

## Meet Auburn's New Library Director, Michael Zeller

BY JANET STOICA  
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Okay, so Mr. Zeller officially began his library position in January but that doesn't mean he's not still acclimating himself to all that your Auburn Library has to offer! He and the wonderful staff are available to all Auburn residents whether you're looking for new books, advice on researching topics, or maybe some help accessing your email account. By the way, your library is currently offering a Patron Satisfaction Survey so it's an even better time to visit and give some feedback on their services and potential opportunities. A visit to the library's website will provide a calendar of daily and weekly events from children reading times to yoga classes to teen crafting, and authors and their book talks.

Mr. Zeller grew up spending a lot of time in his local library in Bridgewater. "It was a warm and welcoming place and a big part of the community," he said, "In high school, I shelved many books at that library." While attending Holy Cross College, he began a position as a copy cataloguer, a very behind-the-scenes role. His job was to take in all the materials the library received, which is now all digital, to keep the library collections up-to-date. After graduating from Holy Cross and receiving his Bachelor of Arts Degree in English, he pursued his Master's Degree in Library Science at the University of Rhode Island.



Soon after, Zeller took a job as a copy cataloguer at the Worcester Public Library. His responsibilities included accessing system services as a facilitator in the acquisitions area. Following his Worcester position, he became the Shrewsbury Library's Electronic Resources Librarian with responsibilities that included digital and electronic content, not just physical books, but also lease database information like e-books, print media, and journalistic information so patrons could access library subscriptions. He also taught patrons how to access and use computers and

software such as Microsoft Office programs. Zeller was the Assistant Director of the Shrewsbury Library for four plus years.

Since his arrival in Auburn, Michael Zeller has mentioned that the Auburn Library's plans will always be based on what the community wants. He wants to fill the library's existing vacant positions and looks forward to increasing personnel as necessary. The library is predominantly local funded

**ZELLER**

*continued on page 2*

## Auburn resident named among Educators of the Year at BU School of Medicine

Auburn resident Elizabeth Duffy, MA has been honored as a 2025 Educator (MA/ MS Programs) by Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine's Awards Committee. Nominated by students and faculty, the annual awards recognize the school's

educators who provide excellence in teaching and mentoring. Duffy is an assistant professor of pathology & laboratory medicine and director of the Master of Science in Pathology Laboratory Sciences program. Duffy also serves as the director of the Laboratory and Biorepository Research Services Core at Boston Medical Center. A colleague who has worked closely with Duffy has witnessed her excellent teaching style, professionalism and connection with the students, and commented, "She is thoughtful, generous with her time, engaging and stimulates discussion and welcomes the students to speak up and participate. Professor Duffy always gives constructive feedback which her students clearly enjoy."



## Oxford Memorial Day Parade

Veterans of Oxford – your community wants you!

The Memorial Day parade will kick off at 10:45 a.m. from the Oxford VFW, 20 Federal Hill Road and end at the American Legion, 227 Main Street.

All Oxford veterans are warmly invited to participate in the parade. Your presence is a powerful tribute to the sacrifices made by so many, and the community would be honored to march alongside you—or to cheer you on from the sidelines.

If you're a veteran who is unable or prefers not to walk, accommodations are being arranged to ensure



transportation is available so everyone who wants to take part can do so comfortably.

Let's line the streets with pride and gratitude to show our veterans and fallen heroes the respect they deserve.

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# New Seed Library in Oxford

The Oxford Free Public Library has announced that the Oxford Native Seed Library is now open. Brittany McDougal Bialy, Library Director, invites patrons to participate in this exciting new resource by selecting seed packets for your garden and also, to consider sharing any extras from your own seed collections and packets.

Seeds from native plants in our area are available at the seed library, as well as seeds of herbs flowers and vegetables. Education and emphasis on native plant seeding, in conjunction with the Oxford Grow Native for Pollina-

tors Campaign, is to promote the protection of pollinators and the creation of healthy habitats through the use of native plantings. Learn about native plants and pollinators from books available in the Oxford Library, handouts next to the seed library and starting your own pollinator garden!

General guidelines about seed starting and sharing are provided in a leaflet by the seed library. Please consider joining the seed library team as a volunteer - sign up sheets are available at the library front desk. Happy Planting!



## ZELLER

continued from page 1

with some state funding. Currently, there is no federal funding.

The first library project that the Auburn Library is involved in is

that being fine free for overdue items, that is, no overdue fines with a few specialized cases. This procedure now brings Auburn in line with the Central and Western Massachusetts Library Consortium's Best Practices. They have also hired a Youth Services Librarian

who has been focusing on children and teens' services. The library has already budgeted for a Reference Librarian who will deal with day-to-day technology requests. "We do get a lot of people asking for help with emails, printing, formatting resumes, downloading files, and accessing databases," said Director Zeller, "there are a lot of day-to-day technology requests and although the staff can't solve every tech request, we'll assist as best we can."

Future plans will also focus on re-doing their Five-Year Strategic Plan and they are soliciting community, trustees, and Friends of the Library comments. "We've received town and community funds for library expansion," said Zeller, "and we'll review what our community

wants for expansion. Our patrons have already told us that we should modernize the building to meet their needs and wants. We currently have about 10 staffers with three part-timers. About 10-15 years ago there were 15-16 staffers and the staff should be back to that level to accommodate our patrons. If you look at any adequately funded library, the usage always shows where the services are most needed: usage of books, meetings, and tech support. So much more resources are available at a library vs. being blocked by paywalls and libraries are one of the few public accesses left where services are no charge."

Director Zeller related an anecdote about a previous job's visit from Laurie Halse Anderson, a

novelist for young adults. After her library presentation, Ms. Anderson also spoke with the staff about getting their own writing published. "I'm an amateur author myself," said Zeller, "and she was very inspirational."

