

Charlton and Oxford Route 20 Updates

BY JANET STOICA
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The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) has issued updates for the ongoing Charlton and Oxford Route 20 road project due to the forecasted rainy weather on the May 3 week-end, both temporary overnight closures of Leicester Street (Route 56) have been rescheduled to begin one week later than originally scheduled.

The overnight closure of Leicester Street (Route 56) North of Route 20 will now be in effect from approximately 9 p.m. Friday, May 9 through approximately 11 a.m. Saturday, May 10.

The overnight closure of Leicester Street (Route 56) South of Route 20 will now be in effect from approximately 9 p.m. on Friday, May 16 through approximately 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 17.

Additional details are below that include information about the detour routes that will be in effect.

Temporary Overnight Closure of Leicester Street (Route 56) North of Route 20 Begins May 9

Mass DOT will implement a temporary overnight closure of Leicester Street (Route 56) between Route 20 and Stafford Street from approximately 9 p.m. on Friday, May 9 through approximately 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 10. Traffic will be detoured but local access will be maintained. This closure and detour are necessary to allow crews to conduct paving and

excavation work.

Detour Route - Traffic wanting to travel on Route 56 northbound, please use the following detour:

From Route 20, turn onto Oxbow Road and keep left to continue on Hammond Hill Road.

Turn onto Stafford Street and continue to your destination.

Traffic wanting to travel on Route 56 southbound, please use the following detour:

From Stafford Street, turn onto Hammond Hill Road, which will turn into Oxbow Road.

Turn onto Route 20 and continue to your destination.

Temporary Overnight Closure of Leicester Street (Route 56) South of Route 20 Begins May 16

Additionally, Mass DOT will implement a temporary overnight closure of Leicester Street (Route 56) in both directions between Route 20 and Main Street from approximately 9 p.m. on Friday, May 16 through approximately 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 17. Traffic will be detoured. This closure and detour are necessary to allow crews to complete excavation work.

Detour Route - For access to Leicester Street (Route 56) south:

Traffic traveling westbound on Route 20 should use the following detour:

Turn left onto Main Street (Route 12 southbound) and continue to your destination.

Access to Leicester Street (Route 56) northbound will not be affected, so traffic wishing to travel north on Leicester Street (Route

56) should still turn right onto Leicester Street at the intersection with Route 20.

Traffic traveling eastbound on Route 20 should use the following detour:

Continue past the intersection of Leicester Street (Route 56) and Route 20. Turn right onto Main Street (Route 12 southbound) and continue to your destination.

Traffic traveling southbound on Leicester Street (Route 56) should use the following detour:

At the intersection of Leicester Street (Route 56) and Route 20, turn left onto Route 20.

Turn right onto Main Street (Route 12 southbound) to continue to your destination.

Traffic traveling northbound on Leicester Street (Route 56) should use the following detour:

Travel south on Leicester Street (Route 56) and turn left onto Main Street.

Continue on Main Street and turn left onto Route 20, then turn right onto Leicester Street (Route 56) northbound to continue to your destination.

Local access will be maintained on Leicester Street (Route 56) south.

Please note, emergency vehicles will have access at all times and local access will be provided during the temporary closures. Police details will be used to control traffic at major intersections along the detour route. Signage will help direct traffic to the detour routes.

From the Jungle Gym to Professional Pianist, Richard Hughes is Entertaining

BY JANET STOICA
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He remembers having great fun playing on the jungle gym and thoroughly enjoying himself when he was about seven years old. His mom interrupted his monkey-bar time and let him know that they were going to visit a nice lady who was to provide them with piano lessons. Off they went to Newtonville, a neighborhood of Newton, as close to Boston as it gets. It was here in the music room of a Scottish lady named Alice that Richard Hughes acquired his love of music and passion for playing the piano. "It was only \$3 a lesson back then," said Mr. Hughes, "my instructor was so kind and caring. She really enjoyed teaching piano. I took to it right away. Practicing my piano became a very typical and regular part of my day like going to school, playing with my friends outdoors, and doing homework afterwards. It was my habit, my routine, and I loved it."

He said he was always curious about melodies and chord structure and now here he was greatly enjoying his new regimen. "I also played drums," said Richard, "then, in high school when our band teacher needed someone to play tuba, there I was." That big brass tuba wasn't for him though. "Using the mouthpiece was always a challenge" he said, so he went back to



the piano. He tried the xylophone which is a musical instrument of the percussion family that consists of wooden bars struck by mallets. "The xylophone has the same arrangement of five black notes in a scale similar to a piano and has balance," he said. "It's a wooden instrument that is very staccato. The piano is softer. I even tried the violin but the piano with all its keys being right there with such an infinite number of combinations really intrigued me."

Mr. Hughes noted that the piano was invented after the harpsichord and clavichord and that we have

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Community Cat Connection's 3rd Annual Kitten Shower

BY JANET STOICA
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An Ice Cream Social and Kitten Shower go together nicely as both offer sweet beginnings and wonderful happiness. On Sunday, May 18, from 1 - 4 p.m., Webster's Community Cat Connection (CCC) will hold its 3rd annual Kitten Shower Event to benefit adoptable and cuddly kittens. Tickets are \$5/each and

every patron who attends will have the opportunity to meet and greet with the most lovable and cutest fur babies.

