

Grafton's Business Scene

BY CHRISTINE GALEONE

The beginning of summer is decorated with milestones worth celebrating. Juneteenth, the commemoration of the end of legalized slavery in our country

Antiques Marketplace, the multi-artisan, multi-vendor shop, located at 4 Worcester Street in Grafton. It celebrated its 8th anniversary. The shop sells beautifully restored furniture, farmhouse style items and other antiques in addition to



falls just a couple of days before the summer solstice. And Independence Day commemorates our independence from Great Britain before the first two weeks of the season have ended. Early summer is, of course, also a time when many seek relaxation.

In Grafton, several businesses are celebrating milestones. And Grafton organizations are offering people fun ways to relax as well.

In June, one shop that celebrated an anniversary is Off the Common

new handmade items from local artisans.

A North Grafton nonprofit that gives back to its community just celebrated its 17th anniversary in June. Over the years, Treasures – an upscale thrift shop that's located at 82 Worcester Street – has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Whitinsville Christian

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Community Harvest Project Volunteer Recognized

And you can try gardening with him!

Each year, in honor of Community Harvest Project's (CHP) Founder, Ken Crater, it provides an award to a volunteer who exemplifies CHP's key values and has made a significant contribution to its work. This year, the organization is awarding this award to longtime volunteer and board member, Scott Rogers. Scott's desire to help others is unwavering, and it has directed him throughout his career path. He currently works at UMass Chan Medical School and he was a member of the Northborough board of selectmen.

Scott has now been consistently volunteering with CHP since 2012. In the years that have elapsed, he has assisted them in numerous different ways. In times of technical difficulties, he has used his IT skills to guide them. He currently volunteers as Chair of the Operations Committee and a member of the Board of Directors. Even with other responsibilities, Scott continues to get his hands in the dirt regularly as a Team Leader of volunteer groups on the farms.

Scott stumbled upon CHP incidentally: "In the summer of 2012, my dedication to community volunteerism was cemented by a random match to Community Harvest Project. Looking back, I recognize the genius in the name, for the guiding principle is indeed community," said Rogers. "CHP provides the place, the time and the motivation for anyone and everyone to give what they can towards a fundamental human need. My awareness has expanded from underground to the treetops, from local town to Federal programs, from a single drop-in one day to organizations that volunteer



Scott Rogers

year after year. I am proud to be part of this community and look forward for many years to come."

He plays a critical part in CHP's mission to engage and educate volunteers to grow fruits and vegetables for local hunger relief. Each day, Scott's fellow volunteers bear witness to his diligence and his compassion, which motivate them to continue assisting food insecure individuals in Massachusetts.

Individuals can join Scott by volunteering in Grafton as a "drop in" 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Monday through Saturday. No training or experience necessary. Groups of five or more can submit a request to volunteer in Grafton or Harvard through the remainder of the growing season. More information at community-harvest.org/volunteer.

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by Tim Jones

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FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING, OF COURSE.



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School. The non-profit shop's efforts have enabled many students to be able to attend the school, since the money donated reduces tuition increases.

And Paisley Boutique, located at 40 North Main Street in North Grafton, celebrated its 11th anniversary. The shop, which also has a store in Hudson, carries affordable boutique style clothing and accessories in classic and contemporary styles.

Once again, the Grafton Lions Club will hold its Independence Day concert. This year, the free concert will be held on Wednesday July 2 at 7 p.m. on the Grafton Common. And, following tradition, it will feature the 215th Massachusetts Army Band.

The Town of Grafton's 2025 Summer Concerts will also return soon to provide free music-filled summer evenings. Presented by Grafton Cultural Council, sponsors include but aren't limited to Savers Bank, CSR Financial Services, Gaudette Insurance Agency, O'Malley Chiropractic and Swirls and Scoops. Held at rotating venues – Grafton Common in Grafton, Nelson Park in North Grafton and Ferry Street Park in South Graf-

ton – every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. starting July 10, the first concert will be performed by Holdin' Back the 60's (at Common); the July 17 one will be by So Lucky (at Ferry Street Park); the July 24 one will be given by Dock 10 (at Ferry Street Park); the July 31 concert will be by Petty Larceny (at Nelson Park); the Aug. 7 one will be by Stomp N Holler (at Nelson Park) and the Aug. 14 concert will by the Claffin Hill Symphony Orchestra (at Common).

The historical milestones we celebrate have the potential to unite our frequently divided country in the celebration of freedom for all Americans. And local milestones can bring communities together to celebrate those accomplishments. But there's also definitely something to be said for summer relaxation. Happy summer!

Contact Christine with your business news items at cmgaleone15@gmail.com

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Sutton 2025 Commencement

Sutton High School held commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2025 on Wednesday, May 28 at Mechanics Hall, Worcester.

The graduates include:
Luis Antonio Aguirre III;
Connor James Anderson; Ivanna Michelle Arrieta Osuna; Mary Alexandra Balocca; *Mallory Ann Barnes; Jacob Anthony Bastardo; Cameron Liam Benedict; Katelyn Marie Briggs; *Christopher James Campbell; Laura Costner Correa Costa; *Madeline Anna Cyronak; Savannah Marie Daigle; *Nicolette Mary-Rose DeCell; Audie Caroline Deshais; Ryan Joseph Doolin; Wesley Michael Dykstra; Zoe Margaret Evans; *Karolina Elise Eykman; Ryan David Ferreira; Mary Theresa Firlings;
Johnathan Robert Fitton; Harry Nicholas Galanis; Elise Mary Gaul; Biverlie Narchelle Gentil; Liam Ashmore Gervickas; *Reagan Elizabeth Giguere; *Riley Marie Giguere;

Anneka Dianne Gillespie; Ryan Joseph Gleason; Ryder Brendan Glidden; Carley Grace Gopfert; Wesley David Gopfert; Palmer Nelson Graff; Katelynn Elizabeth Graham; Samantha Frances Grant; Cadence Bryce Harris; *Allison Leigh Hastings; Aria Marion Healy; Emma-Rose Theresa Heldenbergh; Jasper Herbert; Sean Ryan Hicks; Nicholas John Holbrook; Jayden Joseph Jeffries; *Molly Joan Jenkins; *Addison Marie Jerome;
*Gwyneth Sheila Johnson; *Anna Lucy Joseph; *Madeline Jean Joyce; Andrew Ode Kalvinek; Reeg Jeffrey Kassatly; *Camryn Elizabeth Kinne; Amsden David Klinghard;
Aiden Matthew LaCava; Liam MacCallum Langevin; *Amelia Jean Lannon; *Jocelyn Kathleen

Lannon; Logan James Levesque; Raymond Thomas Levesque; Meghan Jane Levins; Madisyn Rae Lucia; Stephen Anthony Macaruso; Koda Lokov Mannino; Derek James McIntyre; Hazel Rose Meagher; Hunter Charles Miller; *Logan Charles Newton
*Emma Elizabeth Nolan; Declan Michael O'Callaghan; Harllen Riyah Camaso Orofino
Quinn Paldino; Chloe Emerie Perez; David Michael Potkonjak; Arielle Michele Powell;
Hannah Elizabeth Pratt; *Katerina Marie Quill; Sophia Grace Randell; *Madyson Lee Raskett; Olivia Marie Riley; Kole Storevik Rumford; *Sydney Marie Scott; Dakota Lillian Shugrue; Connor James Smith; Lauren Ann Snyder; Evan Zachary Spencer; Sadie Brigid Stadinski; *Annika

Dall Stockhaus; Nathan Michael Sullivan; Zoey Elizabeth Szydlak; Emma Katelyn Temple; Evan Michael Threadgould; Karma Azzure Trusell;
Kassius Aryan Trusell; Jason

Christopher Walsh; Dylan Paul Welch; Ryan Nolan White;
Alexa Isabel Xhengo and Dantey Sean Yantin.
*National Honor Society

Pomp, Pageantry, and Pride

BVT Celebrates the Class of 2025

The Blackstone Valley Tech Class of 2025 Commencement Ceremony was held at the DCU Center in Worcester on May 29. The evening ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of its graduates with all the pomp, pageantry, and pride they so richly deserve.