It's your library, Auburn residents. Isn't it about time you paid it a visit to see what's new and interesting? Auburn Public Library, 369 Southbridge Street (near the Auburn Mall), Auburn Phone: 508- 832-7790.auburnlibrary.org Hours: Monday 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Tuesday/Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.; Thursday 9:30 a.m.- 8 p.m.; Friday 9:30 a.m.- 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.- 1p.m. Closed Sundays and state holidays.

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# Auburn News Round-up

BY JANET STOICA  
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## CAMP GLEASON

According to interim Auburn town manager Dori Vecchio's latest report, the town, with the help of the DPW Facilities Division,

recreational enjoyment. Activities included swimming lessons, picnicking, and general outdoor enjoyment. USSC eventually donated the land to Auburn in 1967. A town meeting vote accepted the deed from USSC conveying land and water rights and all buildings

was re-sited. To make up for the deconstructed overhang there was a balcony added that overlooks Eddy Pond.

## TOWN MANAGER SEARCH

The new town manager search includes three final candidates: Angeline Lopes Ellison, Marc Stranger, and Dori Vecchio.

## NEW FIRE STATION FUNDING

At the May 6 annual town meeting, voters overwhelmingly approved the funding plan for the new fire station. On May 20, full project approval was to be voted on via a debt exclusion vote to design, construct, equip, and furnish a new fire headquarters. The town has proposed replacing Station 2 with a modern, 30,400 square foot fire headquarters located at 10 Prospect Street. The current headquarters on Auburn Street will remain operational as the new Station 2. All administrative functions, fleet maintenance, and the town's emer-

gency operations center would move to the new headquarters on Prospect Street. The current station on West Street will be returned to the School Department for their use. The goal of the committee is to present a project to the voters that is responsible. A large part of that

responsibility is cost and another large part is ensuring the station is constructed with durable materials that require as little maintenance as possible to reduce future costs and to provide the town and department with a building that will last another 60 plus years.



continues to rehabilitate the former Camp Gleason Building once owned by United States Steel as a satellite recreational and meeting site. The rehabilitation will provide the Town with more public meeting space. The building will be equipped with ACTV and broadcast capabilities allowing for live streamed and televised coverage for any scheduled public meeting.

Camp Gleason was created in 1942 by United States Steel Corporation (USSC) for their employees'

and structures located in the vicinity of Eddy Pond and Moss Reservoir. In 2000 Camp Gleason shut down their swimming program due to water pollution. Combined with ADA accessibility issues, the camp grew out of use. The DPW has been working to remove a portion of the building hanging over Eddy Pond (determined to be structurally deficient) and added a frost wall and knee wall to seal it off. The roof was re-aligned and re-shingled, and the entire building

## Dean's Lists

The following local students have made the dean's list at Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston for the Fall 2024 semester.

Morelia Estefania Mercadante of Auburn

Caner Derenas of Auburn

Jason Mahlert of Oxford

\* Logan Vieira of Oxford

Zackary Valentine of Oxford

The following local resident has been named to the 2024 fall semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

\* Ella Staltare of Oxford

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



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# BVCC's Beloved "Ladies On The Lake" Event Returns June 12

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's (BVCC) Women's Success Network (WSN) is thrilled to announce the return of its signature Summer event—Ladies On The Lake—on the serene evening of Thursday, June 12 aboard the spectacular Indian Princess, docked at Indian Ranch, 200 Gore Road, Webster. Boarding begins at 5:15 p.m., with the cruise running from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. A rain date is scheduled for June 26.

This highly anticipated event offers an evening of networking, scenic views, and relaxation. Guests will enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, refreshing cocktails, and the unique charm of cruising Webster Lake aboard the Indian Princess—a modern-day replica



of the classic riverboats that once graced the Mississippi River. She

remains one of the few authentic stern-wheel riverboats operating in the United States today.

"Ladies On The Lake has become a standout favorite in our Women's Success Network series," said BVCC President & CEO Jeanne Hebert. "It's a beautiful setting to build meaningful connections, strengthen relationships, and enjoy the peaceful beauty of the lake with friends and colleagues. Don't wait to register—this event sells out fast!"

If your plans happen to include a post-cruise dinner at Samuel Slaters Restaurant (many have in the past), reservations are strongly recommended (use Resy for online or call (508) 943-1639). Mention that you are with the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

cruise group, and they will do their best to sit the parties close together. If it's nice weather, we hope for deck seating!

We are proud to thank our generous sponsors: Presenting Sponsor: UniBank, Partner Sponsors: COREXP Business Solutions & ConvenientMD Urgent Care, and Major Sponsors: Fidelity Bank and Package Steel Systems. If you are interested in sponsoring this event, please contact Liz O'Neil.

Register online at [www.blackstonevalley.org/events](http://www.blackstonevalley.org/events). Members \$55, Future Members \$70. Please RSVP by June 5, 2025. For more information, please contact Liz O'Neil at 508.234.9090 ext. 102 or email Liz at [lonel@blackstonevalley.org](mailto:lonel@blackstonevalley.org).

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Auburn Police Officers Brandyn Geldart, Randy McCarthy, Dominic Walker and Jason Brooks took a few minutes off from patrol work to stop into the Life Care Center of Auburn to share a sweet treat in honor of both National Police week and National Skilled Nursing Home Week. The celebration happened to coincide with National Apple Pie Day, so all enjoyed apple pie on a stick and apple pie with ice cream.

## Oxford Community Center receives Janet Malser Humanities Trust grant award

The Oxford Community Center is delighted to announce it was recently awarded a grant of \$10,000 from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust to help support free Community Events on the Oxford Town Common, the Summer Bandstand Concert Series, creative arts classes for youth and adults, and our community theater program.