This time of year begins the birthing season for these happy and playful critters so get there early to see them and, if it so happens you fall in love with one or two (like I did two years ago), then you will be able to make a perfect choice of dear and loving companions! I adopted a brother and sister now

known as Mikey and Maria and they have brought me much happiness and cuddly companionship. They seem to know your moods... happy, sad, or stressed, and can always lift you out of your doldrums. Their antics never fail to amuse me. When they decide to play tag and tackle each other while sliding across my kitchen floor, they are a constant source of amusement. The



pair never need outdoor walking as they are offered as indoor soul-mates only and their curiosity and

KITTENS
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KITTENS

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smarts are simply amazing. Check out these angelic souls while also enjoying your ice cream, raffles, games, baked goods, and snacks. Of course, even if you don't adopt and are in a donating mood, the CCC will gladly accept monetary gifts, Purina cat and kitten food, Temptation Treats, Friskies pate cat food (sorry, no fish please!), dryer sheets, HE laundry detergent, bleach, paper towels, clumping cat litter, Dawn dish detergent, mini dust pans & brushes, liquid hand soap, hand sanitizer, 13-gallon trash bags, and cat toys.

You can visit with all the residents from older cats that may have been displaced and are looking for a new loving home to all ages! Your attendance is greatly appreciated! C'mon down and see what you've been missing! Community Cat Connection, 289 Thompson Road (across from the former Colonial Restaurant), Webster. Call 508-949-0779 for more information or visit thecommunitycatconnection.org or email info@ccatconnect.org.

The CCC has also recently been awarded a grant from "I'm Animal Friendly" License Plate Fund. They are happy to announce that they are a recipient of a 2025 grant from the MA "I'm Animal Friendly" license plate program. With kitten season upon us, funds will be used to spay and neuter cats and kittens before they become

available for adoption.

Barbara Hassett, long-time volunteer, said: "This grant could not have come at a better time. We already have several litters of kittens living with fosters and we anticipate many more to come."

The "I'm Animal Friendly" license plates are a program of the Massachusetts Animal Coalition (MAC). Funds are granted annually to organizations that demonstrate a need for funding for spay / neuter services. Through this year MAC has awarded almost \$3,300,000 to many deserving organizations. The Massachusetts Animal Coalition is a statewide, non-profit organization comprised of animal welfare professionals and individual volunteers dedicated to working together to decrease the number of homeless, neglected, displaced, and abused animals in Massachusetts. MAC's "I'm Animal Friendly" license plates are available through the Massachusetts RMV and are tax deductible. Visit petplate.org.

The Community Cat Connection operates and maintains a community-based, no-kill cat rescue and shelter to benefit cats which have been abandoned, abused, and are at risk for starvation, disease, and overpopulation. They strive to educate the public of the benefits of spay/neuter, low-cost veterinary care, and alternatives to euthanasia. The CCC also facilitates public awareness through workshops and programs. MA license to operate rescue number: 0220. They are a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization.

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Johann Sebastian Bach to thank for the well-tempered tuning of today's music of playing in all keys. "Playing an instrument is a very personal thing," Hughes said. "You're using your body to express the sound and you work on making that sound come out well. It makes for good life lessons of being in a routine and continuing on with a project while planning and having good time management."

At the age of 52, Mr. Hughes was laid off from his position in manufacturing. It was a watershed moment for him. He decided to do what he had always wanted to do and that was to make a living playing piano. His new job became an intense amount of time researching in the Worcester library. He borrowed books about positive thinking and positive experiences about embarking on his own. His persistence, research, and spirit paid off. He had always enjoyed the ragtime and jazz music genres and found himself drawn to the type of music played during the Age of

Silent Movies when local pianists would play appropriate music to match the films showing at the movie houses.

Recently, Webster's Samuel Slater Experience (museum) hosted Mr. Hughes as he presented an historical perspective of Silent Movies with live piano accompaniment. His presentation was fascinating, funded by the Webster Cultural Council, and had over 60 visitors in attendance. Mr. Hughes has refined his presentation to present clips of the silent movies, brings his own screen, portable keyboard, laptop, and projector. He also educates his audience on the subtleties of the 1920's era while providing an historical perspective. I did not know what to expect before his presentation began but after the one-hour show, I left with a great appreciation for the pianists who accompanied those silent films, the actors who became the stars of the era like Charlie Chaplin, Harold Lloyd, Buster Keaton, and Douglas Fairbanks. Absolutely fascinating and well worth the time spent in the most appropriate venue of the Slater Experience!

Richard Hughes found his niche all those years ago and continues to entertain us and others with his multi-faceted and energetic presentation. Some of his upcoming venues include:

- May 12 at 6 p.m. Wilbraham Library
- May 21 at 6:30 p.m. Cornerstone Assisted Living, Milford
- June 13 at 1:30 p.m. Whitcomb House, Milford
- July 8 at 6:30 p.m. North Hill Retirement Community, Needham
- July 11 at 2 p.m. Arbors Assisted Living, Amherst
- July 24 at 6:30 p.m. Spencer Library
- July 29 at 2 p.m. Cedarbrook Village, Ware

If after reading this article you'd like to experience a unique presentation filled with an excellent musical accompaniment, you owe it to yourself to attend one of Mr. Hughes' performances. For further information he can also be reached at (978) 568-9132.

There is also a WBZ TV news video that is internet watchable by searching CBS News Boston Richard Hughes.

Charlton Garden Club Plant Sale on the Town Common

Indulge your green thumb with an extensive selection of perennials, annuals, vegetables, herbs and more donated by Charlton Garden Club members at their Plant Sale on the Town Common.

Free admission. Our plant experts will be on hand to help you with your selections and to answer your plant questions. Bring a half cup of soil for a free pH test. The Plant Sale will be held Saturday, May 17

on the Charlton Common from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. All are welcome. For more information, please email charltongardenclub@gmail.com or check out our Facebook page.

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Technicolor Art Display

Booklovers' Gourmet presents "Technicolor Daydream", paintings by Jennifer D'Andrea, on display and for sale during the month of May in the cafe gallery. The show may be viewed during normal business hours, Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and the shop is located at 72 East Main Street in Webster, MA. A meet and greet with the artist will take place on Saturday, May 10 from 2-4 p.m. with light refreshments. Free and open to the public. For more information please call 508-949-6232.

