuts – TOWN LINE (2011) and SINNER (2016) – plus a PLATINUM collab with heroes George Jones and Charlie Daniels ("Country Boy"), and a GOLD-certified Billboard No. 1 with "Am I The Only One" in 2021. Lewis' 2022 solo album followed suit, with FRAYED

AT BOTH ENDS emerging as the best-selling Country album in America but he never wrote songs for the stats. No matter the sonic setting, Lewis writes and sings to get his truth out and his latest album THE HILL (2024) is no different.

Indian Ranch offers music lovers a chance to see some of the greatest country, classic rock and pop bands steps from Lake Chagogaggogmanchaggaggogchaubunagungamaugg. Nestled

between pine trees, the amphitheater offers the ability to see the stage from anywhere in the audience. More than a concert venue, Indian Ranch opened Samuel Slater's Restaurant and is also home to the Indian Princess paddlewheeler and Indian Ranch Campground.

Tickets for Aaron Lewis and The Stateliners on Sunday, August 24, 2025 are on sale now. Gates open at 11:30 AM and showtime is 1:00 PM. Tickets are

available online at [www.indianranch.com](http://www.indianranch.com), by calling 1-800-514-ETIX (3849) or at the Indian Ranch Box Office. All events are rain or shine. No refunds. Indian Ranch is located at 200 Gore Road in Webster, MA outside of Worcester and less than an hour's drive from Boston, Providence, Hartford and Springfield. Visit [www.indianranch.com](http://www.indianranch.com).

REAL ESTATE

# Do You Think the Housing Market's About To Crash? Read This First!

Lately, it feels like a lot of people have been asking the same question: "Is the housing market about to crash?" If you've been scrolling through social media or watching the news, you might have seen some pretty scary headlines yourself. That's why it's no surprise that, about 70% of Americans are worried about a housing crash in 2025. But before you hit pause on your plans to buy or sell a home, take a deep breath. The truth is: the housing market isn't about to crash – it's just shifting, and that shift actually works in your favor.



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

Today's Inventory Keeps the

Housing Market from Crashing. Economists are saying, there's just generally not enough supply. There are more people than housing inventory. It's Econ 101. Think about it. If there's a shortage of something – like tickets to a popular concert – prices go up. That's what's been happening with homes. We still have a shortage of supply. Too many buyers and not enough homes push prices higher. Even though the number of homes for sale is climbing, data from Realtor.com shows we're still well below normal levels.

That ongoing low supply is what's stopping home prices from dropping at the national level. Again, economists are saying "... if there's a shortage, prices simply cannot crash."

More homes for sale means price growth is easing, and, as more homes become available, that takes some of the intense upward pressure off home price growth – leading to healthier price apprecia-

tion. So, while prices aren't falling nationally, growing inventory means they also aren't rising as fast as they were. What we're seeing is price moderation and that moderation should continue through the rest of this year. In 2025, you should expect the pace of house price appreciation to moderate from the levels seen in 2024, while still maintaining a positive track. Put simply, that means prices will continue going up in most areas, just not as quickly. That's good news for anyone who's been having trouble finding a home and feeling sticker shock from the rapid price appreciation of the past few years. But of course, what's happening with prices and inventory is going to vary by local market. So, talk to The Marzeotti Group or another trusted agent to find out what's happening where you live. Don't let the talk scare you. Experts agree that a housing market crash is unlikely in 2025.

## LUKE

*continued from page 10*

tion losses. I tug on the leash, but he resists. "I just want to watch her come out of the little shed. One more minute." Luke isn't a kid in a candy store. He's a dog obsessed with a guinea pig. I'm about to say, "My dog is a bit weird. He loves to learn about other animals."

Instead, I'm in luck. Blue Vest tosses me a bone.

"His name is Luke? — what a great name. He's awfully curious." His acceptance shines down on me. I think about past rules.

"I'm sorry, but we don't allow dogs."

"Did you see the sign?"

"No dogs allowed, unfortunately."

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"What a great store this is," I say back with a snuffle.

"Come here, buddy." A good man lures Luke to his lap and gives him a head rub. Luke licks

his hand and chin. "Thank you for accepting me. You smell so good, kind of like a crunchy milk bone." Then he returns to Mission Possible for the longest guinea pig stare ever recorded.