Community Center staff, volunteers and participants are grateful for this generous funding from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust which will allow us to continue to provide community-building activities for local families to enjoy. In addition to the Bandstand Concert Series, this grant award will aid in continuing Movies on Main each Wednesday evening

from July 9 to Aug. 20, Scarecrows on the Common in October, the annual Holiday Lights Parade and Tree Lighting in December, and the Fun, Frost & Family Winter Festival in January.

In addition to free community events, the Oxford Community Center offers year-round activity programming for all ages including a membership-based fitness program with 21 group fitness classes per week; recreational youth athletic programs including Winter and Summer Basketball, Start Smart Basketball, Soccer and Football; softball and baseball clinics; craft and educational programs for pre-school age children; Babysitting and CPR certification courses; and a summer activities program at Carbuncle Park. For information on all programs and activities please visit [oxfordma.us/234/Community-Center](http://oxfordma.us/234/Community-Center).

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# Just Waitin' on Summer

BY JANET STOICA  
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Yes, I know it's only May, but I think as one grows into their wiser persona, they begin to realize how much easier any other season is than ol' man winter. No shoveling, no salting, no slipping and falling, you get the idea. This is the entire reason so many over the age of 55 hit the warmth and cheerfulness of the Sunshine State. What are those seasonal tourists called? Snowbirds? They should really be called traitors! LOL! Such babies, such weaklings, such carpetbaggers! Actually, they are smarties who can afford to jump ship here in the northern climes and temporarily relocate to a nice pleasant environment. Hey, your arthritis isn't too bothersome now in that 75 degree tropical zone is it? Although with the southern states' hurricane season appearing to set-

tle in sooner and longer maybe that arthritis isn't being shaken off so easily. The "Urban Dictionary" defines snowbirds as any northerner who migrates to a southern state, namely Florida, during the winter months. They are recognizable by their poor driving habits, pale skin, and funny accents. I guess I could easily fit those descriptions.

I have a few friends who take the fast track to Florida for the winter. There is one in particular who is fortunate enough to stay in a relative's condo paying a monthly rate that I consider to be a most wonderful bargain. That three-month hiatus would be a welcome respite for me but I think I would be very lonely the first couple of seasons until I was able to befriend the local snowbirds. This friend does have several other acquaintances in the area so is not at a loss for socializing. I am jealous of the situation but have family obliga-

tions here in New England so the Florida option is not in the cards for me currently. I have been happily invited to visit but have not taken advantage of such a wonderful opportunity as of yet but I do have a very strong feeling that my opportunity will be happening in the next year.

A three-month vacation seems too long but at least a 7-10 day adventure. Having relatives in two other Florida locations, Cape Coral and Tampa, who would enjoy my visit as well, would be a fun treat. Now, would I sit poolside for a few days? Of course I would! That's the whole point, right? Get some vitamin D which I know I am sorely lacking.

When I was in my 20's, 30's, and 40's, I was most certainly a beach devotee here in New England. I knew the best beaches to enjoy in Rhode Island and also at Cape Cod. I would rent large summer

homes for a two-week period and invite my entire extended family for the vacation. It was great fun, fond memories, and the absolute best of times. These vacations were like no other enjoyment one could partake of. My family was great fun. We'd enjoy the beach on sunny days, visit attractions on days when the beach had tired us out, and indulge in barbecues and cocktails that brought us all into a tighter bond. These days, however, the Long Island Sound beaches are a rare visit and the ride to them



seems longer than I remember. I've not been a frequent visitor for the past several years. Actually, that snowbird escapade is sounding sweeter and sweeter!



It's the **15th Anniversary** of our Memorial Day Duck Race!

## Auburn Memorial Day Parade May 26

Auburn will hold its Memorial Day Parade open to anyone's participation. Hosted by McCoy's Action Karate, it is suggested that athletes who take part wear their full uniforms and sneakers. Family members are also invited to walk with the M.A.K. squad. The parade will stage at Rockland Road, Auburn, setting out at 10 a.m. Marchers can be picked up at St. Edmund's Center, Auburn.

**Auburn Junior Woman's Club Duck Race will follow the Memorial Day Parade.**

The GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club is holding their 22nd Annual Duck Race on Memorial Day this year! After the Memorial Day Parade is finished, our duck race will commence at Mirror Pond behind the Auburn Public Library on Southbridge Street. Buy a chance on a duck and if it crosses the finish line first, you win \$500 first prize! Hang out and enjoy children's games. The duck race is our largest fundraising event. Proceeds from the event go towards scholarships for Auburn seniors.

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## SPORTS

# Hillis Anchoring the Auburn Defense on the Diamond

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Growing up James Hillis found himself playing t-ball like so many kids in Auburn. By the time that he was playing for the Double Play Invaders, a travel baseball team, he realized that he had a special talent to play the game and knew that the eventually he wanted to play for the high school team.

"I learned a lot from the coaches at Double Play and how to improve my skills on the field," Hillis said. "I was nine or 10 years old playing against kids who were 12 and 13 years old and I was able to keep up with them."

While he was a solid defensive shortstop, Hillis found that his hitting was still not the greatest. He believed that he was undersized at 5 foot-2 inches and about 130 pounds, but that wasn't going to stop him from achieving his dream.

Entering Auburn High School he decided to join the golf team as well as being part of the unified basketball team but was anxiously awaiting the spring so he could try out for the baseball team.

When the tryouts began Hillis found that his confidence was not at all soaring high and although he was hoping to earn himself a spot on the varsity team, he was doubtful that he would. Hillis' instincts were correct and he landed himself on the junior varsity in his freshman campaign.

"I was disappointed that I was playing JV, but it gave me the

opportunity to learn a lot that year while building my game," he said. "I was able to get better and gain confidence in myself playing every game at shortstop. In the off-season I worked out more and gained some weight."