Artist's Statement: «Somewhere in between Consciousness and subconsciousness lies a realm of



color, Pure Color, like a cosmic kaleidoscope. Physics tells us that we are existing in two places at once and we blink in and out of those places. Where do we go when we dream? Maybe it's to this place, the place of pure color. In any case, I wanted to capture the place that I personally go to when I paint a piece. I let my spirit linger between Consciousness and Subconsciousness. It is my Technicolor Daydream - an exhibition of colorful abstract expressionist paintings."

Vivid technicolor artwork by Jennifer D'Andrea will be on view at Booklovers' Gourmet in May.

Fire Safety Grants for Worcester-Hampden District

State Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) announced \$52,053.89 of new grant funding for fire departments across the Worcester and Hampden district in the second round of Fire Safety Equipment Grants. These grants will fund new protective gear and tools like thermal imaging cameras and hazardous gas detectors. Sen. Fattman was also proud to announce \$77,417.48 in grants for the Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) and Senior SAFE programs. These programs promote fire safety for children and the elderly, who are most vulnerable to burns. In total, fire safety programs

in the Worcester and Hampden district will receive over \$125,000 in new grant funds.

"I'm proud to announce this critical new funding to protect our firefighters and keep all residents in our communities safe," said Senator Fattman. "These grants will fund important safeguards for firefighters who put their lives on the line to protect our communities. Additionally, these grants will fund educational fire safety programming for seniors and children, which makes all of us safer."

The following towns in the Worcester and Hampden district received fire safety grants. Among

the included towns are:

Charlton: \$4695 SAFE award, \$2175 Senior SAFE award, \$3424 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant
Douglas: \$4697 SAFE Award, \$2187 Senior SAFE award, \$3831 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant
Dudley: \$4699 SAFE award, \$2190 Senior SAFE award
Northbridge: \$5180 SAFE award, \$2400 Senior SAFE Award, \$2805 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant

Uxbridge: \$4700 SAFE award, \$2200 Senior SAFE award, \$3847 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant
Webster: \$4,075 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant

Upcoming Annual Town Meetings

Charlton
Monday, May 19 at 7 p.m.
Charlton Middle School
2 Oxford Road
Charlton
townofcharlton.net/637/Annual-Town-Meeting---May-19-2025

Dudley
Monday, May 19 at 7 p.m.
Shepherd Hill Regional High School

68 Dudley Oxford Road,
Dudley

Webster
Monday, May 12 at 7 p.m.
Special Town Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Park Avenue Elementary School
58 Park Avenue
Webster
webster-ma.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=777



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Free admission for Moms on Mother's Day at the Samuel Slater Experience

The Samuel Slater Experience will welcome all moms and mother figures at no charge on Mother's Day, May 11, from 12 – 4 p.m. If you have not yet visited this interactive, immersive museum that tells the story of the American Industrial Revolution with high tech video, sound and motion, make it a destination for a special Mother's Day trip.



Tickets may be purchased in advance online at samuel Slater Experience, using the code

MOMFREE, or at the door. Regular ticket price is \$16 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$7 for students 5-18, free for kids 5 and under. Please allow an hour and a half for the visit. All gift shop purchases will be 20 percent off. The Samuel Slater Experience is at 31 Ray Street in Webster. Email admin@samuel Slater Experience or call 508-461-2955 for more information.

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Dean's Lists

The listed local student has made the Dean's List at Wentworth Institute of Technology for the Fall 2024 semester. Kristin Wennerberg of Dudley The following local resident has been named to the Fall 2024 semester Dean's List at Simmons University in Boston Abigail Kibaru, Webster



Scholarships Awarded

The Dudley Woman's Club congratulates the four high school seniors selected to receive the club's \$1,000 college scholarship award. (from left) Kaylie Richard of Charlton is graduating from Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School, Cassandra Tinsley of Charlton is graduating from Bay Path, Lexani Lewis of Webster is graduating from Bartlett High School, and Amber Quadarella of Dudley is graduating from Shepherd Hill Regional High School. These four young women and their families were celebrated at the Dudley Women's Club April 10 meeting at the Polish American Citizens Club in Webster. We wish our scholars much success in college and beyond.

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Programs & Events @ the Pearle L. Crawford (Dudley) Library

40 Schofield Ave., 508-949-8021
Check out our event calendar at www.crawfordlibrary.org or sign up for our eNewsletter by calling 508-949-8021.

Important News: The Library will be opening at 11:00am on Wednesday 5/21 to accommodate a school visit.

PEARLE'S KNITTING & CROCHET DISPLAY MAY 1 – MAY 31

Please join us during the month of May to celebrate the incredible talents of our very own knitting group. Available for viewing in the Fels Room whenever the Library is open.

GENTLE YOGA MONDAYS IN MAY, 10:00-11:00

Join our new yoga instructor Patricia, for a blend of "on the mat" yoga class with chair yoga modifications too. This truly is a one size fits all class. Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class. Registration is required.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY MONTHLY MEETING MONDAY, MAY 12, 1:15

Join the Friends of the Library for the monthly meeting.

OFFICE HOURS - THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN MARSI THURSDAY, MAY 15, 10:00

A representative from the Office of State Representative, John Marsi, will be here to answer any question or address concerns you may have.

NASA'S SPHEREX MISSION- AN ALL AGES ASTRONOMY TALK SATURDAY, MAY 17, 11:00-12:00

Join us for an all ages astronomy talk! SPHEREx is NASA's newest space telescope. Its mission: to map the entire sky so we can learn more about the origins of the universe as well as search for molecules that are the building blocks of life as we know it. Learn more about this mission, the telescope itself, and some of what we hope to discover with it in this all-ages talk. Melanie R. Meadors is a science communicator obsessed with the night sky and learning how the universe works. She is the public outreach coordinator for the Aldrich Astronomical Society and a NASA Solar System Ambassador. You can learn more about her and her work at her website, melanier-meadors.com. No registration required.

