

Oxford Memorial Honor Guard Teaches Flag Etiquette at Clara Barton Elementary



On Friday, October 24, students at Clara Barton Elementary School had the honor of welcoming members of the Oxford Memorial Honor Guard for their annual visit. The visit has become a cherished tradition at the school, giving students an important lesson in patriotism,

respect, and responsibility. During the presentation, the Honor Guard spoke about the symbolism of the American flag and the deep meaning behind its colors, stars, and stripes. Students learned the proper ways to handle, fold, and display the flag, as well as the significance of treating the flag

with care and honor. Following the visit, Barton's fourth-grade students took on a special new responsibility: raising and lowering the American flag

HONOR GUARD
continued on page 2



New Auburn Fire/Rescue Building Project Progresses

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

At the most recent meeting of the Fire Station Building Committee, a report was issued stating that in the six months since Auburn residents voted overwhelmingly to construct a new Fire Rescue Headquarters at 10 Prospect Street, the Fire Station Building Committee (FSBC) has been working with their Owners Project Manager (OPM) from LeftField and the architectural project team from Tecton on the final design of the building.

In October, the committee solicited bids to pre-qualify general contractors and sub-contractors prior to the project officially going out to bid the first week in Febru-

ary. After bids are received and a general contractor is selected, construction is scheduled to begin in May 2026. On the recommendation of the town's OPM, some work has started at the site to pulverize and remove the parking lot as well as to lower the grade of the property closest to Prospect Street. The site work was taken on by the town prior to going out to bid to save an estimated \$300,000 by not including that work in the general contractor plan. Over the next several weeks the committee and project team will be appearing before the town's

AUBURN
continued on page 3

BUYING OR SELLING A HOUSE?



I feel it's important to recognize those who serve the community!

Jo-Ann Szymczak partners with Diane Casey-Luong, Massachusetts #1 Homes for Heroes Realtor. It's just one way to give back and say "Thank You" for all you've done. Firefighters, EMS, Law Enforcement, Healthcare Professionals, Teachers and Military Members and Veterans from across the country have saved over 90 Million Dollars! Get more information and see if you qualify for the Homes for Heroes program by calling Diane or Jo-Ann!



Ask Diane or Jo-Ann about the Homes for Heroes Rewards Program!

25 Union Street, 4th Floor,
Worcester, MA 01608

508-943-7669
Jo-Ann Szymczak

774-239-2937
Diane Casey-Luong



TAKE
10% OFF

YOUR NEXT SERVICE VISIT
OF \$50 OR MORE.
Must present coupon at write-up.
Valid until 11.30.2025



WHITINSVILLE | WEBSTER
(508) 499-3510
harbroauto.com/service

Local Customer Postal
PERMIT NO. 142
PAID
EORWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PRSRF STD

The YankeeXpress

Scan this QR CODE
to visit our Website



Scan this QR CODE
to visit our Facebook Page

The YankeeXpress



The Sweet Sad Season of Autumn

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Every beautiful season of autumn I feel refreshed by the cool clear air that now surrounds us. It is always reminiscent of sweet childhood memories as I walked to my first and second grade classes at School Street School in Webster. It was a 10-minute walk with my brother, David, who was two grades ahead of me. Mom was always with us until she saw us enter the school entry door. There were beautiful

trees that lined my street in those days. There were bright red and yellow leaves that fell from those proud trees in autumn. When the cool rains came though, those leaves would turn the sidewalks into skating rinks, so slippery. My standard rain gear was a bright pink (oil-cloth?) raincoat with a matching wide-brimmed hat. I loved it. Of course, I had matching rubber stretchy footwear that I had to pull onto and over my shoes and what a pain that was! Taking those booties off and then trying to put

them on again for my return walk home required the very appreciative assistance of Mrs. Finney, my first-grade teacher. And what a wonderful teacher she was, God bless her. It sure takes an amazing person like Mrs. Finney to make you want to learn your ABC's and to read Fun with Dick & Jane including their younger sister, Sally, and Puff their kitty along with Spot the dog. Mrs. Finney was so kind, so awesome. Her patience with us little kiddos was absolutely amazing. The coatroom always smelled musty and damp on a rainy day. Little puddles were everywhere from our dripping rain gear. But, then again, this cloakroom and building was rebuilt in 1869 and served hundreds of previous learners before us.