"Are you familiar with our App? It doesn't cost anything and allows you to see all our good deals." The question comes out of nowhere. Loading another App on my phone feels heavier than the sixty-five passwords I haven't written down. "An App? Um..." I stammer, "No, I haven't done that."

"It will only take three minutes."

I gaze down at Luke. He has three hours, thanks to the man with the blue vest who did not try to change his spots.

"I'd be happy to do that," I say back.

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# Low mileage, low use battery – who to blame when it dies?

**Q.** I have a question for you concerning a warranty issue I have with a 2024 Audi Q5 Sportback. My wife purchased this car May of 2024. As of this date the car has 2200 miles on it. I went away for six days and upon returning the battery was dead. Nothing was left on. The car was taken to the dealership and looked at. I received a call

from a service rep stating that since I do not drive the vehicle enough, that was the cause of the battery failure. I was told I did not properly maintain the battery by not driving enough and leaving the vehicle for six days. I read the manual backwards and forward and it stated that if the vehicle is left for over one month it is recommended to periodically

charge the battery. Nothing further. Everyone I have spoken to says that is the most ridiculous thing they have ever heard. I was responsible for a new battery at a cost of \$850. I read your articles religiously and value your expert opinion.

**A.** The dealer is sort of correct. What happens is every time you start the car you take away some charge out of the battery. Years back we would say it takes about seven miles of driving to recharge the battery after each start. With today's computer-controlled cars, it probably takes longer. And today the charging profile with many cars, may not even charge the battery at certain times to improve fuel economy. I recommend that drivers should try to drive (not just run) their cars for 30 minutes each week. You might want to consider if you park in a garage a battery maintainer to keep the battery fully charged. Many people use these maintainers with sports cars that only get driven periodically. Today's cars have so many computers that stay on retaining memory, the batteries work hard and are the most important part of the car's electrical system. Saying you did not maintain the battery is a bit of a stretch and a little insulting. A fully charged battery should allow the car to start even after

weeks of sitting. But the short distance or lack of driving is what slowly discharges even the best battery.

**Q.** The dealer recommended that I replace the lower front control arms on my 2015 Mazda6 because the ball joint seals are cracked. Would replacing just the ball joints at much lower cost be a satisfactory alternative or would it be pennywise and pound foolish?

**A.** The ball joints are pressed into the control arms and Mazda does not sell the ball joint separately. That being said, the aftermarket does sell the pressed-in ball joint. It is sort of a tradeoff; more labor to save the control arm or less labor and replace the entire assembly. As a side note, the dealer finding cracked boots, is interesting. Most will just ignore it until the ball joints start to wear from water, sand and salt contamination.

**Q.** Could you recommend a headlight refinish kit to clear oxidized and yellowed headlight lens? How long does this last before it needs to be redone?

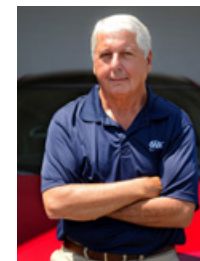
**A.** I have had the best luck with the Sylvania Headlight restoration system. To restore the headlights requires a bit of "elbow grease" but of all the products I have tried the Sylvania kit seems to have the longest lasting results.

**Q.** I am looking at a small SUV, perhaps a hybrid or fully electric. If you had to pick three vehicles what would they be?

**A.** As a hybrid the Honda CR-V is quite good. The fuel economy is estimated at 43 MPG city and 36 MPG highway. The Hyundai Tucson plug in (PHEV) has a 33 mile electric range and total range of 420 miles with MPG rating combined of 35 MPG. The Chevrolet Equinox all electric is a good performer, priced very competitively and has a range in the FWD model of 319 miles.

**Q.** How can I tell if my valve cover gasket on my Volkswagen Eos needs replacement as the dealer suggests? I don't see any drippage, but I do see a very small amount of what I think is probably called seepage. It has looked like that for more than a year. Is there any additive or spray that would be an alternative to replacing a valve cover gasket?