THE BASICS OF BEEKEEPING THURSDAY, MAY 22, 6:00-7:00

Join local beekeeper and Worcester County Beekeeping Association member John Hedly for a presentation about the basics of beekeeping. Presentation will include topics such as starting a beehive, the honey

bee colony, chores inside and outside of the hive, collecting honey, the importance of pollination, and more! Funded by the Hugh W. & Harriet K. Crawford Endowment Fund for the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library. No registration required.

"COOK THE BOOK" BOOK CLUB- MAGNOLIA TABLE BOOK 1 BY JOANNA GAINES MONDAY, MAY 19, 6:00-7:00

"Cook The Book" Book Club will meet on the 4th Monday of every month at 6:00. Pick one recipe from the book – Magnolia Table by Joanna Gaines. The dishes don't have to be complicated or fancy, any recipe from the book is fair game, except alcoholic beverages-sorry! Prepare the recipe at home and share it at the library. We cannot reheat or keep food warm, so consider this when choosing your

recipe. You are responsible for bringing serving utensils. We will provide paper goods and utensils for eating. Registration is required.

CRAWFORD LIBRARY BOOK GROUP THURSDAY, MAY 22, 6:00-7:30

Book: Educated by Tara Westover
Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion. Everyone is welcome! No registration required.

MAHJONG AT THE PEARLE WEDNESDAYS, 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 is 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! No registration required.

STORYTIMES AT THE PEARLE 10:00-10:45

Tuesday-Pre-K Power (best for ages 3-5)
Wednesday-Toddler Time (best for ages 0-3)
Friday-Open Baby Play (best for ages 0-12 months-pre-walkers) No registration

required. Siblings always welcome!

TEEN DUNGEONS & DRAGONS GAME EVERY THURSDAY, 6:00-7:30

Come play the world's number one role playing game. This program is geared towards kids and teens that are looking to learn more about playing and some short adventures! Ages 12-19
No registration required.

PRINGLES TASTE TEST CHALLENGE FOR TEENS!

MONDAY, MAY 12, 3:45-4:30
Come and test your tastebud skills - and come hungry! Sample a variety of different flavored Pringles, and see if you can guess what each one is! Prize for the winner with the most correct answers! This program is for ages 12-18 only. No registration required.

Left to Right: Lauryn, Shannon, John, Emily, Gina, R.D.O. Peter, Lynda, Dave, Dr. Renee Gomez, April, Dr. Jenna Larocque

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Dudley Senior Center

SPECIAL EVENTS:

May 15: Memory Café from noon to 2 p.m. Come join us as Dan Kirouac, plays and sings our favorite songs. Lunch is pizza and salad with assorted desserts. We thank the Dudley Cultural Council for sponsoring the entertainment. The cost is \$5pp. Please RSVP by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Senior Center.

May 28: Hot Dog lunch with sausage with peppers and onions, baked beans, coleslaw and dessert. The cost is \$5pp. Please RSVP by

calling 508-949-8015 or sign up in the Senior Center.

May 29: Please join us again for Hip Hop Chair Dancing sponsored by the Dudley Cultural Council.

Weekly Activities at Dudley Senior Center: 1 p.m. Tuesdays Pitch League

11:30 a.m. Wednesdays Senior Center Knitting group

Tri-Valley lunches are served on Mondays and Thursdays. The Senior Center is closed on Monday May 26 for Memorial Day.

Your Edible Landscape

The Charlton Garden Club welcomes all to a free program on “Your Edible Landscape” at 6:30 p.m. on May 12 at the Charlton Public Library. Karen Monger will present the program that

will offer pointers to both novice and accomplished gardeners. The Charlton Garden Club is a great place to meet other gardening enthusiasts, learn about plants and planting, and to share your garden-

ing tips and experiences.

For more information, email the club at charltongardenclub@gmail.com

Adaptive Water Ski Event for Veterans

The Webster Water Ski Collective is proud to announce the return of its Veterans Adaptive Ski Day, taking place on Wednesday, July 2 at the Donahue Rowing Center on Lake Quinsigamond in Shrewsbury.

This free event offers military veterans with physical or cognitive disabilities the opportunity to experience the excitement and freedom of water skiing in a safe, supportive, and adaptive environment. Last year’s event was one of the largest adaptive veterans water ski events in the country, and the Collective is thrilled to make it an annual tradition.

The event is made possible through generous sponsorships and a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs through USA Water Ski.

In addition, the Webster Water Ski Collective was awarded a MOOR Grant from the Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR) to further its mission of making water skiing accessible to people of all abilities. Events like this Veterans Adap-



tive Ski Day are a direct reflection of that mission—breaking down barriers and opening up outdoor recreation to everyone, regardless of physical or cognitive challenges.

“Our Adaptive Ski Program continues to grow each year, and we’re proud to provide opportunities for our veterans and community members to rediscover joy, confidence, and community through water sports,” said Ryan DesRoches, Director of Adaptive Skiing. “We’re grateful to the VA and the Massachusetts Office of Outdoor Recreation for believing in and supporting our mission.”

Participants will ski with the help of trained volunteers, adaptive equipment, and USA Water Ski-certified instructors, all working

together to ensure a memorable and empowering day on the water.

The Webster Water Ski Collective is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the sport of water skiing for individuals of all abilities. Through community programs, training sessions, and adaptive events, WWSC strives to make water skiing accessible to all, fostering a love for the sport while encouraging personal growth and achievement.

For more information about the event, registration details, or ways to get involved as a volunteer or sponsor, please visit websterwaterski.org or contact Adaptive@WebsterWaterSki.org.