"Since their first day at our school, I encouraged this class to put in their best effort and work their hardest and to leave Valley Tech just a little bit better than they found it," said Principal Anthony E. Steele II in his opening remarks. "The Class of 2025 met that challenge. They have been outstanding stewards of their school, and after tonight, I have no doubt that they will honorably carry that torch as BVT alumni. Personally, the Class of 2025 will hold a special place in my heart as they are the last class I will see through as Principal before transitioning to my new role as Superintendent next year."

The ceremony included a salute to the flag and the playing of the national anthem. Next, Yvette Martin, Director of Student Services, delivered the benediction. Then, Haley and Abigail Bilodeau of Douglas delivered a musical performance.

The speakers eloquently articulated lessons and moments that shaped their high school experiences. The speakers were: Jayden Quang of Millbury,



2025 BVT Valedictorian Jayden Quang. Photo courtesy of Morin Studio

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BVX

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Valedictorian; Nathaniel Cook of Blackstone, Class President; Kal-

lie Allen of Hopedale, SkillsUSA National President; Sosie DerKosrofian of Northbridge, Student Council President and Om Patel of Douglas, Salutatorian and Class Vice President.

Assistant Principal Mr. Matthew Urquhart addressed the class and took a moment to acknowledge those who made this day possible. In closing, he reminded the Class of 2025 to treat others with kindness and respect and to be proud of what they have earned.

"On the cusp of what is yet to come, you have all the tools you need to succeed," said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. "With your training, dedication, and forward-looking mindset, we have every confidence that you will continue to build upon the skills you've acquired." Three hundred and fifteen students concluded their dual high school education. They received a vocational certificate and a diploma, which certify mastery of competencies in their career-technical programs and a rigorous academic course of study. Then, the Academic Curriculum Coordinator, Mr. Evans, called Dr. Matthew Connors, Vocational Director, to the stage to present the final diploma to Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick, who will retire in June after 31 years of service. The joyful celebration concluded with a standing ovation for Dr. Fitzpatrick and thunderous applause for the graduates. To view the ceremony, visit valleytech.k12.ma.us/mark-ingamilestone.

The following are local graduates:

GRAFTON

Elena Baker, Dental Assisting; Alexandra Bell, Culinary Arts; Audrey Bell, Engineering; Cameron Brousseau, Automotive Technology; Saim Choudhry, Engineering; Martha Cummings, Cosmetology; Zoey Dauderis, Health Services; Raghav Dave, Electronics; Massimo D'Errico, Construction Technology; Rowan Hackett, Multimedia Communications; Matthew Iadarola, HVAC/R; Nora Iadarola, Multimedia Com-

munications (NHS); Christopher Joiner, Biotechnology (NHS/NTHS); Keyara Jones, Health Services (NHS); Hali Kaufman, Culinary Arts; Ella McCann, Advanced Manufacturing; Owen O'Packi, Multimedia Communications; Brodie Remillard, Electronics; Lucas Rotti, Electrical; Joshua Siefert, Engineering; Carly Simpson, Health Services (NHS/NTHS); Ryan Teixeira-Collins, Automotive Technology; Daniel Warfield, Electronics (NHS); Annika Welles, Advanced Manufacturing (NHS/NTHS); and Robert Wells, Electrical.

MILLBURY

Aryanna Ballard, Automotive Technology; Luke Charron, Electronics; Kaylee Clouthier, Multimedia Communications; Allan Croghan, Engineering; Alexa Da Silva, Advanced Manufacturing; Wyatt Darrell, Engineering (NHS); Mason Diosomito, Engineering (NHS); Joshua Gould, Information Technology; Henrique Guaitolini, Drafting & Design; Matthew Heffernan, Engineering; Santiago Hernandez, Plumbing; Michael Herzog, Automotive Collision Repair; Ethan Ikeda, Construction Technology (NHS/NTHS); Jack Kenary, Multimedia Communications; Gianna Konisky, Engineering (NHS); Ryan Langkopf, Construction Technology; Brianna Lawton, Dental Assisting (NHS); Dylan Leblanc, Automotive Technology; Maya Lorion, Health Services; Tessa Loughlin, Cosmetology; Quin McNeil, Drafting & Design; Antoinette Nsengiyumva, Biotechnology;

Daniel Parath, HVAC/R; Maeghan Plourde, Health Services; Jayden Quang, Engineering (NHS/NTHS); Matthew Rose, Construction Technology; Luke Rutkiewicz, Engineering; and Abigail Whittier, Health Services (NHS).

SUTTON

Lucas Baez, Advanced Manufacturing; James Banville, Jr., Advanced Manufacturing; William Bogdan, Information Technology; Jeffrey Brooks, III, Electronics; Antonio Bruno, Plumbing; Emma Cliadakis, Culinary Arts; Colton Corash, Electronics; Andreanna DiStefano, Advanced Manufacturing; Emma Fierz, Dental Assisting (NHS); Morgan Gervais, Advanced Manufacturing (NHS/NTHS); Dante Hastings, Automotive Technology; Benjamin Hicks, Electronics (NHS/NTHS); Tyler Houlihan, Health Services (NHS); Kenneth Kalvinek, Engineering; Olivia Katz, Culinary Arts; William Kelly, Construction Technology; Madison Malo, Dental Assisting; Caroline Martin, Engineering (NHS/NTHS); Trevor Martin, Engineering; Gabrielle Mathis, HVAC/R; Connor Moore, Electronics; Jack Oikle, Construction Technology; Michael Osowski, Drafting & Design; Jaren Peckham, Construction Technology; Jacob Rajotte, Information Technology; Kathryn Shultz, Multimedia Communications; Zachary Steen, Engineering; Spencer Stephenson, Automotive Collision Repair (NTHS); Zoey Violette, HVAC/R; and Natalia Zambrano, Construction Technology.



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Should you trust a 'finfluencer'?



Tim Furbush, CFA

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In the age of social media, it's easy to find advice on just about anything — including how to manage your money. Content creators known as “finfluencers” — short for financial influencers — use platforms like TikTok, YouTube and Instagram to share their takes on investing, budgeting and building wealth. Many of them are charismatic and relatable, and they often speak from personal experience. But while their content may be engaging, taking financial ad-

vice from a finfluencer without digging deeper can come with significant risks.

While some finfluencers may have formal training or credentials, many do not. Instead, their influence stems from their popularity rather than professional experience. But popular advice may not necessarily be good advice. A 2025 study by the Swiss Finance Institute even found that unskilled finfluencers typically have larger followings than skilled ones.

Why be cautious?

For young or new investors, social media can make finance feel accessible. In fact, a 2022 FINRA study says that more than 60% of Americans younger than 35 get investing information from these platforms. But social media isn't regulated the same way traditional financial advising is, so anyone, qualified or not, can offer financial tips.

Unlike traditional financial advisors, finfluencers don't know your unique goals, financial situation or risk tolerance. And

likely, they're not licensed (you can check here: Check Out Your Investment Professional | Investor.gov). Even well-meaning guidance might lead you down a risky path if it's not tailored to your needs. And unfortunately, some finfluencers have exploited the trust they build with followers to promote questionable investments or outright frauds.

Warning signs to watch for

Here are a few signs that a finfluencer's advice may be worth avoiding:

- **Unrealistic “get-rich” promises:** Claims like, “Turn \$500 into \$50,000 in a year,” are highly improbable and may indicate a scam.
- **Hurry, hurry:** Be wary of advice that pressures you to act fast or plays on fear of missing out. Important financial decisions shouldn't come with a countdown clock.
- **Flashy displays of wealth:** Images of luxury cars, watches or cash can be more about generating views than offering sound advice. If a finfluencer

is trying that hard to convince you to take an action, it often means they will profit — perhaps they'll get paid to promote a product or service, or earn a fee for referring you, or are trying to boost clicks and followers to earn more.

What you can do

- **Do your own homework.** Don't take finfluencers' advice at face value. Cross-check it with reliable sources. The finfluencer may even be under investigation by a federal or state securities regulator. Talking to a licensed financial advisor you trust can help you discern good advice from the bad.
- **Recognize conflicts of interest.** If a finfluencer promotes a product or service, find out if they're being paid to do so. And remember, online personalities make money by generating high viewership, not because their advice has a track record of success.
- **Use common sense.** When something sounds too good

to be true, it usually is. And of course, never disclose your bank or brokerage account numbers to a finfluencer, and never send money.