**A.** No additives or spray, and the leak won't get any better by itself, but it may never get worse. If this were my 9-year-old car, I would go with as some doctors call it watchful waiting. Just check on the oil leak at every oil change and see how it is doing. As a sort of additive, you could also try High-Mileage oil on your next oil change. The high-mileage oil has additives that help slow seal/gasket leaks.



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# How should you respond to tariffs?

The Trump Administration has announced tariffs on trade with other countries. While there has been a lot of uncertainty as to how these policies will evolve, it's generally agreed that tariffs can



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

be inflationary, and they have also sparked volatility in the financial markets. How should you respond to tariffs — as a consumer and an investor?

**As a consumer...**

- Review your budget. If you're worried that higher prices will put stress on your cash flow, look for ways to cut costs, perhaps by eating out less often or eliminating streaming services you no longer use. Look for items that could easily be swapped for cheaper alternatives, like generics for brand names. You may even be able to get a better deal from your cable or internet providers, just by asking.
- Build or replenish an emergency fund. It's typically a good idea to have an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses in a liquid, low-risk account. Usually, you'd want this fund available to meet large, unexpected expenses, such as a medical bill or a new furnace. But with the possibility of tariffs causing inflation in some sectors, you might also want your emergency fund ready to handle price increases in

items such as car parts.

- Accelerate large purchases susceptible to tariffs. If you're already planning on making a large purchase, and you think the price may be affected by tariffs, you might want to act now, if you can afford to do so. Some items that may be susceptible to tariffs include automobiles, smartphones, and computers.

**As an investor...**

- Diversify. Tariffs may affect some industries, such as automobiles and consumer electronics, more than others, such as health-care and pharmaceuticals. But rather than making hasty "buy" and "sell" decisions based on tariffs and their possible effects, try to build and maintain a diversified portfolio containing a mix of stocks, bonds and other securities. Diversification is the best defense against the market volatility caused by tariffs — or, for that matter, caused by any other factor. While diversification cannot guarantee a profit or protect against a loss, but at any given time, some asset classes may be up, or not hit as hard as others. And if your portfolio is heavily invested in an asset going through a downturn, you'll likely take a much bigger hit than if your dollars were spread across the wide array of available investment types.

- Keep following a long-term strategy. Right now, tariffs are certainly in the headlines as a potentially disruptive force in the financial markets. But there have always been such forces — wars, natural disasters, political turmoil,

and so on — and while they have caused volatility for a while, the markets regained its footing, sooner or later. And the most successful investors were the ones who stayed the course throughout the disruptive events, rather than jumping out of the market until things cooled down. This doesn't mean you should never make changes in response to market conditions — at times, you may need to adjust your portfolio somewhat. But by following a long-term strategy based on your risk tolerance, time horizon and financial goals, you'll be better equipped to cope with market gyrations.

Tariffs can lead to uncertainties in the financial world. But by thinking carefully about how you might respond, you can bring more clarity to your own situation.

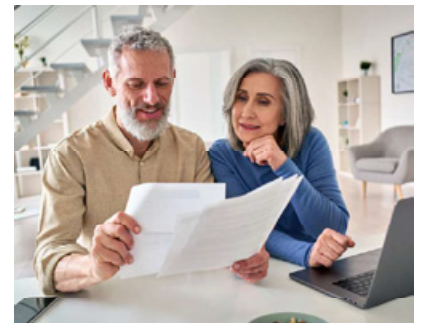
*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert Street, Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.*

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## Job change?

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



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

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



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**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](mailto:news@theyankeexpress.com).

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26**

- The Manchaug Pond Foundation will hold its Annual Spring Lake & Watershed Cleanup in Sutton from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Meet at the state Public Access Boat Ramp, Torrey Road, Sutton. Volunteers with boats are welcome to help clean up coves. No one is required to stay for the duration of the clean-up. Safety vests, gloves and garbage bags provided.
- Millbury Yard Sale: A Grass Hill School Yard Sale will be held from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Grass Hill School, West Main Street, Millbury. Household goods, antiques and Millbury Historical Society merchandise. Stop in and see the changes and improvements to the Grass Hill School. Proceeds to benefit the Historical Society's programs and plans.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27**

- New England Country Music Club Dances at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin Street, Uxbridge. Live band "Borrowed Time" at the New England Country Music Club Dance,

Progressive Club, 18 Whitin Street, North Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:15 p.m., music 1-5 p.m. \$11 for non-members. Doors open at 12:15 p.m. Music plays 1-5 p.m. Snacks may be brought in, cash bar for beverages.