Hillis found that once he stepped onto the baseball field all he wanted to do was play shortstop, a position that he really enjoyed. He loved being the leader of the infield. As a sophomore, he would do so on the varsity team along with a handful of other second year players.

Originally, he found himself sitting on the bench behind a team's starting shortstop, but when that shortstop pitched Hillis would take his place in the center of the diamond. After getting some reps playing the position his defensive ability started to shine through and turn heads on the coaching staff. Soon the sophomore would take over the position.

Although first year Auburn coach Mike Brousseau wasn't on the squad back then, he has been impressed with the shortstop now as a senior.

"This team has a lot of athletic ability, but James is solid, one of the best I've seen at this position making play after play," Brousseau said. "He anchors our defense and has a cannon for an arm and has very good range with a soft glove that never allows anything to get by him."

In fact, the new Rockets coach frequently uses the shortstop as a teaching moment for the younger players. Brousseau has the



younger players watch as Hillis takes ground ball after ground ball and he never allows anything to get under his glove.

The senior noted that he works incredibly hard on his defense and it is something he takes pride in. While his defense is top notch, he believes that his offense needs work and wants to take his hitting to the next level.

The Auburn coach would beg to differ with his senior shortstop.

"He hits in the five or six slot and is part of a team that scores runs. He is a solid line drive hitter," Brousseau said. "He is hitting .318, has an on base percentage of .483 with seven hits, five RBI's and nine runs scored through the first nine games of the season."

Last spring the Rockets earned a Division 3 tournament berth

after going 10-10 on the season. Auburn would defeat Worcester Tech 13-0 in the preliminary round but were sent packing in the first round with a 5-3 loss to Bishop Stang. This year Hillis and his teammates are looking to avenge that loss.

"Coming into the season our goal was obvious – to win a state championship," Hillis said. "For myself, it's my senior year and just want to go out and have fun with the guys I grew up playing baseball with."

At the time of this writing, the Rockets were 12-1 and their goal still very much alive. As for Hillis, he is enjoying his final year with his friends and has even hit his first homerun of his high school career against North Middlesex. According to Hillis, he was just trying to get the run

home from third and didn't think anything of it when he first hit the ball, until it kept sailing and eventually went over the fence.

When the final out happens for Auburn it will be time for Hillis to move onto bigger things. The senior will be attending Bryant University in Rhode Island. Still believing that he is small in size, he doesn't plan on playing baseball for the Bulldogs.

"I didn't want to sacrifice my academics (Hillis will be majoring in Finance with a minor in Economics) just to play baseball," he said. "I haven't thought about walking onto the team and trying to make the team. We'll have to wait and see what happens, I still have a high school season going on. Once the season is over then I'll take a look at things."

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# Free 2025 Vessel Safety Check

At Wallum Lake Boat Ramp, Saturday, June 14 at Douglas State Forest, Douglas or Memorial Beach Boat Ramp, Saturday, June 21 at Nipmuc Cove, Webster Lake, MA

Bring any type of watercraft from kayaks, canoes, PWCs, sailboats, cabin cruisers, to ski & pontoon boats for a stem to stern check of equipment for compliance to federal and state safety regulations. Vessels can be inspected on a trailer as well as afloat.

Trailered vessels, not having Webster access sticker and not launching, can be examined at the entrance gate to Memorial Ramp. Personal watercraft, not allowed to launch



at the Wallum Lake Ramp on weekends, can also be examined at the gate. Both locations can accommodate boats arriving by water. The stations will be active from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Weather-related rescheduling will be the following Sunday, same time, and location.

Vessel Examiners are qualified and experienced to answer any boating related questions or concerns along with being trained to spot any potential problems. They will award your vessel with

a 2023 VSC decal if it meets Auxiliary standards on items such as: registration & hull numbering, life jackets, fire extinguishers, expiration dates on flares (if required), working navigation lights, overall vessel condition, etc. A VSC is conducted only with your consent; no reports are filed with any law enforcement agency. There are no citations, legal obligations, or penalties on violations or potential problems found. A VSC decal may result in a boat insurance discount and will indicate to law enforcement on the water that your vessel complies with safety regulations.

The Examiner will give the ves-

sel owner options and information on correcting any issues. Often a quick trip to the nearest boating supply vendor is all that is necessary to obtain missing safety items and easily pass a re-inspection, sometimes on the same day. Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Examiners will be around the local lakes at various, un-scheduled times during the boating season; they are few in number and not readily

available inland.

If you cannot make it to the station, schedule a VSC online at the link: [VesselSafetyCheck.org](http://VesselSafetyCheck.org)

It is best to take advantage of this scheduled opportunity and start your boating season with a visit to our station, and a 2025 VSC decal.

Staffed by Tri-State Flotilla 10-2 US Coast Guard Auxiliary VSC Station personnel.

## 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 Adaptive 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](http://websterwaterski.org) or contact [Adaptive@WebsterWaterSki.org](mailto:Adaptive@WebsterWaterSki.org).

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# Oxford High School Third Quarter Honor Roll

**HIGH HONORS**  
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**Juniors:** Justine Anderson, Gianna Snow Boucher, Cassidy Burke, Jaelynne Caracciolo, Conner Dawe, Chloe Gabis, Veronica Griffin, Gwen Gustafson, Matthew Hilman, Abigail Kimball, Rosy Krantz, Ava Liberis, Addisen Monsen, Ava Vincent, Ethan White  
**Sophomores:** Shayla Boliver, Abigail Davis, Zaria Edison, Madison Labay, Kate Mayo  
**Freshman:** Khloe Anderson, Andrew Collins, Tyler Fedorisky, Laura Grenier, Olivia Hammond, Noel Jandrow, Ella Kasprzycki, Beatriz Luna, Brooke Nitti, Devyn Quarshie, Torin Stone, Mia Urbaez, Keagan Vanarsdalen  
**HONORS**  
**Seniors:** Alyssa-Rae Anderson, Muniba Awais, Morgan Banfill, Rebeca Brito-Correia, Isaiah Capistran, Sophia Cornacchioli, Maximus Costa, Nathan Davis, Chloe Dumas, Edward Edison, Hailey Filipkowski, Sneha Harris, Marta Hellstrom, Rylie Keefe, Ella Kirkpatrick, Jacob Lanciault,