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Get The Led Out Returns with two shows at Indian Ranch

Due 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.

From the bombastic and epic, to the folksy 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.

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.

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 worcestersheriff.com.

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Country Bank Welcomes Two New Team Members

Country Bank, a leading full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts is pleased to announce the addition of Lucy Sanchez to its Retail Lending Team and Liz Chrystal as the Vice President of Project Management.

Sanchez brings nearly two decades of experience in the banking industry and a strong commitment to community engagement.

“We are thrilled to welcome Lucy to the Country Bank team. Her extensive background in banking and mortgage lending with deep ties to the community and financial literacy, make her an exceptional addition to our retail lending team,” said Miriam Siegel, Chief Culture & Development Officer.

Prior to joining Country Bank, Sanchez spent more than a decade at Freedom Credit Union. She is bilingual, fluent in English and Spanish and is a trusted voice in the Latino community. She played an active role on the Latino Initiative Board and does frequent outreach on television, radio and in newspapers, including authoring a financial literacy column for El Pueblo Latino.

Sanchez has personal experi-

ence as a small business owner as a former restaurant owner and the current operator of a sewing academy.

This firsthand knowledge of entrepreneurship allows her to better support customers on their own financial journeys.

Liz Chrystal has been appointed as the new Vice President of Project Management.

“We are thrilled to welcome Liz to the Country Bank team. Her extensive experience across financial services and healthcare, combined with her passion for project leadership and community impact makes her an excellent fit for this role,” said Siegel. “Liz’s strong commitment to innovation with focus on execution while providing superior customer engagement aligns with our corporate values of integrity, service, teamwork, excellence and prosperity. We are confident that her skills and leadership will enhance our project management function and capabilities during our strategic initiatives forward.”

Chrystal brings more than 16 years of project management experience including two years in the financial services industry. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and a

OBITUARY

Hannelore Amelia Pacheco (Kuhlmann), 95, formerly of Holbrook, known affectionately as Hanna to her friends and family, passed away peacefully of natural causes on May 1, 2025, in Raynham, Massachusetts. Born on December 8, 1929, in Mecklenburg, Germany, she was a beacon of adventurous spirit, generosity, and captivating charm throughout her 95 years.

Hanna’s early years in Germany were marked by an appreciation for the great outdoors, a passion that only grew as she did. Her love for ice skating, skiing, and hiking was matched by her talent in each, and became an integral part of her life. Her melodious voice found a home at The Boylston Schul-Verein, Walpole, a German Club, where she joined the singing choir, and she sang with gusto and joy, sharing her culture and zest for life with all those around her.

A master of the garden, Hanna cultivated beauty and life in the soil of her home in Holbrook, creating an oasis that reflected the care and attention she gave to every aspect of her life. Her gardens were a symbol of her nurturing soul, a

trait that extended into her relationships with her loved ones.

She is reunited in eternity with her husband, Manuel Costa Pacheco, her mother Dora Becker, and her sister, Ursula Clark, whom she cherished deeply. Hannelore leaves behind a legacy of love carried on by her children Bruce Pacheco and wife Beth, Mark Pacheco and wife Linda, and Michelle McSherry and husband George, her grandchildren Jonathan, Lauren, Emily, Hannah, Katelyn, Shane and Joshua and her great-grandchildren Evelyn and Kellan. Each family member carries forward a piece of Hanna’s extraordinary legacy through their own lives.

Those who knew Hanna will remember her as a woman who embraced life’s challenges with a remarkable blend of strength and grace. Her generous nature knew no bounds, and she was always the first to offer help to anyone in need. Her life was a tapestry of experiences that made her one of the most interesting and engaging individuals to be around.

Hanna’s passing leaves a void in the hearts of all



who loved her, but her spirit remains a guiding light. Her adventurous tales, her laughter in the chorus, and the beauty of her gardens will continue to inspire and comfort her family and friends. Hannelore Amelia Pacheco’s life was one well-lived, full of passion and kindness, and she will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A private memorial service honoring her life will be held at Cartwright funeral followed by burial at Blue Hills cemetery.

The family would like to thank Old Colony Hospice of West Bridgewater for their compassionate care. Memorial contributions may be sent in lieu of flowers to Old Colony Hospice, 321 Manley St. West Bridgewater, MA 02379.

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TALES FROM BEYOND

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The Glowing Stone and the Ghost Girl

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

The strange paranormal events that transpired in St. Stephen's Cemetery in Attleborough, Massachusetts, established in 1889, caused nationwide attention. So much so, that it was said to be on the show, *Unsolved Mysteries*. Although the segment aired a long time ago, some of the locals still living in the area remember cars reportedly lined on both sides of the street full of paranormal enthusiasts, thrill seekers and legend trippers all there to see for themselves, the legend of the glowing stone.

The marker is not any special elaborate monument or anything that would immediately stand out from the rest of the headstones or memorials. Yet, the stone (name withheld out of respect) has been heavily studied and investigated by paranormal researchers and scientists alike. It was proven that the stone would glow with a greenish hue around dusk and into the early twilight. Fantastic accounts of people witnessing the sun's rays dipping below the horizon while the memorial would begin to ooze with light on its own accord. Investiga-

tors of various sciences gathered and tried many experiments, including turning the stone to dispel the possibility of an outside reflection being cast upon the marker. This was to no avail as the stone still emitted the now famous light. After returning it to its original position, the stone took on a reddish hue for several days before returning to its familiar green glow.

The date of decease on the stone are 1962 and 1964 which means the phenomena began sometime after the stone was put into place in the 1960s. From then until recently, the legend of the glowing stone has sent scores of people on a pilgrimage to witness the uncanny event. Alas, recent reports state the stone no longer glows, but that has not stopped some from visiting in hopes of perhaps an encore performance of the green glow.