Finfluencers can make financial topics more engaging and accessible. But when it comes to your money, a social media video from someone who doesn't know you is no substitute for informed, personalized guidance. Take the time to verify, research and, when in doubt, seek advice from a professional.

Contact Tim for assistance with your personal finances.

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Grafton Senior Center

Thursdays at 11 a.m. Breathing & Healing Chair Yoga:
Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. - Free for Grafton Seniors thanks to FOGE
Cardio Barre Exercise: Thursdays at 12 p.m.
Congressperson Office Hours: Varies; Council on Aging, meets second Thursday of every month at 1 p.m. unless otherwise posted
Day Trips/ Extended Trips: Vary- see newsletter/ brochure rack for details
Dull Men's Club: second and fourth Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.
Duplicate Bridge: Thursdays at 9 a.m.
Fall Prevention Exercise: Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., free for Grafton Seniors.
Fuel Assistance: See Lisa Kelley for appointment
Hooked on Books Club: First Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m.
Jog Your Noggin: Spirited talk with Lisa one Wednesday a month

at 10:30 a.m.
Line Dancing: Every Friday at 1p.m. \$3/ person
Lunch: Monday- Friday at 11:45 a.m., suggested \$3.00 donation. Please call two days prior for reservation.
Mahjong (Chinese Form): Mondays at 9:30 a.m.
Medical Equipment Loan Closet: walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs, etc. Nutrition Class: a great discussion with Senior Exercise instructor, Wendy Reid Oldies Singalong: a fun singalong of the classics. One Friday a month.
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Tax Work-Off Program: Call Shannon for more info
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Transportation: Call the office for information
Watercoloring Class: Fridays at 1p.m.
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Sutton Public Library

The Sutton Public Library is located at 4 Uxbridge Road, 508- 865-8752, suttonpub-

liclibrary.org. Recurring events: Baby Storytime: Tuesdays, 10:30 to 11 a.m. For babies and caregivers to meet friends, read books and sing songs. No registration required. Wednesday Storytime: Every Wednesday, 10:30 to 11 a.m. No registration required. Dungeons and Dragons: Wednesdays, through June 25, 3 to 5:30 p.m. For ages 12 to 18. Registration required. Thursday Storytime: Every Thursday, 10:30 to 11 a.m. No registration required. Cribbage Club: Mondays, 1 to 2 p.m. Beginners or experienced

players' welcome! No registration required. Writing Group: Second Thursday of each month, 6 to 7:45 p.m. Join local author Lisa Shea for the writing group. Come bounce your ideas off of other authors and get creative and constructive feedback. For full details about the writing group please visit suttonmass.org/writinggroup/ Special events

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Sheriff Swears in Officers from Auburn, Grafton and Oxford

On Friday, June 6th, 2025, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis administered the Correctional Officers Oath to the 16 graduating recruits of the Sheriff's Office's 63rd Basic Recruit Training

members or veterans of the U.S. Army.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office Academy offers a paid, full-time program lasting 13 weeks, designed to equip recruits with the skills needed to manage

"After 13 rigorous weeks of training, I present the best and brightest in corrections today," commented Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. "The Worcester County Sheriff's Office Training Department is one of

and contribute to successfully executing our mission. Congratulations to these graduates as they begin their new careers."

Before starting the academy, applicants must complete a written exam, a physical fitness test, a background check, and a psychological screening. To ensure fairness and impartiality, Evangelidis has implemented a policy that prohibits letters of recommendation from politicians and gives

preference to hiring individuals who have served our country.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for its 64th Basic Recruit Training Academy, which will begin in September 2025. To learn more about what it takes to be a correctional officer, please visit worcestercountysheriff.com/careers/correctional-officer-academy



From left: Officers Thomas Henriquez of Auburn, Joseph Richardson of Grafton and Michael Sputo of Oxford.

Academy (B.R.T.A.) at the department's Training and Command Center in West Boylston. Among the 16 graduates were Officers Thomas Henriquez of Auburn, Joseph Richardson of Grafton, & Michael Sputo of Oxford.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office is committed to ensuring public safety across the cities and towns in Worcester County. The department recognizes the importance of building a team that reflects the diverse community it serves. The graduates of B.R.T.A. #63 represent a highly qualified group of recruits, each bringing unique skills and experiences to their new roles as correctional officers. These officers come from nine different towns throughout Massachusetts and include 6 individuals who are either active

and maintain the care, custody, and control of inmates at the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction. The academy includes both classroom instruction and hands-on training.

While at the academy, recruits undergo extensive training in various aspects of corrections. This training includes skills such as de-escalation techniques, the duty to intervene, fire safety, defensive tactics, and first responder protocols. They also receive education in suicide prevention, mental health issues, and substance abuse awareness.

In addition, recruits engage in daily physical fitness sessions, take weekly assessments on classroom material, and benefit from regular guest lectures and demonstrations provided by a range of public safety partners.

the best in the state, and I can confidently say that these individuals are ready to join the ranks as full-time corrections officers

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- Roll over to an IRA.
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BVT Announces Class of 2025 Scholarship and Award Winners

The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District announced its Class of 2025 Scholarship and Award Recipients. More than \$9 million was awarded to the school's newest graduates as they advance their career training.

"When it comes to putting their career plans in action, some students purchase new tools, clothing, and equipment while others use financial aid to cover tuition at colleges or universities" said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. "The aid of scholarships and awards help our graduates move toward a bright future, whether directly out of high school or five years out, to contribute as well-trained, educated, and skilled members of the workforce."

The following scholarships and awards were earned by local members of the Class of 2025, their immediate plans for career training are also listed. Students are categorized by town and alphabetically by their last name. For more details, visit valleytech.k12.ma.us/scholarshiprecipients.

GRAFTON

Alexandra Bell – Framingham State University (Food and Nutrition)
\$2,000 Culinary Arts Alumni Mr. Scholarship

\$5,000 Massachusetts Restaurant Association
Audrey Bell – Western New England (Mechanical Engineering)
\$2,000 Gene Haas Foundation Machining Technology Scholarship
\$2,180 John & Abigail Adams Scholarship
Elena Baker – Missouri State University (Musical Theater)
\$5,000 Engaged Citizen Award
\$10,000 Out of State Waiver
Saim Choudhry – University of Massachusetts Lowell
\$2,000 Gene Haas Foundation Machining Technology Scholarship
Raghav Dave – University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Electrical Engineering)
\$1,575 John & Abigail Adams Scholarship
Rowan Hackett – Massachusetts College of Art and Design (Illustration)
\$7,300 Richard W. Pierce Scholarship 2025
Nora Iadarola – Emerson College (Business of Creative Enterprises)
\$500 NHS/NTHS Scholarship
\$12,500 Emerson Visionary + Beantown Merit Awards
Keyara Jones – Worcester State University (Nursing)
\$2,100 Friends of Rutland Heights Hospital Scholarship
\$25,000 Horatio Alger National

Scholarship

\$970 John & Abigail Adams Scholarship
Ella McCann – University of Rhode Island (Criminology and Criminal Justice)
\$17,000 URI
Owen O'Packi – Bryant University (Business)
\$22,000 Bryant Black and Gold Award
\$4,000 Vice Presidential Scholarship
Brodie Remillard – University of Massachusetts Lowell (Business Administrations)
\$4,000 John & Abigail Adams Scholarship
Joshua Siefert – MassBay Community College (Engineering)
\$720 John & Abigail Adams Scholarship
Carly Simpson – University of Connecticut (Allied Health Sciences)
\$4,000 Husky Achievement Award
Robert Wells – Giroux Electric (Electrical Apprentice)
\$1,000 James Brochu Memorial Scholarship
\$2,000 Unibank Scholarship - Corporal John Dawson

MILLBURY

Luke Charron – Fitchburg State University (Undecided)
\$1,500 Presidential Scholarship
Kaylee Clouthier – Bridgewater state University (Psychology)
\$120,000 FAFSA
Wyatt Darrell – Wentworth Institute of Technology (Electrical Engineering)
\$1,500 Early Action Scholarship
\$2,180 John & Abigail Adams Scholarship
\$24,500 Presidential Merit Scholarship
\$1,000 Project Lead the Way Scholarship
\$1,000 Wentworth Honors Cohort Scholarship
\$26,000 Wentworth Institute of Technology
\$26,000 Presidential Merit Scholarship
Mason Diosomito – UMASS Lowell Mechanical Engineering
\$1,750 John and Abigail Adams Scholarship
Joshua Gould – Wentworth Institute of Technology (Computer Science)