Annie Maynard, Calvin Nfodjo, Alexander Paradise, Sarah Parker, Samantha Pretty, Maya Staltare  
**Juniors:** Muhammad Anees, Hailey Angell, Sarah Arndt, Tyler Blomquist, Zack Bond, Delaney Burke, Savannah Cioppa, Keegan Comeau, Anna Costa Heroux, Michaella Dwyer, Sarah Fonseca, Alexander Hamilton, Samuel Paradise, Leonardo Peterson, Thalyta Souza, Hannah Taranto, Vanessa Walker  
**Sophomores:** Ava Benway, James Bond, Sofia Boucher, Makalieg Boyle-Muniz, Marie Cosentino, Cameron Davis, Angeliz Felix, Huckleberry McQuillan, Riley Moody, Philip Rouillard, Theresa Nickole Roy, Cameron Shields, Taliah Valentin  
**Freshman:** Haniya Awais, Travis Beaudette, Vladimir Behrens, Lillian Burke, Kaeli Cordova Del Cid, Isabella Costa, Davi Fracalossi, Calleigh Furtado, Caitlyn Gabis, Caroline Harty, Tatiangelys Hernandez Barreto, Keith Kirkpatrick, Zachary MacDonald, Adalisse Mercado Montanez, Lacey Parker, Joseph Ricard, Jacob Rondeau, Adam Sliwoski, Krystiana Sobocinski, Lucas Staniunas, Quashawn Sund-Lussier.

## 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 Schulverein, 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. [www.oldcolonyhospice.org](http://www.oldcolonyhospice.org)

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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. This month, OMS celebrates Savannah Pratt, Yeidiel Hernandez Barreto, Brynn Czernicki-Nasis, Eli Bonafilia, and Cameron Aquafresca as our April Students of the Month.

## TALES FROM BEYOND

tomdagostino.com

# 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. Investigators 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. Wit-

nesses 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.

# Auburn and the American Revolutionary War

The Thomas Drury Family

BY HELEN POIRIER

When the alarm was sounded for the battles of Lexington and Concord, present day Auburn was known as "the South Parish of Worcester" and was just about to finish its second year as that. The parish was made up of sections of Worcester, Leicester, Oxford, and Sutton. The reason for the formation of the South Parish of Worcester was that the landowners in this area found the distance to travel for church services in Worcester too far with poor roads hampering the travel. In 1773, the General Court of Massachusetts granted the petition for the area and a committee was appointed to select a location for a meeting house. The Drurys were part of the 24 people from Worcester whose land was part of the petition. There were also landowners from Sutton, Oxford and Leicester. The warrant



for the first meeting was signed by John Chandler, who was the Justice of the Peace in Worcester. The meeting was held at the home of Thomas Drury, Innholder, on July 6, 1773, and officers were elected. Until the new meeting house was

built, town meetings and church services were held at the Drury Tavern. According to the "Historic Houses of Auburn," the inn is now located at 129 Central Street although back then there were no streets only dirt roads. The house was built between 1763-1768 and became the first inn in the town. It served as a stagecoach stop on a route from Worcester to Hartford.

Though the parish was small, about 50 men were credited in answering the alarm on April 18, 1775, but not all were living

## DRURY FAMILY

continued on page 11

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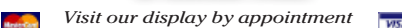
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BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

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

## LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

## A Potent Kind of Love

habit."

Ten years? My pup is already 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

**Dogs Receive and Give Freely.**

In life, giving often feels better than receiving. The "giver" receives a surge of joy when presenting a 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

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,

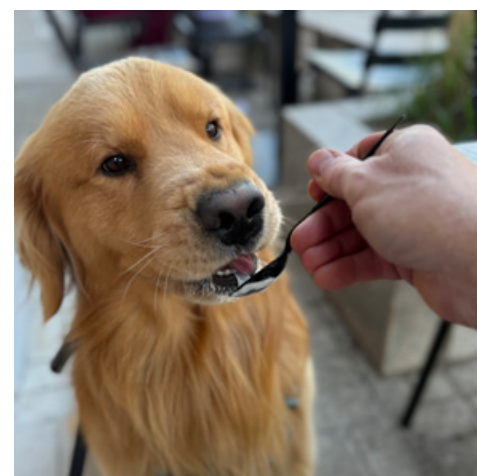
until he's ready for his last. Life is too short for my gloom. We will stay blessed by a life lived out loud—and with a potent kind of love. (I still pray that this meatball will reach a solid nineteen).

Write to Amy:

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Visit Luke:

livingwithlukevalentino@IG



on the fly, 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 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 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

strange, erratic dreams. What just happened? Where's Luke? Oh, not this. My 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."

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!" The box will move and bounce like a live cartoon while he wrestles. Dogs are fully and naturally appreciative. They give and receive freely.

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

Our dogs provide us with intangible gifts, the stuff money 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 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 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.



## REAL ESTATE

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

Later, 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.

## DRURY FAMILY

*continued from page 9*

within the parish boundaries. This article will focus on the Thomas Drury family, of which there were five generations with Thomas as a first name. The third and fourth generations were instrumental in the formation of the town as well as serving in the military and in the government of the town during and after the Revolutionary War.

According to the "Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors Who Fought in the Revolutionary War," Thomas [4th] was a private in the Capt. Timothy Bigelow's Company of Minutemen which was part of the Colonel Artemas Ward regiment which marched on the alarm of April 19, 1777. He served 19 days. It also seems that he was part of the

Capt. Jesse Stone 9th South Parish of Worcester Co. as a 2nd Lieut. March 28, 1776, was also listed with Capt. David Prouty's Co. list of officers enlisted or drafted from Worcester Co. Brigade.