What a great introduction to school though and what a strong batch of young autumnal memories I have from my first awareness of such a sweet sad season. Soon, my dad would begin swapping out our home window screens for heavy-paned glass storm windows for the winter. No more open windows with screens to hear the end-of-summer crickets scritch and scratching their September song in preparation for mating and their demise before their eggs are

stowed for their babies' springtime birth. My family's annual jaunt to the Woodstock Fair on Labor Day weekend would signal summer's official end. Warm days and cool nights. Those crickets sure were wicked loud as we lay in our beds at night to hear their racket! Their last hurrah.

The sun's shadows were different too. Longer and somehow not as bold as the summer umbra.

My dad would pick the last of the cukes, tomatoes, peppers, and onions from our backyard garden and then turn the soil for the winter. He would put the snow tires on our car, change the oil and antifreeze, vacuum the interior, and wash & wax his baby for the winter. Let me see, I think our car was a Dodge at this time I recall and I happily named it George the Dodge.

Our fall jackets would come out with heavier socks and shoes. Mom's dinners would now become hearty and wonderfully delicious. Beef stews, roasted chicken, or pot roasts with sweet carrots, onions, celery, and sliced potato planks. Pepper sprinkled liberally and salt too. Kielbasa and homemade beans in her big bean pot. Oh my gosh, those homemade beans were to die for. She didn't use lots of brown sug-

ar but tomatoes and salt pork were a big hit. My Romanian grandmother, who lived with us, would make her scrumptious stewed chicken that was seared and seasoned well in a large stock pot. Homemade tomato sauce would be added with lots of garlic and onions. Her side dish was called mamaliga and it was made in a large saucepan. Corn meal was added to boiling water combined with salt and a little butter. It was magic from heaven. My grandmother insisted her mamaliga had to be made with a wooden spoon for stirring, no substitutions. She watched that pot like a hawk standing over it like a mother hen. She was an incredible cook! That mamaliga came out like a beautifully soft round brick from the saucepan when Gramma was ready to serve it. She flipped it onto a large dinner plate to let it cool a bit. Then it was sliced into wedges and placed into our wide soup plates with the chicken and sauce poured over it. Was I in heaven? You bet!

So, maybe autumn isn't such a sad season after all. Is that why we all gain weight in the winter? Did we need the extra food "insulation" in the old days before the mild and wild winters we now have? Let me know what you think.

GET NOTICED!

Contact Kate at 508-304-3019 or by email at katecarr@localtownpages.com to advertise today!

Serving the Community since 1980

WINTER IS A GREAT TIME TO PRUNE WHILE TREES ARE DORMANT!

Expert Hand Climbing Crews
Removals • Pruning
Stump Grinding • Cabling

FAST FREE ESTIMATES
Fully Insured • Workman's Comp

CONTACT US TODAY!

508-366-7693 • sales@templemantree.com

MAA & TCIA Member

HONOR GUARD

continued from page 1

each school day. Three students are selected daily for this important duty, proudly representing their

classmates while demonstrating respect for the flag and what it stands for.

Teachers and staff expressed their gratitude for the Oxford Memorial Honor Guard's time and dedication to educating students

about this meaningful tradition. Their commitment to honoring the flag and teaching the next generation ensures that this proud tradition continues for years to come.

TOPOGRAPH

Affordable Housing Opportunity

1 Ridge Rd., Auburn, MA 01501

Brand New Construction of one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments featuring modern appliances, washer and dryer in unit, and walk-in closets.

Program description: 324 Apartments w/82 Affordable Units

Resident income for affordable units are restricted to 80% of the area median income.
Non-Smoking community

# of bedrooms	Rent*	Minimum Income Requirement**
1 BR	\$1602	\$48,000
2 BR	\$1728	\$51,600
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 EOHLA.
- Minimum 1 person per BR

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

1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people
\$68,500	\$78,250	\$88,050	\$97,800	\$105,650	\$113,450

If interested, please contact our office at 774-220-6334 or at topograph@wingatecompanies.com

The Yankee Xpress

Published on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Direct mailed to nearly 65,000 homes and businesses each month and available on news stands in the region.

- 2nd Friday:** The YankeeXpress South: Charlton, Dudley, Webster
- 2nd Friday:** Blackstone Valley South: Douglas, Northbridge & Uxbridge
- 4th Friday:** The YankeeXpress North: Auburn, Oxford
- 4th Friday:** Blackstone Valley North: Grafton, Millbury & Sutton

Contact us:

Patty Roy, Editor: proy@theyankeeexpress.com
Submit business news and community events to news@theyankeeexpress.com
To request advertising info, please email ads@theyankeeexpress.com
Jen Schofield, Publisher: The Yankee Xpress, Blackstone Valley Xpress, Local Town Pages, Milford and Upton Mendon Free Press; jenschofield@yankeeshopper.net
Bill Cronan, Blackstone Xpress North and South (Douglas, Uxbridge, Northbridge; Millbury, Grafton, Sutton); bcronan@theyankeeexpress.com
Kate Carr, The Yankee Xpress North and South (Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, and Webster); katecarr@localtownpages.com
Susanne Odell Farber, Upton, Mendon, Hopedale: sue@sodellconsult.com
Laura Gleim, Billing & Sales: lgleim@theyankeeexpress.com

Kimberly Vasseur, Production Manager
Sally Patterson, Graphic Artist
Contributing Writers and Columnists: Tom D'Agostino, Christine Galeone, Amy Palumbo-Leclaire, Mark Marzeotti, John Paul, Janet Stoica, Christopher Tremblay

The YankeeXpress/@2025
9 Industrial Road, Milford MA 01757 • 508-943-8784 • www.theyankeeexpress.com

Oxford's Smolenski/Millette Charitable Trust Promotes Children's Activities

BY JANET STOICA
jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

According to the town website, the Cecelia J. Smolenski/Millette Charitable Trusts are available for grant funding for projects and programs that promote recreational and literary opportunities and activities for children in Oxford.

The Smolenski/Millette Trusts were established in 1995 and 2000 to be used for charitable, recreational, literacy, or educational purposes for the benefit of the youth of Oxford. The Trustees are comprised of various town officials as well as members of the public. The original donation to the Town totaled over \$2 million and distributions are made from trust income.

Previous projects and programs funded in whole or in part through the trusts include the Splash Pad, the Naval JROTC program at the high school, the library pass program, the skate park, activities at Joslin Park, the Greenbriar osprey camera, playground equipment, upgrades to the Little League concession stand, and activities at the Community Center.

Grant Details: The Trustees of the Cecelia J. Smolenski/Millette Charitable Trust receive grant proposals from interested parties in support of projects and programs that promote and foster recreational and literacy opportunities and activities for the benefit of children in Oxford. Eligibility: This grant application covers two trusts which are col-



lectively referred to as the Cecelia J. Smolenski/Millette Charitable Trust. While some projects may be eligible for funding through both trusts, others may only be eligible for funding through one. Please review the requirements for each trust to see if your proposal is eligible for funding. However, only one application is required. Trust I Proposals must exclu-

sively be for charitable, literacy or educational purposes. Proposals must promote and foster recreational or literary opportunities and activities for the benefit of the children of Oxford ages 16 years and under. Proposals may assist Oxford children participating in sports outside school-sponsored activities. Proposals may assist in the development and enhancement of the play-

ground areas in town. They may also assist the Bandstand Committee in organizing activities suitable for children. Proposals may assist Library Trustees with the promotion of literacy and the appreciation of reading among the children of Oxford.

Trust II Proposals must exclusively be for charitable, recreational, literacy or educational purposes. Proposals must

promote and foster recreational or literary opportunities and activities for the benefit of the children of Oxford ages 16 years and under. Proposals may assist children of Oxford in participating in sports outside the school sponsored activities. Proposals may assist in the development and enhancement of the playground areas in Oxford.

Proposals may assist the Bandstand Committee in organizing activities at the bandstand suitable for children. Proposals may assist Library Trustees with the promotion of literacy and the appreciation of reading amongst the children of Oxford. Proposals may seek funding to furnish, equip, operate and support a Community Center for the residents of the Town of Oxford and to facilitate programs for children and adolescents under the age of 18.

**Note: Funding from either grant may not be used for activities that are traditionally considered to be the obligation of the Town of Oxford or School Department. Application Requirements: A. Completed Application B. Written Project/Program Proposal C. Estimated Summary of Costs D. Certificate of Vote (if applicable) E. Revenue Enforcement and Protection Certification F. W-9

Completed applications may be emailed to the Town Manager or by mail: Oxford Town Manager, 325 Main Street, Oxford MA 01540

AUBURN

continued from page 1

Conservation Commission and Planning Board to provide a first look at the proposed project. Auburn Fire Rescue Department Chief Stephen M. Coleman Jr. said "This is an exciting time for the town and the department. Knowing we will be moving into a

state-of-the-art facility in a couple of years is extremely exciting for our members. They deserve this station, and the public deserves a Fire Rescue Headquarters they can be proud of."

To keep up with the station project and the FSBC meetings follow the FSBC webpage at auburnma.gov and use the Fire Station Building Committee link on the home page.

Economy Canvas & Awning Co.