\$1,500 Early Action Scholarship

\$21,000 Presidential Merit Scholarship
Henrique Guaitolini – UMass Lowell (Mechanical Engineering)
\$3,000 Merit Scholarship
Matthew Heffernan – Wentworth Institute of Technology
\$250 BVT Teachers Association Scholarship
Santiago Hernandez – Plumbing field (Plumbing Apprentice)
\$300 Casey Bulger Memorial Scholarship
Gianna Konisky – Wentworth Institute of Technology (Civil Engineering)
\$500 Altor Corporation Solutions
\$2,000 Andrew Cocaine Memorial Scholarship
\$24,000 Presidential Merit Scholarship
\$1,500 Early Action Scholarship
\$1,000 Gideon-Asen Perseverance Scholarship
Brianna Lawton – Regis College (Biology)
\$500 Class of 2024 Scholarship
\$28,000 Regis Academic Scholarship
\$6,400 Regis Grant
\$3,000 Resident Grant
Maya Lorion – Lynn University (Forensic Investigations)
\$28,000 Merit Scholarship
Quinlan McNeil – Western New England University (Mechanical Engineering)
\$32,000 WNE Provost Scholarship
Jayden Quang – Georgia Institute of Technology (Computer Science)
\$2,180 John & Abigail Adams Scholarship
\$500 Mass CTE Presidential Certificate of Merit
\$200 Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Award
\$4,000 NUCOR Foundation Community Scholarship
Luke Rutkiewicz – Quinsigamond Community College (Political Science)
\$2,000 John & Abigail Adams Scholarship

SUTTON

William Bogdan – Quinsigamond Community College (General Studies)
\$500 Bank Hometown Scholarship
Emma Cliadakis – UMass Amherst (Marketing)
\$2,500 John & Abigail Adams

Scholarship

\$500 Ken Baker Memorial Scholarship
Andreanna DiStefano – Quinsigamond Community College (Criminal Justice and Psychology)
\$500 Dudley Gendron Post 414-Richard Maclaren Sr. Memorial Scholarship
Morgan Gervais – University of Maine (Zoology)
\$500 Jason K. Ball Memorial Scholarship
Dante Hastings – LEI Corporation (Small Engine Mechanic)
\$500 Paul Perreault Memorial Scholarship
Benjamin Hicks – University of Hartford (Mechanical Engineering)
\$2,000 Gene Haas Foundation Machining Technology Scholarship
Tyler Houlihan – University of South Carolina, Columbia (Nursing)
\$1,000 Sutton Lions Club
Kenneth Kalvinek – UMass Lowell (Civil Engineering)
\$20,000 PLTW Scholarship
Caroline Martin – Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Mechanical Engineering)
\$4,000 NUCOR Foundation Community Scholarship
\$2,000 Unibank Scholarship
\$1,870 WPI Grant
\$27,000 WPI Presidential Scholarship
Connor Moore – Wentworth Institute of Technology (Computer Engineering)
\$1,000 Sutton Lions Club
\$24,500 Wentworth Financial Aid Scholarship
Jacob Rajotte – Wentworth Institute of Technology (Computer Science)
\$5,000 Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation
Kathryn Shultz – Roger Williams University Marine (Biology)
\$1,000 FEA Franklin Scholarship
Spencer Stephenson – University of Northwestern Ohio (High Performance Motorsports)
\$500 James Sochia Memorial Award for Tools
\$1,000 Michael Cammuso Jr. Memorial Scholarship
\$100 University of Northwestern Ohio FAFSA scholarship

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Healthier Baking in the Blackstone Valley

BY CHRISTINE GALEONE

Summer's officially here, and so is summer baking. Although summery baked goods are generally not as hearty and rich as fall and winter desserts, they're lighter, more colorful and are frequently easier to make.

Blueberries are among the season's most popular fruits. And

properties. And you're only eating about 6.25 grams of added sugar per serving. Since most of us – myself included – can't resist adding a scoop of ice cream to this summertime dessert, having less added sugar in the crisp makes a difference.

Blueberries are a superfood for many reasons. They're certified by the American Heart Association

which show potential anti-cancer effects in laboratory studies."

The walnuts, which contain healthy fats, are heart-healthy and brain-healthy nuts that are excellent sources of omega-3-fatty acids, protein and magnesium. And the oats are an abundant source of fiber, vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. Both ingredients can also help fuel your energy.

BLUEBERRY CRISP

Filling Ingredients:

3 ½ cups of blueberries
½ tsp. of cinnamon
2 tbsp. of flour

Crisp Topping Ingredients:

¾ cup of quick or old-fashioned oats
½ cup of chopped walnuts
¼ cup of brown sugar
¼ cup of butter
1 tsp. of cinnamon

Directions:

Rinse the blueberries.
Mix together the blueberries with the rest of the filling ingredients.
Spread the mixture evenly in an 8 x 8 baking pan.
Mix together the crisp topping ingredients, cutting the cold butter into small crumbles.

Sprinkle the crisp topping over the filling. Bake at 350 degrees for about 30-35 minutes.

Remove from the oven and let cool for about 15 minutes.

Makes about eight generous servings

thing that's light and breezy for a cookout, this classic dessert is a perennial crowd pleaser. And since it can be whipped up fairly quickly, spending too much time in a hot kitchen won't be a concern. Happy (healthier) baking!

If you're looking to bake some-



crisps are among the top choices for lighter desserts. So, it's no surprise that blueberry crisp is a must-have classic summer dessert.

This crisp is loaded with heart-healthy ingredients, including blueberries, oats and walnuts. Cinnamon also has antioxidant

to be a heart-healthy food. Loaded with antioxidants, they're also believed to be beneficial in fighting cancer and in improving brain health. According to the American Institute for Cancer Research website, "Blueberries contain many phytochemicals and nutrients

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ETIQUETTE EXPRESS

Making Everyday Interactions Better

BY LEE-ANN BARKHOUSE
Etiquette & Leadership Coach helping people show up with confidence, kindness and credibility.

Etiquette isn't about being fancy—it's about being thoughtful. In today's fast-paced world, small courtesies and everyday respect go a long way in building trust, connection, and community. Whether you're at work, out running errands, or simply spending time with family, how you treat others makes a difference.

Maya Angelou once said, "People will forget what you said, forget what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel."

Etiquette Express is here to offer practical tips and honest answers to modern etiquette dilemmas, big or small. Each month, you'll find a reader-submitted question along with a clear response, plus a practical etiquette tip you can try the next time you need it.

Q. My coworker microwaves fish at lunch almost every day, and the smell takes over the whole office. What's the polite way to handle this?

A. Ah, the infamous office microwave mystery meal. If you have a friendly rapport, try something light like: "Hey, I know we all love our lunches, but the fish smell really hangs around. Any chance we could switch it up once in a while?"

If that feels too direct—or if it doesn't work—you could also ask your manager to send a general reminder about keeping shared spaces comfortable for everyone. It's a common issue, and it can usually be handled with a bit of tact and teamwork.

ETIQUETTE TIP OF THE WEEK:
NAPKIN KNOW-HOW

Place your napkin on your lap as soon as you sit down. No need to wait for the food. It's a small move

that shows you're relaxed, confident, and ready to enjoy the meal. If you need to leave the table, don't place your napkin on your chair. Instead, set it loosely to the left of your plate.

Pro tip: Fold the napkin with the crease facing you. That way, when you dab your mouth, you're using the inside—keeping the outside neat.

Have a situation you'd like help with? Write in and your question may be featured in a future column. Let's build a kinder, more respectful world, one interaction at a time.

Lee-Ann Barkhouse is a certified etiquette and leadership coach who helps people show up with confidence, kindness, and credibility. At Invest in You, she shares practical tools to make everyday moments more thoughtful and meaningful—whether at work, at home, or right here in the community.