Thomas [4th] came from a line of military men with great, great grandfather, John, being a lieutenant and his great grandfather, Thomas [1st] was a captain.

The Drury family can be traced back to Hugh Drury who was born about 1616 in England. He migrated to the Mass Bay Colony in 1641 and married Lydia Rice in 1646. They had a son, John, in 1646.

John stayed in the Boston area and married Mary Weare in 1668 and had 4 children, the oldest being Thomas [1st] who was born in 1668.

Thomas married Rachel Rice in Dec. 1867 in Sudbury. They eventu-

ally moved to Framingham and were living there when Thomas died in 1723. Thomas and Rachel had 7 children, including Thomas [2nd] born in 1690.

Thomas Jr. married Sarah Clarke in 1719 in Framingham, but sometime after that they moved to Grafton where they stayed until he died in 1783 at the age of 93 and was buried in Grafton. There were 9 children with the oldest being Thomas [3rd] born in 1721.

Thomas III married Elizabeth Brooks in 1746 in Grafton and had four children. He died 1778 in Grafton but was buried in Auburn. He was a lieutenant in the town militia. Thomas was the tavern/inn owner which was located near the First Congregational Church on Central St. in Auburn. He officially donated the land for the church and burial ground around

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1871. There was also a sawmill and grist mill not far from the inn that had the Drury name. It was on a tributary of the French River called Ramshorn Brook. The mill was passed until his great grandson Alvah inherited it.

Thomas Drury [4th] was born in 1747 in Grafton. He married Experience Butler in 1796 in Auburn and had 5 children with Thomas (5th) being born in 1777 in Auburn.

Thomas 5th married Mehitabel Baird and had a son, Alvah. Alvah died in April 1846 after an accident at the grist mill and was buried in Brimfield. Alvah was the last Drury to own the family mill that was in the area that is now known

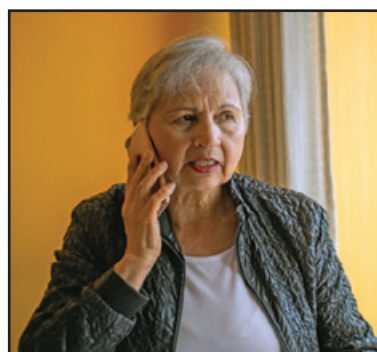
as Drury Square at Auburn and Southbridge Streets. The mill was sold to Henry Dunn of Ashford MA. There is another house that is at 27 Auburn St. that was built by a John Drury c. 1820.

It seemed from 1774 on, the underlying aim of the town fathers was to make the "Parish" a fully-fledged town and so petitioned the General Court of Worcester to make South Parish a town apart from Worcester. This petition and every other petition after it were denied until 1777, when Worcester, under conditions, allowed for the

## DRURY FAMILY

*continued on page 15*

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## THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

## How to Handle a Random Misfire

**Q.** My GMC Terrain has been diagnosed with a random misfire. The dealer told me it is the gas I am using and they will need to do some major disassembly to solve the problem. The engine runs fine and has this occasional check engine light. What can be done, without taking the engine apart?

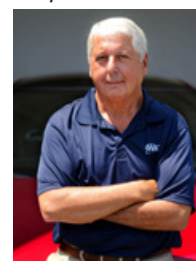
**A.** Gas quality can be part of the issue, and it makes sense when you can to use TopTier gasoline. But I also believe at the heart of these problems is direct fuel injection systems that seem to allow more combustion chamber carbon buildup. This is due to the way fuel is injected directly into the combustion chamber, which

doesn't allow the fuel to clean the valves as it does in traditional port injection engines. In the past I have had good luck solving this issue running fuel cleaner directly into a large vacuum port. There are solvents and special adapters made just for this purpose.

a possibility. At this point you will need to go back to the repair shop for additional diagnostic testing, which should include a test of fuel pressure under load. The question, are you doing additional damage by continuing to drive the car? If it is the transmission the cost to repair it will be the same now or later, if and when the symptoms get worse.

have someone close since when something must be done it always needs overnight or multiple days in the shop. Again, is that normal or can the service be better?

**A.** This is a great car, relatively simple to repair with easily available parts. The problem as you found is that good shops are busy. Back when shops had plenty of help, classic cars were a great fill in work, especially in winter. Today with less quality shops and the challenges of finding qualified staff, almost no one has time for classic car work that can take up valuable shop/bay space. As warm weather comes around go to car shows (look for Ford owners) and ask around you may find some leads.



BY JOHN PAUL

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**Q.** I have a Ford Edge 2013 with 228,000 miles on it. It runs well and was at the time of purchase, fitted with all the latest amenities, so I'm enjoying the car for the next period of its life after my wife drove it for eleven years. It has a disturbing hesitation that at first my mechanic thought might be gas related and recommended an additive, but this did not work, and the problem persisted. The car checked out on the computer, and I said it felt as if it might be a transmission slip issue. I've become less concerned about it and, so far, has not gotten worse with time. It occurs while entering an on ramp that requires the car to accelerate under load and climb, but it rectifies itself in seconds. What do you think I am experiencing with my trusty Ford Edge? I'd like to continue to drive it. Am I furthering damage by driving it under its present condition? I don't want to spend too much money given the age of the car.

**A.** I would road test the car with your mechanic so they can experience exactly what you are experiencing. At 12 years old, it certainly could be a transmission issue which is not uncommon in this vehicle. The other possibility is the fuel system could be at fault. A weak fuel pump could also be

**Q.** What causes my Kia Soul to use so much oil? There are no leaks so I brought the car to the Kia Dealership and they said they could not do anything until the motor seized up. How stupid is that!