If one does not witness the glowing stone, perhaps they will get a visit from one of the resident ghosts of the cemetery. The road that goes to the left of the giant cross leads toward the rear of the cemetery where Eugene (1881-1924), his wife Albertine (1888-1936), their son Ernest (1918-2002) and two year

old Doris Doucette (1917-1919) are buried under a monument bearing their names. Eugene and Albertine had six children in all, but only two are buried with them. One of them, Doris, seems to enjoy greeting visitors who happen to wander into that section of the cemetery.

There are numerous reports of a child's footprints left in the wet grass or on the pavement. Other reports include the sound of footsteps that resemble a small child walking or skipping. The sound usually follows people as they walk down the road near Doris's resting place. Some have heard the laughter of a small child near the grave as well.

The ghost of Doris also appears every now and then. Her apparition appears near her grave and then vanishes into thin air. Witnesses have also seen the ghosts of who they believe are Albertine and Eugene roaming around their gravestone, probably looking for Doris as she frolics among the tombstones looking for someone to play with. Whether The ghosts know the living are there, or just appearing and disappearing at random is anyone's guess. Perhaps they are just eternally passing

time, a mom and dad spending the afterlife with the daughter they lost so young. If you should happen to visit the cemetery and see any one of the ghosts of Eugene, Albertine,

or Doris, you may want to make an attempt to ask them why they linger in the place where their mortal frame is interred. Who knows, you might just get an answer.

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BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

I'm getting attached. I've fallen in love with a spunky puppy who's turned three and stolen my heart. I've watched him learn how to swim, catch a frisbee on the fly,

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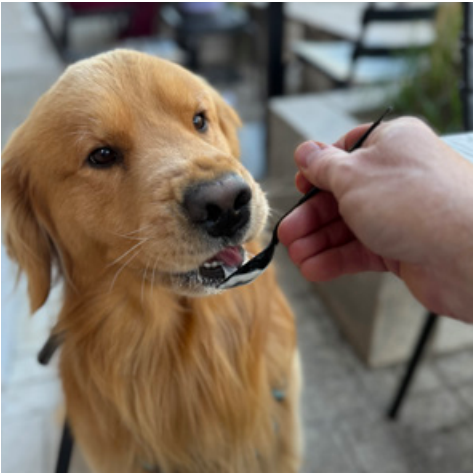
A Potent Kind of Love

the best boy, Luke. Thank you for listening. Mummy doesn't want to lose you." It's true. Luke is a big part of my life now. I don't want to lose him. A dog's life is short. Dog parents sign up knowing this—even those who have experienced multiple passings. The joy of owning and sharing a life with a dog seems to supersede the pain of losing one. Nonetheless, the loss is nearly unbearable. Regardless of our

three and we have so much more to accomplish. There are beaches and rivers and friendships to soak up. There are trails and bunnies and football games to follow. His gaze rests on the last piece of scone. Luke is unconcerned with the doom and gloom of his too-short life, or the fact that his mom will suffer a numbing, hollow pain, one redeemed only by strange, erratic dreams. What just happened? Where's Luke? Oh, not this. My

gift to a loved one. "I thought of you when I saw that stuffed bunny on the shelf. I know how much you love to watch them in our yard, so I found you one. This brand is known for the longest chew time, too." We pat ourselves on the back and glimmer with a giver's high. Here's the truth. A stranger could offer your dog a cardboard box and he will be just as happy to receive it. "I love boxes!! Especially square Amazon boxes!! Let me at it!"

can't buy. They give us their time, companionship, unconditional love, loyalty and affection. We give back all of this, along with a forever home. When we are sad, we need to think about all that our dogs have received. Like them, we need to be grateful. Where would Luke be without all that he's received from me? What if a different family with a different lifestyle didn't realize that he has a mild case of claustrophobia? "These people are cool, but



and study ants. I've admired the magnificent way he soars across a frozen pond, and skids freely while I holler his name. "Lewwwk! Come." The emphatic tone of the command resonates. He freezes and spins back towards me. "Don't worry, Momma! I was just exploring the winter lake!" He settles down at my feet, lifts his head high and brandishes a wolfish smile. "Life is so good." I massage his ears and compliment him. "You're

dog's age, we are never ready to say good-bye. Ten years is considered an average life span for a Golden, with some studies suggesting that a decade is considered generous. Luke laps a wedge of blueberry scone from the palm of my hand. He's trying so hard to "be easy" these days. He lowers his head like a lamb's while I pet him. "Maybe you can give me just one more piece to reinforce a learned habit." Ten years? My pup is already

dog. Sigh. "You're having a good day, aren't you, Luke?" He lifts a paw to agree. "Every day is a good day when we're together Momma." Luke does not concentrate on suffering. He has people to see and places to go. That's what got me thinking.

Dogs Live in the Moment

Dogs naturally live every day as though it's their last. Have you ever noticed how grateful a dog is to be a part of the simplest of routines? "I GET TO COME ON A CAR RIDE WITH YOU!!!!" He barrels down the stairs when I give him the affirmative signal, the jingle of his leash and a high-pitched voice. "Luke can come to." It doesn't matter where we're headed, but only that we are together. Traffic jams are simply an opportunity to see drivers up-close. "Hey, Mom—that lady is laughing at me." I notice him tilt his head to the driver behind us. Indeed, her smile is lavish. I explain to him that adult drivers love to see dogs in cars. "The sight of a cute dog is a welcome surprise and respite from road rage. She's not laughing at you, she's just happy to see you, Luke." His frozen stare becomes a smile. "If you think I'm cute, you ought to see my Daddy."

Dogs Receive and Give Freely.

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In a dog's world, giving is natural. Receiving matters just as much.

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these four walls are getting old." What if he sat crated all day long? He'd scratch at the latch, I imagine, and find a way to free himself. Then, like an episode from Lassie, he'd run and run along back roads

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LUKE

continued on page 11

REAL ESTATE

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



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

ately, 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.