- Little Bank Day in Grafton: The Grafton Historical Society is planning the third Little Bank Day at Mill Village Park, 61 Main Street, South Grafton from 3 – 5 p.m.. Check out the interior of this small but classically designed building and discover the history of the bank that once served the South Grafton Community of Mill workers and their families. Grafton history books and maps will be for sale. Bring the kids for free pony rides and activities for all ages. Costumed historical interpreters will be on hand with a variety of non-electric items plus special artifacts from our museum will be on display. Stop by to hear some fascinating stories about our town. Hear about the times Charles Lindbergh landed in "The Spirit of Saint Louis". You'll gain a new appreciation for keeping history alive. This is a fair-weather one-day event. In either event, the Grafton Historical Society at 71 Main Street, South Grafton will hold regular open house hours from 2 – 4 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 2**

- The Grafton Historical Society will hold its Annual Business Meeting at the Post Office Pub, 6 Ray Street, North Grafton. Social hour starts at 5:30 p.m. and a dinner of house salad, rolls and butter, herb roasted chicken, oven baked haddock, green beans and roasted red bliss potatoes will be served at 6:15 p.m. Cash bar available. Coffee and tea will be served for the business meeting. At 8 p.m. we will recognize Jayne Carroll Wilson and Joseph E. Kuras with awards for outstanding commitment to keep Grafton's history alive. The cost of the dinner, tax and

tip is \$50. Text 508-320-1173 or call 508-839-0000. Checks may be mailed to Grafton Historical Society, P.O. Box 218, Grafton MA 01519. Please include your name and a contact number.

**SATURDAY, MAY 3**

- St. Patrick's Church, 1 Cross Street, Whitinsville will hold a recycling event from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the church parking lot. Paper shredding 9-11 a.m. only. Electronics and shredding for a fee. Bottles & cans, clothing and textiles, books and media are collected without a fee. For more information, email [officesupport@mystpatricks.com](mailto:officesupport@mystpatricks.com)
- Hummingbird Festival: The Hummingbird Festival will take place at the Douglas Common from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. This new free event has been organized by the Douglas Common Preservation Society, Inc. and will offer live music, shopping at 24 vendors offering unique specialty items, activities for the kids (including face painting), educational presentations about hummingbirds, and delicious food from Smash'd, KatieCakes, Douglas Orchard & Farm and others!
- Amir Ghazanfari, a biologist and naturalist who has worked with Mass. Audubon studying the State hummingbird population since 2010, will be one of the guest speakers. His half-hour presentation will be at 10:30 am and again at 11:30 am. Topics he will be speaking about include population, nesting, migration, types, pollinator importance, what plants attract them, feeding information and more.

**THURSDAY, MAY 8**

- Visit the Business Expo from 5 – 8 p.m. at Bay Path Regional Vocational High School, 57 Mugget Hill Road, Charlton. The event is sponsored by the Charlton Business Alliance

(CBA) and the Economic Development Commission. There will be demonstrations and door prizes. Vendors may register online at [charltonbusinessalliance.com](http://charltonbusinessalliance.com) Book a 10' x 10' space for \$25 for current CBA members and \$50 for non-members. Pay \$125 to join CBA and also get a reserved booth space. Join this unique opportunity to introduce your business and the community and other local businesses. The event is free and open to the public.