**A.** The issue with many Kia/Hyundai engines is the piston rings gum up and allow oil to bypass the oil rings and be consumed during combustion. Typically, the dealer will start with an oil consumption test. They will change the oil and have you come back in 1000 miles. If the oil is still at or near the full mark, Kia considers the oil consumption normal. If the oil is low, then the dealer will try an engine cleaning. This cleaning is supposed to remove the build up at the rings. My experience is that this procedure, which is necessary for warranty works, almost never works. If after the cleaning the engine still uses oil, and the car is under warranty, the engine gets replaced.

**Q.** I have a 1966 Ford Falcon convertible that my wife originally got in 1974. It is a car that does not get driven enough. I have been lucky over the years to not have massive repair bills, but I have always been concerned about being overcharged and whether the work being done is by capable mechanics/shops. Or maybe I just expect better customer service or better service overall. I prefer to

**Q.** My 2018 Subaru Outback info screen has been beeping and changing stations on its own, sometimes the screen freezes and I cannot do anything. There is no rhyme or reason to when it happens. I have searched several YouTube videos and so far, everything I tried is temporary. Help!

**A.** This is an issue we see in many vehicles that have infotainment screens. Just like with a computer tablet over time the touch screen can get wonky. With your Subaru and many other vehicles, the issue is the screen itself and the fix is to replace it. The screen delaminates and causes the phantom changes. There was a class action lawsuit but as far as I know it did not go anywhere.

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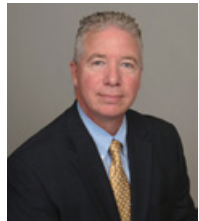
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## TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING

dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com

# Financial moves for a growing family

If you're adding a child to your family, it's an exciting time, and you have much to anticipate. Of course, this new addition will bring many changes in your life, so you'll want to be prepared — especially in terms of your finances.



BY DENNIS  
ANTONOPOULOS

What financial moves should you make as you welcome your new child? Here are a few to consider:

**Estimate expenses — and create a new budget.** You will likely have several new expenses associated with a new child, ranging from relatively minor purchases — car seat, stroller, crib, etc. — to potentially much larger costs, such as a vehicle with more space or even a new home. You'll need to estimate what you can afford for these initial expenses and then work in to your budget the everyday additional costs — food, clothing, uncovered medical expenses and so on.

**Look at options to support taking time off work.** Depending on where you live and where you work, you might have some sources of support if you take time off from work after the arrival of your child. These options may include paid time off — such as sick leave and vacation time — paid family leave, short-term disability insurance, and some benefits from the Family Medical and Leave Act.

**Determine how child care will be provided.** Child care can be expensive and, in some areas,

hard to find. Well before the arrival of your child, start looking for child care, so you can explore your options and start factoring in the costs to your cash flow and monthly budget. During your search, look at offerings from local community centers, religious institutions and nonprofit organizations, some of which may offer low-cost child care programs.

**Contribute to your emergency fund.** It's generally a good idea to keep up to six months' worth of living expenses in a liquid, low-risk account to pay for unexpected costs — and with a growing family, these costs may well increase as your child grows older.

**Look at your tax situation.** You may want to consult with a tax professional to determine whether you qualify for credits or deductions, such as the dependent care credit, the federal child tax credit, and adoption-related credits (if you adopted a child). Also, you may want to update your Form W-4 to add a dependent — a move that may lower your tax withholding and increase your take-home pay.

**Start your education planning.** It's never too soon to think about paying for costs associated with your child's education. You might want to consider a 529 education savings plan, which offers tax benefits and can be used for college and many vocational programs, as well as some K-12 costs. A financial advisor can help you explore all available education savings options.

**Check your insurance.** You'll need to add your child to your existing health insurance, but if you don't have insurance, see whether you qualify for Med-

icaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or look for a marketplace plan at [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov). You might also need to purchase additional life insurance coverage. And with a growing family to support, you might want to add disability coverage to protect your income against short- or long-term disabilities.

Bringing a new child into your life is certainly a joyous occasion — and by being financially prepared, you can make the whole experience even more enjoyable.

*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](mailto:dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com).*

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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](mailto:news@theyankeeexpress.com).

#### 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

• Saint 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 Avenue, 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@stpeterockdale.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpeterockdale.org) if you have any questions.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 8

• The New England Country Music Club will hold a dance with the live classic band "Angela West & Showdown" at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin Street, Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:15 p.m., Live music from 1-5 p.m. Snacks may be brought in, cash bar for beverages.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 12

• The Annual Meeting of the Millbury Historical Society will be held at the Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm Street, Millbury at 6 p.m. After the business meeting, the featured program of "Five Millbury Families" will be presented. The families featured this year are the Pearsons, the Bailey/Mazzeos, the Stowes, the Hills and the Buck Brothers. All are invited and refreshments will be served.

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 13

• The Uxbridge Senior Center, 36 South Main Street, Uxbridge, is hosting a Father's Day

party for Uxbridge dads. The celebration starts at 12 p.m. Sponsored by the Elderly Connection with entertainment provided by the Uxbridge Cultural Council. RSVP required, 508-278-8622

#### 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. Theo 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.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 15

• The theme of the 2025 Millbury Fourth of July Parade is "A Community Celebrates!" The parade will start at Millbury High School, 12 Martin Street at 1 p.m. and end at Windle Field.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 21

• Join family and friends for a stuffed chicken dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Parish Hall, 39 Church Avenue, Northbridge. Tickets are \$17 per dinner and include salad and dessert. To go meals will be available for pick-up at 5 p.m. All orders

must be purchased in advance by Tuesday, June 16. Call 508-234-2156 or email the parish office: [parishoffice@stpeterockdale.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpeterockdale.org) for orders and tickets.