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Millbury Senior Center

The Millbury Senior Center has many services for seniors including: SHINE clinic, by phone anytime; podiatry clinic, third Friday of each month; Memory Café, fourth Tuesday of each month. All three require appointments by calling 508-865-9154. Other drop-in activities include: Monday, light exercise, Mahjong, Zumba (starting 9/11); Tuesday, blood pressure clinic, Tai Chi, Cribbage; Wednesday, craft class, line dancing, social bingo; Thursday, yoga, coloring class, Pitch; Friday, shopping, light exercise. Lunch is offered every day. For more information about Senior Center activities, visit millburyma.gov/ senior-center/pages/classes-clinics. Coffee and Cribbage is looking for players: Join them every morning at 8:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic: Every Tuesday at 9 a.m. Walking with Julie: Every Wednesday, 2 - 3 p.m. Adult Coloring Club: Every Thursday, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Shopping trip, every Friday, 9 a.m. pick up, return 11 a.m. Trip alternates between Market Basket in Shrewsbury and Market 32 in Sutton.

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The Stork Delivers Kestrels

The Grafton Land Trust is very excited to announce that there are three pairs of American Kestrels in their kestrel nesting boxes this season. Nine chicks have hatched so far, and a female is still incubating one set of eggs. Photo by Troy Gipps, GLT Kestrel Project Leader

Millbury Public Library

Find out about programs and activities at the library. The Millbury Public Library is located at 128 Elm St., 508- 865-1181. The website is millburylibrary.org. Recurring events: Storytime: Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. For ages 0-4. No registration required. Stories, fingerplays and sensory playtime. Knitting/Crochet Group: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Cribbage Club: Thursdays at 6 p.m. Beginners or experienced welcome. No registration required. Teen Dungeons and Dragons: Thursdays from 3 - 5 p.m. Registration required. Watercolor Painting, Level 2: Thursdays, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Build on techniques learned in the beginner class. Must have beginner class or equivalent experience/knowledge. Must attend all four

classes. First class is mandatory. Bring a notebook, all other supplies Wood Carving Class: Saturday, July 12, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Join Steve Berard of New England Woodcarvers Inc., and learn the basics of woodcarving techniques. Steve was awarded "Best in Show" at last year's Spirit of Wood show, and he will walk you through the process step-by-step, from wood block to finished piece. Cribbage Tournament: This competition will pit the Cribbage Club of Millbury against other local libraries' clubs for a chance to win the coveted trophy to display at their library until the next tournament. Each library in the area will take turns hosting. • Wednesday, July 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the Millbury Public Library - Registration opened May 8th.

Millbury Historical Society

The Museum of The Millbury Historical Society is located in The Asa Waters' Mansion and houses an extensive collection of Millbury photos and displays. Admission is free. Visit at millburyhistory.org/ Upcoming schedule is as follows: • June 21, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. -12 p.m. • July 3, Thursday, 4 - 6 p.m. • July 19, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. • August 7, Thursday, 4 - 6 p.m. • August 23, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. -12 p.m. • September 4, Thursday, 4 - 6 p.m. • September 20, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. • October 2, Thursday, 4 - 6 p.m. • October 19, Sunday, 11 a.m. -5 p.m. • October 25, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. • November 22, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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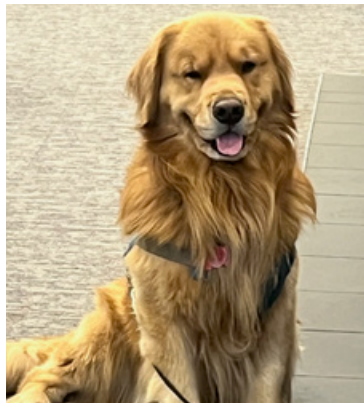
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LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Protecting Luke Amid Tick Season

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

“Luke has a tick.” I state with panic, as though another head has grown from his neck, then stiffen my hold on him. “I’m okay with rough love, Momma, but this is starting to feel awkward.”

I don’t want to lose sight of the blood sucker, who may realize that he (or she?) has been caught. A tick’s gender (I later learned) is indicated by its scutum. Male ticks have a scutum that covers most of their back, and a female tick has a white halo on its half scutum. However interesting, this one needs to go. I part Luke’s fur and gag. My least favorite antagonist is shaped like a sunflower seed, its head burrowed in the meat on the back of Luke’s neck. One might think that by now (eight dogs in) the sight would be casual. My father used to pull bloated ticks off our dogs using a pair of pliers. He’d drop the pea-sized gluttons into a bucket of kerosene.

“Hurry. Go find the scooper!” A tick sighting still rattles me. I command my husband to fetch our cherished de-ticking tool, a small spoon with a sharp wedge cut out at the top, and one forever missing when we need it the most.

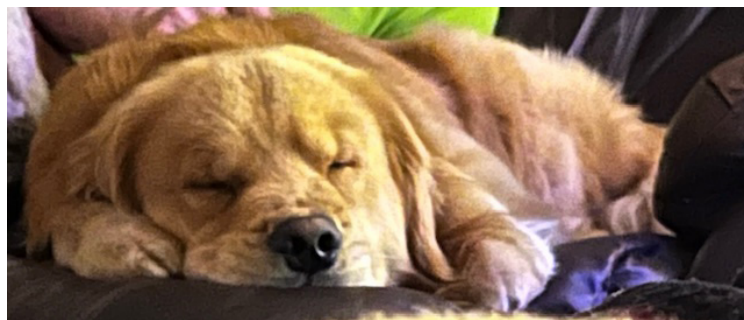
“Where did you put it last?” His question feels counterintuitive. “If I knew where it was, then it wouldn’t

be misplaced, right?” Luke maneuvers like a breakdancer while struggling to free his head from my hold. “I don’t know what’s happening here, but I just want to sniff the floor again.”

A tick once attached to the skin on Luke’s throat. He was still a puppy, only six months old. That very parasite caused repeated (and irritable) scratching and, likely, the positive trace of Lyme disease

and, weeks later, a barely visible scar held the scent of blood. Luke sniffed the wound and began licking the area. “Smells like an abrasion, Momma. Don’t worry. I’ll take care of it.”

“FREEDOM!” Nothing spells RELIEF quite the way an extracted tick does. Luke races to his toybox, pulls out his stuffed lamb, and prances about the kitchen; proud of himself for enduring a mysterious



found on a subsequent blood test. More testing indicated that he is asymptomatic and will be just fine, especially with the aid of a monthly pill. He could even end up testing negative the next time, according to the vet’s diagnosis. Nevertheless ...

The surgery begins without a moment to spare. Daddy (having located the spoon) covers the tick’s body and pulls it slow enough to force it to detach from Luke’s skin. “Almost done, Lukey.” I rub his belly for emotional support. I do believe that, on some level, dogs sense and trust the firmness of our care. They know that we are looking out for them. How could we not? I once scraped my knee

ordeal. “Something caused parental tension. But what? I was so worried they’d never let me go, but I got myself out of that head-lock, alright.” His enthusiasm is liberating. It appears we’ve all been freed from the tick’s hold. I wash my hands. Luke thrashes about the kitchen and celebrates the joy that is Living with Luke.

Meanwhile, the tick scrambles to find a way out of the spoon’s dome.

“Burn him alive.” I take a random shot at the tick’s gender and watch Luke chew on another stuffed toy. His red chili pepper squeals with joy.

Then I imagine him at the shore of a lake, unable to swim due to joint pain. He breathes in the aroma of



discouraged.”

“I’ll get the lighter.” This leech needs to pay.

The flame pops to life. The tick senses its heat, and scrambles up the spoon’s dome with homely, curly feelers then slides back down, unsuccessful. I turn away. My soft heart stills. I’m disappointed with the tick, yet I cannot watch the execution. The tick was just being a tick. Parasites feed off the life of another. Such is what’s meant to be.

“Buh bye.” Nonetheless, the flush of the toilet resounds like the roar of a lion, and the burned corpse spins away in no time. I scratch my scalp. Is that a

pimple or a tick?

“I think I have a tick!” I’ve gone mad.

Luke trots into the bathroom. “What’s going on in here? He grabs a sock from the laundry basket. I open his mouth and grab it back. He smiles and lifts a paw for me to hold. “Love you, Momma.” The two of us share a moment. I hug his big head and plant a kiss on his snout. He smells faintly of aloe from a recent backyard bath. He leans into my chest. The struggle of being a

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LUKE

continued on page 13

REAL ESTATE

Common Real Estate Terms Explained

If you're a first-time homebuyer, chances are you'll come across some terms you're not familiar with. And that can be overwhelming, especially while going through one of the biggest purchases of your life. The good news is you don't need to be an expert on real estate terms, that's your agent's



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

job. But getting to know these basic terms will help you feel a lot more confident throughout the process.