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

and find his way back to me. "Luke!! I missed you so much!" We'd roll around on the ground like a pair of fools.

Right now, I don't have to miss Luke or worry about the future. I have today. We have today! He curls up on his bed like a fox, tail wrapped around his mouth. "Love you, Luke." I collapse by his bedside and snuggle for a few moments. Then I fluff up his blankets on the floor, in case he wants to change positions throughout the night.

Luke will receive rich and priceless gifts from me each day, until he's ready for his last. Life is too short for my gloom. We will stay blessed by a life lived out loud—

and with a potent kind of love. (I still pray that this meatball will reach a solid nineteen).

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THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

Calipers Rusting Prematurely, Most Likely Road Treatments Are the Cause

Q. I changed calipers, rotors, and brake pads and both back tires of my 2012 Acura TL on December 2024. The work was performed at a AAA repair shop. Now the calipers look completely rusty. What should I do now?

A. Surface rust is not too serious, it is more the caliper slides that you need to make sure are properly lubricated. Certainly, you could take off the calipers and paint them to prevent more rust. Rustoleum makes a high temperature caliper paint. The

rusting issue is typically caused by ice melting chemicals. The latest replacement for rock salt, such as calcium chloride, and magnesium chloride, often in liquid brine form are great for road safety but tough on car parts and bridges. You certainly could stop at the repair shop,

show them the calipers, and ask if they have had any issues with that part or supplier.

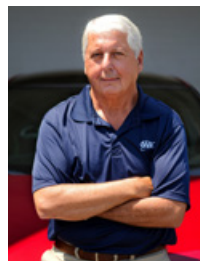
Q. I have a 2020 Subaru Forester and when it was in a local shop for an oil change the technician showed my some cracking in the front suspension bushing. He said it was not serious, but it is something I should take care of in the future, maybe by year end. Any thoughts on this?

A. Some cracking in rubber bushing is normal and to be expected with age. If you take a screwdriver and stress the crack and it goes completely through the bushing, the bushings need replacement. In fact, Subaru states cracks with a width greater than 13mm (1/2 inch) will have an impact on the vehicle ride quality and will require replacement. Cracks with a width of 13mm (1/2 inch) or less will not cause any functional concerns and will not require replacement.

Q. I had an issue with my car running rough. I went to the dealer to ask about service, and they suggested based on experience, that the car has excessive carbon build up. They recommended cleaning using walnut shells. What do you know about this?

A. Years back the engine combustion chamber and specifically the intake valves would build up with carbon

deposits. The issue was mostly solved with gasoline with a higher percentage of cleaning additive. Today we are seeing a similar issue with direct injection design engines. Direct injection engines are prone to carbon buildup because fuel is injected directly into the cylinder, rather than at the intake valves. This lack of fuel cleaning additive at the valves and ports leads to more combustion deposits over time. The walnut shell blaster is used once the intake manifold is removed to blast off any deposits. I first heard about walnut shell blasting to clean carbon buildup in aircraft engines. The walnut shell abrasive can be easily targeted to the valves and without causing damage to any other parts.



BY JOHN PAUL

Q. I recently purchased a lightly used Ford Transit van that was used by a caterer who purchased it new. I like the truck. It works out great for my work and for bringing my art to flea markets. The one odd issue is on warm days when I have the air

CAR DOCTOR
continued on page 13



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New Law Raises Social Security for Some

Until recently, if you received a pension from a job that did not pay into Social Security and you've also worked in a job that did, your Social Security benefits at retirement were reduced based on your pension income.



BY DENNIS
ANTONOPOULOS

As of Jan. 5, 2025, that's no longer the case, thanks to the Social Security Fairness Act. Now, you'll receive both your pension and your fully earned Social

Security benefits because the Act repealed the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

This new law also repealed the Government Pension Offset (GPO) provision which had reduced spousal or survivor Social Security benefits for people employed in government jobs. These benefits will be increased in 2025.

There are nearly 3 million people who, depending on their situation, may see their benefits increase – from very little to \$1,000 a month or more. Those impacted fall into these professional categories: teachers, firefighters, and police officers in many states; and federal employees covered by the

Civil Service Retirement System.

The Act is retroactive to January 2024, and the Social Security Administration paid an additional lump sum benefit to affected people in March 2025. Going forward, most monthly income "raises" appear on April checks (for March benefits). A few more complex cases may take a little longer.

A word of caution – beware of scammers. The Social Security Administration doesn't tend to call, email or text; they'll send a letter regarding changes to your retirement benefits. And they will never ask you to pay for assistance or to have your benefits started, increased, or paid retroactively. But you can call the SSA at 1-800-772-1213 to ask if your retirement benefits have changed.

Plan for your increased retirement income

Of course, everyone's needs are different, so there's no one "right" way to handle a lump sum benefit or a monthly raise in income. But here are a few suggestions:

Pay off some debts. If you have credit card debt a car or student loan, you may want to pay it down, or even pay it off.

Invest in an individual retirement account (IRA). If you still have "earned" income – from wages, salaries, tips, bonuses, commissions, self-employment earnings or long-term disability payments

– you can contribute from these sources to an IRA. There are tax benefits and an array of investment choices, so it's an excellent way to build resources for retirement.

Save for college. If you have children, or grandchildren, who have college in their plans, you might want to put some money into a college savings vehicle, such as a 529 plan, which provides tax benefits and gives you great flexibility in distributing the money.

Build an emergency fund. If you don't already have an emergency fund with three to six months of living expenses, you can work on that. Keep the money in a liquid, low-risk account, so that it's readily available to pay for unexpected costs. Without such a fund, you may be forced to tap into your long-term investments.