#### 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>.  
• The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce will hold its Business After Hours Networking Event from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Murder Hill Brewery & Taproom at 670

Linwood Avenue, Building C, Whitinsville. Murder Hill is an exciting local brewery nestled within the historic Linwood Mill complex. Enjoy a relaxed and lively evening of networking, with local craft brews on tap and delicious bar bites. Admission is \$20 for members and \$40 for future members. RSVP by June 23 to Liz O'Neil at 508-234.9090 ext. 102 or via email at [lonel@blackstonevalley.org](mailto:lonel@blackstonevalley.org)

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 28

• A Basic Life Support and First Aid Class will be offered beginning at 8 a.m. in St. Peter's Parish Hall, 39 Church Avenue, Northbridge. This class is for newcomers and those looking for re-certification. Learn valuable lifesaving skills. Training is done by the American Heart Association. The class is \$89 per person and must be paid in advance when you register. Class size is limited. Please register by Monday, June 23. Call 508-234-2156 or email the parish office: [parishoffice@stpeterockdale.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpeterockdale.org) for more information.

## Oxford Farmers' Market

Set aside Friday, June 20 from 2-6 p.m. for Fairy Day at the Oxford Farmer's Market, Joslin Park on the Oxford Town Common, Main Street. Quality, nutritious food local food will be available and that's no fairy tale! Special events are planned for this deliciously fun day.

The Farmers' Market will be open on the third Friday of the month through October: June 20; July 18; Aug. 15; Sept. 19 and Oct. 17.

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<p><b>RUMOURS</b> THE ULTIMATE FLEETWOOD MAC</p> <p><b>JULY 20 • 1PM</b></p>	<p><b>Yachtley Crew</b></p> <p><b>JULY 24 • 7PM</b></p>	<p><b>ALMOST QUEEN</b> A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN</p> <p><b>JULY 6 • 1PM</b></p>	<p><b>PARMALEE</b></p> <p><b>JULY 12 • 1PM</b></p>	<p><b>GRUNGE FEST 2025</b></p> <p><b>JULY 13 • 12PM</b></p>	<p><b>HAIRFEST 2025</b> PYROMANIA: THE ULTIMATE DEF LEPPARD TRIBUTE</p> <p><b>JULY 19 • 12PM</b></p>
<p><b>LEE BRICE</b> WITH SPECIAL GUEST GRACE TYLER</p> <p><b>AUGUST 10 • 1PM</b></p>	<p><b>TYLER HUBBARD</b> WITH SPECIAL GUEST BRANDON WISHAM</p> <p><b>AUGUST 16 • 1PM</b></p>	<p><b>JAKE OWEN</b> THE DRIFTWOOD RANCH TOUR</p> <p><b>AUGUST 17 • 1PM</b></p>	<p><b>ALMOST QUEEN</b> A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN</p> <p><b>JULY 26 • 1PM</b></p>	<p><b>THE CONCERT</b> A TRIBUTE TO ABBA</p> <p><b>AUGUST 2 • 1PM</b></p>	<p><b>FACE 2 FACE</b> TRIBUTE TO ELTON JOHN &amp; BILLY JOEL</p> <p><b>AUGUST 3 • 1PM</b></p>
<p><b>BADFISH</b> SURF PARTY SUMMER</p> <p><b>AUGUST 10 • 1PM</b></p>	<p><b>LEE BRICE</b> WITH SPECIAL GUEST GRACE TYLER</p> <p><b>AUGUST 16 • 1PM</b></p>	<p><b>TYLER HUBBARD</b> WITH SPECIAL GUEST BRANDON WISHAM</p> <p><b>AUGUST 17 • 1PM</b></p>	<p><b>JAKE OWEN</b> THE DRIFTWOOD RANCH TOUR</p> <p><b>AUGUST 23 • 7PM</b> <b>AUGUST 24 • 1PM</b></p>	<p><b>DO IT!</b> WORLD TOUR 2025</p> <p><b>AUGUST 30 • 1PM</b></p>	<p><b>FACE 2 FACE</b> TRIBUTE TO ELTON JOHN &amp; BILLY JOEL</p> <p><b>AUGUST 31 • 7PM</b></p>

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# 2025 Sheriff's Annual Worcester County Senior Picnic

Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis invites seniors to this annual "Drive-thru Extravaganza Event" where guests will be treated to a delicious BBQ lunch to go. Every attendee will also receive free lottery tickets from The Worcester County Reserve Deputy Sheriff's Association, along with desserts, raffle prizes, tons of giveaways,

and bags of goodies from each exhibitor/vendor.

Saturday, June 7 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at SAC Park, 438 Lake Street, Shrewsbury. Register by phone 508-796-2638. Leave message with name, address and phone. First come, first serve basis.



## DRURY FAMILY

*continued from page 11*

incorporation on April 10, 1778, and called it Ward.

From 1774 to 1786, the Drury father and son team held various positions in town government. Lieutenant Thomas was selectman, hog-reeves (which was a town officer responsible for the impounding of stray hogs), moderator, assessor, examiner for school squadron district #3 and Bogachoag (Pakachoag), a member of the school committee, warden, and was a delegate to the Worcester County convention after the war to work on a state constitution, and a tythingman which was a general law enforcement officers that made sure people attended public worship, arrest those who didn't keep

the Sabbath day; often called "sleep banishers," they saw to it that members of the church kept awake during services,

Thomas' son was a selectman, moderator, fence viewer, sexton, school committee member, sealer of weights and measures, tax collector, burial ground overseer, pew building/assigning, preaching (finding a minister) and sexton.

The Drury family served their

fledgling country and their town with distinction.

*This article is made possible by the Auburn Historical Society & Museum, 41 South Street. The museum is open Tuesday and Saturday mornings 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. visit auburnhistoricalmuseum.org or follow us on Facebook at Auburn Historical.*

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