Terms every homebuyer should know. Once you're familiar with this terminology, you'll have a better understanding of important details – from

contracts to negotiations. So, when those big conversations happen, you'll feel informed, in control, and able to make the best decision for your unique situation. Having a basic understanding of important real estate concepts before you start the home buying process will give you peace of mind now and could save you a fortune in the future.

Here's a breakdown of a few key real estate terms and definitions you should know.

Appraisal: A report providing the estimated value of the home. Lenders rely on appraisals to determine a home's value, so they're not lending more than it's worth.

Contingencies: Contract conditions that must be met, typically within a certain timeframe or by a specified date. For example, a home inspection is a common contingency. While you can waive these to try and make your offer more competitive, it's generally not recommended.

Closing Costs: A collection of fees and payments made to the various parties involved in your home purchase. Ask your lender for a list of closing cost items, including attorney's fees, taxes, title insurance, and more.

Down Payment: This varies by buyer, but is typically 3.5-20% of the purchase price of the home. There are even some 0% down programs available. Ask your lender for more information. Chances are, unless specified by your loan type of lender, you don't need to put 20% down.

Escalation Clause: This is typically used in highly competitive markets. It's an optional add on in a real estate contract that says a potential buyer is willing to raise their offer on a home if the seller receives a higher competing offer. The clause also includes how much a buyer is willing to pay over the highest offer.

Mortgage Rate: The interest rate

you pay when you borrow money to buy a home. Consult a lender so you know how it can impact your monthly mortgage payment.

Pre-Approval Letter: A letter from a lender that shows what they're willing to lend you for your home loan. This, plus an understanding of your savings, can help you decide on your target price range. Getting this from a lender

should be one of your first steps in the homebuying process, before you even start browsing homes online.

You don't need to have all these terms memorized, but a little knowledge goes a long way. Brushing up on the basics now means fewer surprises later – and more clarity when you buy a home.

LUKE

continued from page 12

dog parent is real. We do not want to see our dogs in pain and will do anything to prevent it. Those who rescue dogs understand the concept viscerally. Something about a dog abused, malnourished, or sick sends fire through our veins, even though we know that pain is a part of life. We endure struggle like a champ. Yet the threat of a creature the size of a seed (or pea) is too much to bear. Why is that?

I sit cross-legged on the bathroom floor. Luke rests his head on my lap. His loyalty is unrivaled, yet one dog-quality stands out above the rest.

A dog is innocent. Luke would not hurt another living creature, unless doing so meant to protect, defend or survive. He doesn't possess the ego, pride or sinfulness of a human. He's not vindictive, selfish or malicious by nature. He's born with simplicity—to love and be loved.

"Love you, Lukey." He licks my chin and reminds me of how much I need him, just as much as he does

me. We'll both go great lengths to protect each other. Man may be a dog's best friend, but Mom will always have his back.

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Harrie’s Jailhouse Restaurant

BY THOMAS D’AGOSTINO

51 Warwick Street in Middletown, Connecticut is not your average building in the middle of a residential neigh-

borhood. It never was. The 1850 facility once housed the Pameacha Jail, which included the sheriff’s residence and a dozen brownstone prisoner-holding cells. The cells were later removed and brought

to Haddam, Connecticut for use in their jail, which has now been closed for a decade as of this writing. What remains of the actual cells at the Warwick street location consists of a small room with windows and an outside stairway where the cells once sat. Only one section remains of one of the cells where patrons can still dine. The building later housed a restaurant called Bread & Water, but a fire in April 2017 damaged a good portion of the structure and forced its closure in 2019. Just prior to closing, Bread & Water was chosen among 8,500 eateries across the state as South Region Restaurant of the Year. In 2020, Carrie Carella, owner of NoRa Cupcake Co. and Heather Kelly went in search of a place that was unique in character and history. They found 51 Warwick Street to be the perfect place. In March of 2021, they opened Harrie’s Jailhouse Restaurant as an elevated pub fare restaurant. Harrie’s specializes in signature sandwiches and cocktails where one can relax at the bar downstairs, on the outdoor patio, or at seating on the first floor. The restaurant’s name is a combination of Heather and Carrie, who have

both since had their fair share of paranormal experiences. The building houses a permanent resident by the name of Sarah. Sarah is a little girl ghost who may have lived in the building at one time after it ceased to be a jail house. Heather and Carrie have learned to live in harmony with Sarah who they have concluded was between the ages of eight and ten years old when she died. Sarah likes to play with the lights, create sudden drafts, throw things and take items off the tables and bar, dropping them to the floor. Sarah does not limit her exploits to the owners and staff at the restaurant. Many patrons of Harrie’s have witnessed strange events presumed to be caused by her. One patron witnessed the remote control for the television fly off the TV and bounce off the bar. Some come to the restaurant in hopes of witnessing the child ghost while dining or enjoying a drink. Often, Sarah does not disappoint. Heather and Carrie admitted they sometimes have to appease Sarah by putting a mocktail out for her when she starts acting up. Whether it is totally effective or not in pleasing the ghost, they are not sure, but they believe it makes

her feel included and comfortable with the people who work or visit of the place. Next door to the pub is the old town almshouse that has been converted into apartments and a section for a small business. Almshouses were where people of the town in need would reside. This included the poor, elderly and disabled citizens within the town. Often, there was a farm of some sort where they grew much of their own food. Sometimes they worked at menial jobs to help support their way. The old almshouse building is also haunted by some of the long deceased tenants who most likely spend their last days in the poorhouse. In 2012, Ghost Hunters investigated both places and found them to be still alive with the spirits of those who once tenanted them. The haunting of both buildings go back much further and can be assured the ghosts will still be around for years to come. Such places tend to leave a certain psychic scar on the property due to the reason why they were invented in the first place; to house the poor and suffering or hold the not so nice people in society.

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SPORTS

Looking For Her 100th Hit

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

As she entered her senior campaign with the Sutton softball team, Reagan Giguere had two goals in mind that she wanted to accomplish by the time her high school career came to a close. The five-year varsity player, who has been hitting over .400 for the

with that as my mother won't tell me, but she has told me I'm in the 90's somewhere," she said. "I was also hoping that I could produce more runs while helping my team to a better record than what we had in the past."

Giguere also noted that she was looking to get the team into the State Tournament for the first time in over 10 years. At the time

While Giguere had goals of her own as she entered her final season with the Suzies, Milaszewski had goals of his own for his senior first baseman.

"Coming into the season I spoke with her and asked her to take on a leadership and captain role, which she willingly took on," the Sutton coach said. "I wanted her to mentor the younger players, while gaining the respect of the older girls. Lately the team has taken on a non-coach pre-game talk and she is a part of that leadership."

The senior grew up playing second base, but by the time she got to high school she would play wherever she was needed. Over the last two years she has been playing with the Central Mass Thunder, a club team that she originally joined for fun, but has since given her the competitiveness she was looking for.

With softball being a big part of her life, she started to reach out and look for her first club team when she was 11 years old as she was looking for more experience and competition.

"I knew at that time I wanted to play softball in college, so I started to play year-round," she said. "I may have been young, but I knew softball in college was for me."

Having the knowledge that she wanted to continue to play softball beyond her high school days, she knew that she would first have to make the varsity squad for Sutton first. Prior to entering high school Giguere started to attend college softball camps whenever she could. Having taken part in some seven or eight camps that year, coaches were liking what they saw.

Taking part in the camps helped her get ready for the high school tryouts, but she still went in very nervous.

"I am an anxious person, so thoughts were running through my head about if I'd make the team or not," Giguere said. "I knew that I could play the game, I just had to make sure my head was clear and I went in believing in myself."

Luckily, Giguere went in with a clear mind and secured a spot on the varsity team as an incoming freshman. As a first-year player she found herself at the shortstop position for Sutton and would primarily play third with an occasional stint at shortstop during her sophomore and junior campaigns.