Above all, you may want to get some help. A financial professional can recommend ways of using the money to help you meet your goals. Take any recent government correspondence that shows how your retirement benefits have changed so you can build or review your retirement income strategies.

If you're thoughtful about how you put your new income to work, you'll be doing yourself, and your retirement, a favor.

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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CAR DOCTOR

continued from page 12

conditioner on, and I sit parked I hear a weird noise. It sounds like dripping water on a hot pan. Any ideas?

A. You are exactly correct it is water dripping but not on a pan but on the exhaust system. When the air conditioner is working it removes moisture from the air and that moisture drains on the ground. The air conditioner evaporator drain hose needs to be lengthened and repositioned to allow the water to drain without hitting the exhaust.

Q. I just purchased a 2012 Volvo S-60, and it is really a great car. It feels solid, gets decent mileage but there is one issue that bugs me, there is not an exterior trunk lock. Can a lock be added?

A. From what I have gleaned looking this up, the lock is there, but there is no access to it. The trim piece needs to be removed, and a hole drilled and then

you have access to the lock. The lock is then covered with a plug to keep things weather tight.

Q. I recently inherited an old Jeep. It was a former army Jeep, and it looks like it is in good condition, sort of. The brakes are shot, and the engine is stuck. The brakes look simple enough to fix, but the engine has me concerned. Any idea where to start to free this up?

A. I would remove the spark plugs and add Marvel Mystery oil to the cylinders. Or you could make your own cleaner. Mix a 50/50 mix of transmission fluid and acetone also works well. Add this to the cylinders and let the mixture do its magic overnight. The next day try rotating the engine by hand. Go a little in each direction until you can make a complete revolution. Add more Marvel Mystery oil or the homemade mixture and rotate the engine until it feels smooth. Once everything is moving then you can move onto fuel and ignition. When you get it running there will be a lot of smoke from the oil, but it should clear up over time.



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

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 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 super 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 affect 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.

• Booklovers' Gourmet presents "Technicolor Daydream" paintings by Jennifer D'Andrea on display and for sale during the month of May in the café gallery at 72 East Main Street, Webster. A meet and greet with the artist will be held from 2-4 p.m. with light refreshments. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 508-949-6232.

art show in Massachusetts at Sutton Elementary School, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. More than 700 participants from 15 school districts displaying 300-plus fine arts pieces. More than an art show, it's a showcase of real-world skills like problem-solving, critical thinking, and imagination. Admission is free. Bring your family, friends, and community spirit!

• 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 own. Pre-registration opens April 14 at 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.

• Community Yard Sale at St. Denis Church 23 Manchaug Street, Douglas Saturday May 17 from 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. 10'x10' vendor spaces are available at \$25 each, Hot dogs, hamburgers and more available • Vendors Welcome Visit saintdenischurch.com to register or for more information. Everyone who registers will be entered into a drawing; one lucky winner will win back their registration fee.

• 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

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MARGARITAVILLE CRUISE - AUGUST 29

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HAPPENINGS!

continued on page 15

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HAPPENINGS!*continued from page 14*

end of the Sale to win. Garden and gift items crafted by SGC Members will also be available for purchase.

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.

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 Christmas-time 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](https://www.facebook.com/SuttonGardenClub).

SUNDAY, MAY 18

• Visit "Arts in the Valley", the largest K-12 art show in Massachusetts at Sutton Elementary School, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. More than 700 participants from 15 school districts displaying 300-plus fine arts pieces. More than an art show, it's a showcase of real-world skills like problem-solving, critical thinking, and imagination.

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

MONDAY, MAY 26

• St. Patrick's Church, 7 East Street, Whitinsville will hold a Memorial Day Breakfast before the town's parade. It will be served from 8-10 a.m. Delicious pancakes, scrambled eggs, orange juice and more will be served. Veterans meals are offered free of charge. There will be a 50/50 raffle. The breakfast is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Mumford Council #365. For more information, call 508-234-5656.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

• St Peter's Parish in Northbridge will be holding a Yard Sale on Saturday, June 7, 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the parish hall, 39 Church Ave, Northbridge. If you are moving, spring cleaning or just have too much clutter, bring us your gently used items for our yard sale. You may drop-off your donations every Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. starting April 26 through May 17, to the parish garage, behind the church. We are accepting kitchen items, home goods, toys, books, small furniture items, clothing, that is not ripped or stained and much more. Please see our website for a complete list of what we are accepting. You may also call 508-234-2156 or email the parish office: parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org if you have any questions.

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 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. 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>.

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 <p>RUMOURS JULY 20 • 1PM</p>	 <p>Yachtley Crew JULY 24 • 7PM</p>	 <p>ALMOST QUEEN JULY 26 • 1PM</p>	 <p>parmalee JULY 12 • 1PM</p>	 <p>GRUNGE Fest 2025 JULY 13 • 12PM</p>	 <p>HAIRFEST 2025 PYROMANIA: THE ULTIMATE DEE LEPPARD TRIBUTE JULY 19 • 12PM</p>
 <p>BADFISH AUGUST 10 • 1PM</p>	 <p>LEE BRICE AUGUST 16 • 1PM</p>	 <p>TYLER HUBBARD AUGUST 17 • 1PM</p>	 <p>JAKE OWEN AUGUST 23 • 7PM AUGUST 24 • 1PM</p>	 <p>FLATLAND CAVALRY AUGUST 2 • 1PM</p>	 <p>THE CONCERT A TRIBUTE TO ABBA AUGUST 3 • 1PM</p>
 <p>DON'T IT! WORLD TOUR 2025 AUGUST 30 • 1PM</p>	 <p>FACE 2 FACE AUGUST 31 • 7PM</p>				

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100 FM THE PIKE AWESOME 80's CRUISE HOSTED BY CHUCK PERKS - SEPTEMBER 13
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