**FRIDAY, MAY 9**

- Mendon/Upton Cub Scouts Pack 1 will host a Comedy Night at the End Zone Sports Pub, Mendon. Headliner is Mo Mussa, the 2021 winner of New England's Funniest Comedian and a finalist in the 2023 Boston Comedy Festival. Show is for 18 years and older. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased at Mendon Imperial Gas and Country Store or [ggomes1113@gmail.com](mailto:ggomes1113@gmail.com) or online using Eventbrite. Show is 8-10 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 10**

- The Millbury First Congregational Church, 148 West Main Street, Millbury is sponsoring a Flea Market and Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Anyone wishing to reserve table space, please call Jeri Stead 508-865-5371. The \$25 inside area consists of a large supper table plus a card table. Inside tables can be organized the night before. An outside reservation is \$15, and those chancing the weather need to provide their own table. "The Kitchen" will be selling refreshments and at lunch time, hot dogs will be served. There will also be a Bakery Table, and a Church Flea Market Table.
- Open House and Reptile Show The Touchtone Community School, 54 Leland Street, Grafton will hold an Open House and Reptile Show from 9 – 11 a.m. Experience reptiles from around the world! Meet (and hold!) 15+ species, and learn about their diets, defense mechanisms, and conservation efforts to protect their natural habitats. Discover how actions at home af-

fect global environments, and inspire your child's interest in environmental stewardship. Ideal for ages 6 - 10. Limited Space. Register to hold your spot: [touchstoneschool.com/scalesandtales](http://touchstoneschool.com/scalesandtales).

**THURSDAY, MAY 15**

- Historical Portrayals by Lady J presents "Farm Girl on the Front Lines: Deborah Sampson's Secret" highlighting the story of this Patriot woman who disguised herself as a male to serve her young country. At 1 p.m. in the Sutton Senior Center, 9 Hough Road, Sutton. Presented by the Sutton Historical Society.

**SATURDAY, MAY 17**

- Join the 10th Annual Family Fun Fishing Day at Riverbend Farm, 27 Oak Street, Uxbridge from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Fishing goes until 1 p.m. with awards at 1:20 p.m. There will be activities for the whole family and food and ice cream will be available for purchase from Joey D's Wingz 'n Thingz and Sweet Wise Ice Cream Truck. All ages and abilities welcome. Fishing poles, bait and instruction will be available when you pre-register. Participants are also welcome to bring your home. Pre-registration opens April 14 at [thebrwa.org/familyfishing2025](http://thebrwa.org/familyfishing2025). The event is free, but pre-registration is required. Contact Joanne Holahan with any questions at 508-278-5200. The rain date is May 18.
- Annual Plant Sale: Sutton Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale will take place on Sutton Common, 3 Uxbridge Road, Sutton, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. A variety of perennial plants and other greenery from our gardens will be on sale with payment by cash, check or Venmo. A Silent Auction of donated items will be located once again on the Bandstand. High bidders do not need to be present at the end of the Sale to win. Garden and gift items crafted by SGC Members will also be available for purchase.

**HAPPENINGS!**  
continued on page 15

# American Legion

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# Delia's Scavenger Hunt at the Auburn Historical Museum

Delia and her Nonna have been visiting the Auburn Historical Society & Museum on Tuesdays since September 2024. Delia is three years old and enjoys doing "I Spy" with Nonna. One visit in March, Delia and Nonna had the idea that maybe the museum could do a picture scavenger hunt for kids. Delia made a list of the items she would like to see used in the hunt and pictures were taken. Now when Delia comes to visit on Tuesdays, a sheet with pictures awaits her. When she finds all the



items and draws a line under it, she gets a prize. Delia would like to share her scavenger hunt with other children who come and visit the Auburn Historical Society &

Museum on Tuesday and Saturday from 9:30-12:00. Admission is free and all are welcome to explore the museum.

The Auburn Historical Society & Museum, 41 South St., is open Tuesday and Saturday mornings 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and may be reached at auburnmuseum@verizon.net or 508-832-6856 or follow us on Facebook at Auburn Historical.

- Helen Poirier, Auburn Historical Society

## HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 14

This year, we are pleased to feature free soil testing by the MA Master Gardeners Association. For those interested in soil testing, please note that samples must be taken 3-4 days prior to the Plant Sale. For more information, including proper soil collection, visit [massmastergardeners.org/educational-resources/soil-testing](http://massmastergardeners.org/educational-resources/soil-testing). A new Membership Year for SGC starts in April and there will be a Membership Table at the Plant Sale for those interested in joining the Club for our upcoming year of programs and activities. Proceeds from the Plant Sale fund our community efforts, including our Scholarship Fund, plantings and maintenance at the Bandstand and Manchaug Square during the summer, decorations and wreaths for the Bandstand and Commons at Christmastime and also helps fund our Gardening programs during the year. Updates regarding the Plant Sale, including any in case of severe weather, will be posted on our Facebook page, facebook.com/SuttonGardenClub.