"Playing third is very different. The left side of the field seems to have much more balls hit that way," she said. "The balls are coming a lot faster at you, no wonder it's called the hot corner. There is so much going on you need to be in control of your game and have quick reactions."

This season, Milaszewski moved her once again and now has the senior playing the right side of the field at first base, where Giguere

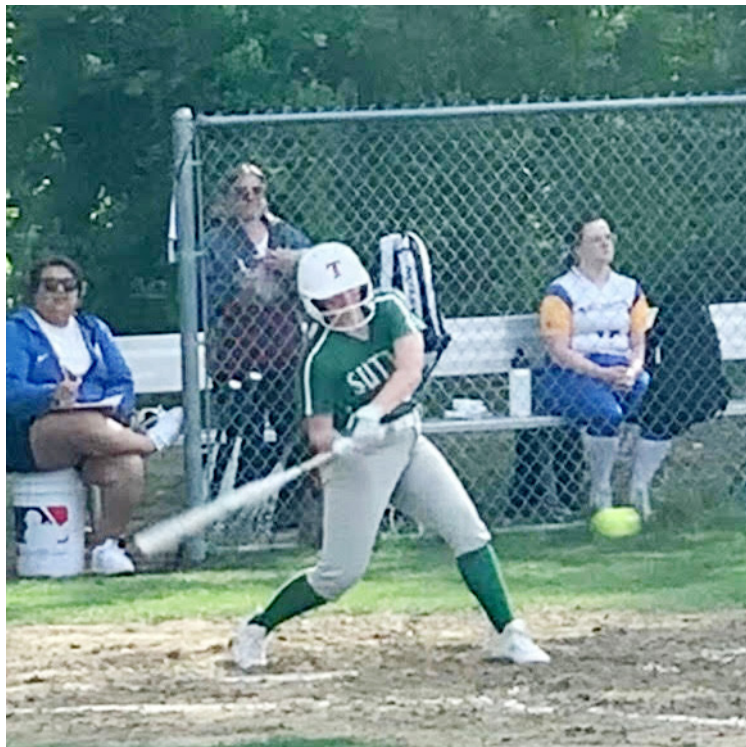
has not only picked up the position, but is flourishing there.

"Being a very versatile athlete, we moved her to first this year and she has definitely shown that she is a fantastic and very knowledgeable athlete where ever you put her," the Sutton coach said. "She has been playing since the eighth grade and is now in her fifth season with us and has shown that she is a fantastic softball player."

When the season comes to an end, Giguere will be getting her wish and will continue her softball career at Division 3 Elms College in Chicopee. Although she is committed to play for the Blazers, she has not had any conversations with the coaching staff as to where she will play once she gets there.

"It doesn't matter where I play, I just want to be able to help the team by producing while helping the program continue to grow," Giguere said.

Playing for Elms College is still months away, but for now the Sutton senior is still playing for the Suzies and looking to get them into the State Tournament, where they hope to make some noise after not being there in some time.



Suzies the past few seasons, wanted to eclipse a .500 batting average in addition to securing her 100th hit.

With only a handful of games remaining on the Sutton softball schedule, Giguere is currently hitting .600, well above her goal of .500. She's also closing in on her 100th hit. Batting in the cleanup position, Giguere doesn't consider herself a power hitter, but more of a contact hitter that drives in runs.

"I have the batting average and am looking to get that 100th career hit. I really don't know where I am

of this writing, Sutton was on the cusp of gaining a tournament berth with an 8-8 record (more wins than the past two seasons combined).

While the senior doesn't believe that she possesses a powerful bat, her coach disagrees.

"She is a strong hitter batting in the number four slot for us," Sutton coach Matt Milaszewski said. "She has a powerful swing and hits the ball hard, I'd say she is a power hitter. She also has a couple of homeruns to her credit."



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Evaporator Size is Key to Good AC Performance

Q. I have a 2009 Toyota Matrix, and my husband has a 2017 Subaru Crosstrek. Both cars do sit in the sun in our driveway, mostly with windshield/dashboard shades. It is surprising to me that my older Toyota has an air conditioner that works great! The Subaru on the other hand is really not great. I think it might help if my husband also maybe covers the hood in the hot weather? The mechanic said it was normal last year when he looked at it. He is a good honest mechanic. Do you have any suggestions or is this just the way this model is?

A. Most likely the difference is in the size of the evaporator (the part that removes the heat from the cabin). The Matrix uses a slightly larger evaporator than the Subaru so more heat removal equals more cool air. Also, at the time 2009 Toyota was not as concerned about miles per gallon and emissions as today. The system probably runs longer and uses more energy. Other than that, they both use the same refrigerant and are somewhat similar. As you noted, a foldup windshield screen can help keep the cabin cooler. On very hot days, start the car put the air conditioner on the MAX set-

ting and open the doors. You can even open and close the doors (fan motion) to push the hot air out of the car.

Q. I would like your opinion on the 2022 Subaru Forester Touring model before I go for a test drive. I am considering looking at a vehicle that has 27,907 miles (per the on-line listing of the dealership) at a listed price of \$26,295. My question is, is this a reliable year and model as far as used Subarus are concerned. You have given me helpful information in the past and would greatly appreciate your opinion.

A. The only issues I have seen/heard of with the 2022 Subaru Forester are some were plagued with issues with the navigation screens delaminating and some windshields needed replacement due to stress cracks. Pricewise, it looks like it is right on average with others for sale. I would say overall the 2022 Subaru Forester is a good choice.

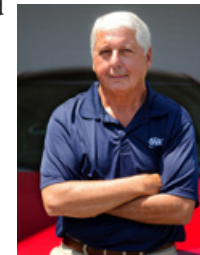
Q. My wife and I are both high mileage drivers that fully expect to own our vehicles until the end of their useful life. We have clocked over 200,000 miles on our last four vehicles, but her cur-

rent Mercedes GLS has been somewhat disappointing, looking like it will require replacement before 140,000 miles. Due to the amount of time we spend behind the wheel, we trend toward luxury brands or higher trim levels from most vehicle manufacturers. Which vehicles should we be looking for to replace the GLS while maximizing our opportunity to find another 200,000-mile vehicle?

A. It has been my experience that as good as Audi, BMW and Mercedes Benz vehicles are to drive, once you get over 100,000 miles, they can be problematic. If I were looking for a luxury SUV with dependability, I would look at the Lexus TX (based on the three row Highlander), or smaller Lexus RX or RX hybrid, Acura MDX or Genesis GV80. Although on paper the Mercedes GLS looks better but dependability as it ages is where the problems are. With Lexus and Acura, you have very well engineered vehicles that, from my experience, as well as reader comments easily last 200,000 miles of more. The Genesis GV 80 is solid, reliable and yes it is a gussied up Hyundai but they did a very good job.

Q. I have a 2024 Nissan Frontier purchased in March 2024. I recently brought it to the dealer for an oil change after one year of driving. My mileage at the time was 2100 miles. The technician said that because I don't drive many miles that I should have the oil changed every 6 months. He also stated that if I do not do this, the warranty could become void. I thought that using synthetic oil that I could go 5k-10k miles between oil changes. What are your thoughts?

BY JOHN PAUL



A. To maintain the warranty, you need to change the oil and filter every 7500 miles or six months, whichever comes first. After the warranty expires, you could stretch the oil changes, but I would only do that if you were vigilant about checking the oil. If this were my new truck, I would change the oil twice a year.

Q. I recently purchased a 2022 Buick Enclave; it is in like new condition but seems to have one problem. When I start it cold, there is some black smoke and soot on the tail pipe. I had the computer checked and there were no codes. Any thoughts?

A. This is a normal condition with many GM vehicles. This condition as a result of the fuel injector operation. GM

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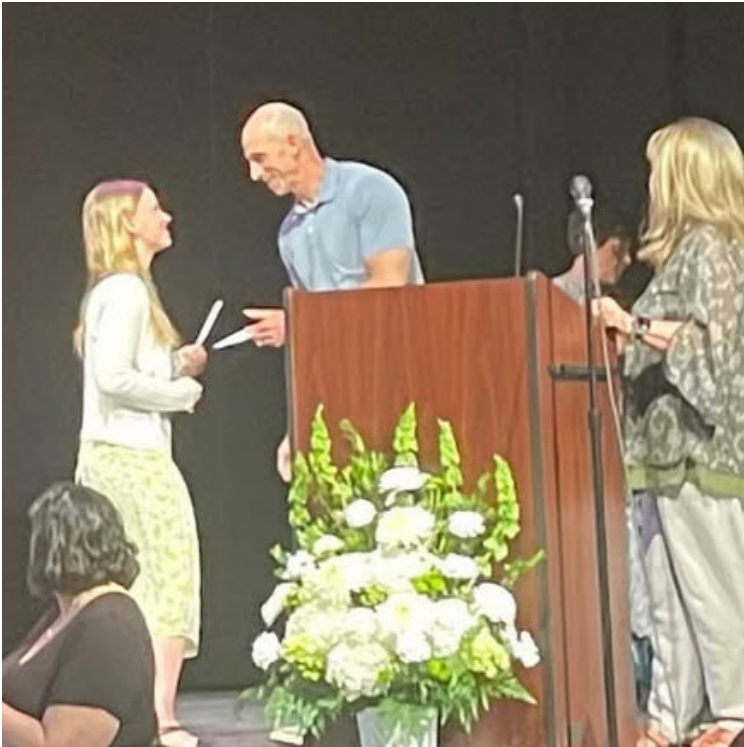
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Cassie Brown is this year's recipient of the **Grafton Land Trust GHS Scholarship!** This scholarship is awarded to a Grafton High School graduating senior furthering their education in environmental studies, natural resource management, conservation, or a related field. Cassie will be studying Forestry at the University of Vermont in the fall.

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3 BR	\$1851	\$55,400

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

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must meet all income and background eligibility requirements under the Tenant Selection Plan approved by EOHLC.
- Minimum 1 person per BR

Maximum Income per Person/People Household Size
(2024 limits, provided by Worcester MA, HUD Metro Area))

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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.

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@stpeterrockdale.org for more information.

THURSDAY, JULY 3

• Millbury Farmers Market at the Mansion, is a monthly event taking place on the beautiful grounds of the historic Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm Street, Millbury. From 3-7 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. Fresh produce, baked goods, handmade crafts and more.

THURSDAY, JULY 10

The Charlton Public Library Summer Concert series sponsored by Cornerstone Bank presents "The Dirty Martinis" with Les Sampou and Ed Grega. Les Sampou has seven albums of original songs and has toured the U.S. and Europe for the past three decades, earning her top billing at major festivals as well as supporting such legendary acts as Aretha Franklin. Ed Grega has written dozens of film scores as well as won composer awards (2023 and 2024) for his work on PBS "This Old House." They bring their vast talents to an extensive repertoire which includes not only award-winning original compositions but cover songs from Americana, Classic Rock, and American Songbook standards. Their repertoire covers classics from the 1920s to the 2020s. "Twenties to the Twenties" appeals to all ages. From 6-7:30 p.m. at Charlton Library, 40 Main Street. Free and open to the public. Additional parking is available at the Elementary School and Town Hall.

SATURDAY, JULY 12

• An artist's reception will take place on Saturday, July 12, 2-4 p.m. to view the "Painted Sky Collection" by Jim Palace at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, in Webster. The public is invited and light refreshments will be served. Palace's artwork will be on display and available for sale during business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5

p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. for the entire month of July.

SUNDAY, JULY 13

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

SATURDAY, JULY 19

• The Friends of the Auburn Public Library will hold their Summer Book Sale at the library, 369 Southbridge Street, Auburn. Tables will be set up outdoors by the pond (indoors, if raining). Hours at 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Payment by cash, check, credit card or PayPal.

THURSDAY, JULY 31

• The Charlton Public Library Summer Concert series sponsored by Cornerstone Bank presents Tony Graham, a singer-songwriter from County Tipperary, Ireland, will perform. He has an extensive catalogue of songs ranging from traditional ballads to more contemporary Irish hits. His passion for Irish music shows through in his performances, as every song he sings tells a story. From 6-7:30 p.m. at Charlton Library, 40 Main Street. Free and open to the public. Additional parking is available at the Elementary School and Town Hall.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Local author, Joel Bohy, who wrote "Bullet Strikes from the First Days of the American Revolution" will share his knowledge of the fight for America's freedom at 7 p.m. in the first Congregational Church, 307

Boston Road, Sutton. Courtesy of the Sutton Historical Society.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

• The Knights of Columbus #1562 of St. Mary's Parish presents the 2025 Annual Car Show & Community Event from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Uxbridge High School, 300 Quaker Highway, Uxbridge. Registration of cars begins at 8:30 a.m. The event promises a day filled with classic and custom cars, family-friendly activities, local vendors, music, food, raffles and more - all in support of local charitable initiatives such as Camp Sunshine, Our Lady of the Valley Scholarship and Abby's House. All makes and models of cars are welcome, whether classic or muscle cars, motorcycles trucks or military vehicles. Trophies (popular vote) 1 p.m.; Dash plaques (first 200); Food trucks, door prizes, raffles, 50/50 drawing, DJ, local emergency vehicles, Kids Fun Zone, face painting, balloons, caricatures and more! Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Vehicle entry fees, \$10 or donation.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

• Charlotte Wilson will share fascinating facts about Sutton's citizenry during Revolutionary days at 7 p.m. in the first Congregational Church, 307 Boston Road, Sutton. Courtesy of the Sutton Historical Society.

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UPCOMING SHOWS!

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JULY 17

COMEDY NIGHT AT SLATERS
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Sutton Historical Society

These programs are supported in part by a grant from the Sutton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency. Thursday, September 4, at 7 p.m. in the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Road. Enjoy a talk with local author Joel Bohy as he shares his knowledge of Revolutionary War munitions. He wrote "Bullet Strikes from the First Days of the American Revolution." On Tuesday, November 11 at 7 p.m. Charlotte Wilson will share "Revolutionary War Fascinating Facts," also at the First Congregational Church. The talk will include anecdotes about Sutton citizens during the war.

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Blackstone Heritage Corridor in 'Story Walks' Collab with Worcester Writers' Collective

Greenway Signs Feature Prose, Poetry of Locals Inspired by Region's Rich History and Imagery

The Blackstone Heritage Corridor in partnership with the Worcester Writers' Collective, proudly announces the launch of "Blackstone Story Walks," a new initiative that blends local history, creative writing, and the scenic experience of the Blackstone River Bikeway/Greenway.

The project features excerpts from original short stories and poems penned by Worcester-area authors, displayed along the southern section of the bikeway in Worcester and Millbury. Story panels are installed along the trail with accompanying QR codes, allowing visitors to access the full-length versions of each piece directly on their phones.

Designed to engage walkers, cyclists, and visitors of all ages, "Blackstone Story Walks" invites readers to explore both the physical landscape and the imagination it inspires.

"Blackstone Story Walks brings our mission to life in a new way. It celebrates the creativity of this region – both past and present – while promoting local writers and inviting the public to interpret their surroundings with fresh eyes," said Anya Wilczynski, Interim Executive Director of the Blackstone Heritage Corridor, a non-profit providing strong leader-

ship to preserve, promote, and celebrate the Blackstone Valley's resources since 1986.

Each writer drew inspiration from the Blackstone Valley – its landscapes, history, and symbolism. The featured works reflect a wide range of voices and themes, from Indigenous heritage and notable local figures to poetic meditations on the river and the pathways it shapes. Every piece offers a unique and thought-provoking lens on place and identity.

"So much of our organization is centered on the belief that storytelling is a highly effective tool for building community," said Brett Iarrobino, a representative of the Worcester Writers' Collective. "We've talked for a while now about how often we've run into original, local writing in exciting and unexpected places across Worcester County and New England, and we started to feel an urgency to bring that innovation to our city. Through this collaboration, we're proud to showcase voices that reflect the depth and diversity of Worcester and the entire Corridor."

To view the Blackstone Story Walks signs, visitors can start their walk at the parking area at 205 North Main Street, Millbury and follow along the bike path. Signs will be visible at several bridges along the river.

For more information, visit: blackstoneheritagecorridor.org/

To learn more about the Worcester Writers' Collective, email: worcesterwriterscollective@gmail.com

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

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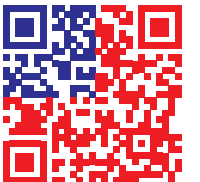


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