### SUNDAY, MAY 18

The New England Country Music Club will hold a dance with live classic country band "Crossfire" at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:15, live music 1-5pm. Snacks may be brought in, cash bar for beverages.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 14

The Sutton Historical Society Inc. will host the annual Town-Wide Yard Sale from 8 a.m. 1 p.m., rain or shine. The registration fee is \$10. Registration forms are available at [sutton1704.org](http://sutton1704.org) and must be received by Friday, May 30. Participants can either set up at their home address or request a spot at the M.M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop, 6 Singletary Avenue, Sutton. The society creates and distributes location maps identifying all participating location to assist visitors with locating all yard sales. Send questions to [sutton1704@gmail.com](mailto:sutton1704@gmail.com). The Sutton Historical Society is a 501c3 organization.

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Uxbridge Spartan Basketball is having a one-time only golf fundraiser to raise money for scoreboards at Hecla Street basketball courts at Blissful Meadows, 801 Chocolog Road, Uxbridge. The cost is \$175 per golfer or \$400 for a foursome. Registration opens at 8 a.m. Shotgun start at 9 a.m. Please make checks payable to Uxbridge Spartan Basketball Association, P.O. Box 386, North Uxbridge, MA 01538. The organization is a 501c3 charity. Sponsor opportunities are available: hole/tee sign \$200; beverage cart \$500; or registration table \$1000. You can also register at <https://tinyurl.com/USBAGolf>.

### THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

Coin Show at the VFW Post 1385, 13 Cross Road, Uxbridge, 3-7 p.m. Free admission, free appraisals.



On April 5, 2025, the Town of Webster dedicated the newly constructed Rain Garden at Memorial Beach to Ernie Benoit. Ernie devoted his life to enjoying and preserving Webster Lake, and the Rain Garden exemplifies his vision for protecting it. The Rain Garden will catch the runoff coming from the Memorial Beach Driveway and stop it from going into the lake.

Selectmen Earl Gabor stated the proclamation. Vice President of the WLA, Paul Laframboise made a statement regarding he and Ernie being two of the founding members of the WLA. Senator Ryan Fattman, who procured state funds for the Rain Garden, gave a Citation to Arlene Benoit, Ernie's wife.

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VEGETABLE ANTIPASTI | ROASTED POTATOES | RICE PILAF  
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APRIL 26

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THE ROCK & ROLL COMEDY DAME SHOW

MAY 10

TRAILER TRASH

MAY 16

AQUANETT

MAY 23

PAPER IN FIRE

MAY 24

**Weekly Specials at Samuel Slater's Restaurant**

HAPPY HOUR

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COUNTRY DANCE PARTY KICKOFF CRUISE HOSTED BY CHUCK PERKS - MAY 31

100 PM THE PIKE 80'S AND LADIES NIGHT CRUISE HOSTED BY CHUCK PERKS - JUNE 21

MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE - JUNE 27 • MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE - JULY 18

100 PM THE PIKE SOCK HOP CRUISE - OLDSIES 50'S AND 60'S HOSTED BY CHUCK PERKS - JULY 19

100 PM THE PIKE 90'S CRUISE HOSTED BY CHUCK PERKS - AUGUST 16

MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE - AUGUST 29

100 PM THE PIKE AWESOME 80'S CRUISE HOSTED BY CHUCK PERKS - SEPTEMBER 13

MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE - SEPTEMBER 19

100 PM THE PIKE BOOS CRUISE HOSTED BY CHUCK PERKS - OCTOBER 11

FOR FULL CRUISE SCHEDULE AND TICKETS VISIT [WWW.INDIANRANCH.COM/CRUISES](http://WWW.INDIANRANCH.COM/CRUISES)  
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FOR MENUS, RESERVATIONS, TICKETS, AND MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.SAMUELSLATERS.COM](http://WWW.SAMUELSLATERS.COM)

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