Pool Cover Repairs
Over 34 years of service in the community

**Retractable & Stationary Awnings
Boat & Truck Covers and
Related Products**

- Full Awning Service - Installation, Removal & Cleaning
- Manufacture & Repair All Canvas Products

115 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA
508-765-5921




www.EconomyCanvasAndAwning.com

A Place to Connect, a Day to Enjoy.



Accord Adult Day Center provides a safe and engaging environment for your loved ones during the day. Our professional staff offers personalized care, social activities, and a sense of community. We help seniors stay active and independent while providing family caregivers with peace of mind.



Accord Adult Day Center
Webster, MA
(508) 943-3432
www.accordadulday.org

Contact us today to learn more and schedule a visit.



A Walk in the Douglas Woods

From Paleoindians to Puritans—a 12,000-year journey walking through New England

BY THOMAS J. MCLAUGHLIN

Thomas McLaughlin is writing a series of articles on hiking in the region.

With nearly 6,000 acres, the Douglas State Forest offers a trove of nature trails. There are more than 36 miles of trails, 7.8 miles of which is the Midstate Trail. Just 20 miles south of Worcester and 25 miles north of Providence, this forest is a hidden oasis. “Away from the lake, a different visitor experience awaits. Trails crisscross thousands of acres of rock-strewn uplands, allowing visitors to get away from crowds, explore the Forest, and reconnect with nature.” (Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR))

Longer outside trails connect to the forest (the Midstate, the Southern New England Trunkline (SNETT), Air Line State Park, Tri-State, and the North-South), but there’s also numerous shorter trails within the Douglas Woods—Coffeehouse, Cedar Swamp, Bird Blind, Rocky Brook, Chamberlain Pond, Sassafras, Ridge, Wallis Pond, Eagle Bridge, Laurel, CCC Water Hole, Schmidt, White Pine, Red Pine, and others.

Heading north on the Midstate from the Massachusetts and Rhode Island border you can enjoy more than three miles of uninterrupted wilderness before reaching Southwest Main Street, which is a minor break in the wilderness. Beyond this you can hike almost two more miles until you reach Route 16 with a few more miles of woods after this.

The Douglas Woods are full of remnants of the past from old foundations and stone walls to random glacial erratics among the trees. It provides a nice hike along ponds and marshes, on boardwalks over streams, across rocky fields, and through serene pine groves.

When you exit the forest and begin walking north along Northwest Main Street you’re not far from where New England’s Great Trail, the Old Connecticut Path, crosses into the Douglas Woods.

Some portions of the Old Connecticut Path are main roadways today such as Route 126 from Wayland to Framingham, near the Shopper’s World Plaza, but in Douglas it’s still a walk in the woods. What was once a major trade and travel route for the Nipmuc and Agawam people is itself a remnant in the forest.



This path began in what is now Harvard Square in Cambridge, and it ran through Framingham, Westborough and Grafton. It continued on through Sutton, Douglas, Webster and Dudley and across Connecticut all the way to the Connecticut River.

Jason R. Newton, a retired educator, created an impressive website on this trail, “Guide to Rediscovering the Old Connecticut Path.” He has researched and written extensively about this topic. He shows portions of this ancient trail in his YouTube videos that include visits to Water’s Farm, Manchaug Pond, and the Douglas Woods. It’s worth checking out.

The Paleoindians were the first to arrive in New England thousands of years ago. These early hunters followed herds of woolly mammoths and mastadons from Siberia into North America. As the ice retreated here in Massachusetts (leaving behind glacial erratics, tills, drumlins, and kettles), vegetation grew, and herds of caribou, elk, and deer populated our region.

After the Paleoindian period ended, later groups in the Archaic and Woodlands stages populated the region.

For centuries the Nipmuc and Agawam tribes walked along the Old Connecticut Path and the Bay State Trail. They walked on trails that were likely created and worn down by deer drawn toward lakes, streams, and grazing areas.

Less than fifteen years after the Pilgrims arrived on the Mayflower in 1620, and just four years after John Winthrop, who spoke of a shining city on a hill, arrived in Boston on the Arabella in 1630, a group of ten Puritans known as the Adventurers set out in 1634, on the Old Connecticut Path from Watertown to establish Wethersfield, CT. The adventurers were led by



John “Mad Jack” Oldham, who was banished from Plymouth Colony. Oldham’s death off of Block Island two years later led to the Pequot War.

Two years later, a second, larger group of Puritans led by Cambridge ministers, Thomas Hooker and Samuel Stone, ventured out on the Old Connecticut Path and founded Hartford, Connecticut and created the Connecticut Colony.

These groups were the first Europeans to venture into Central Massachusetts. All the English settlements were on or near the coast in the early 1630s. It would be decades before the English established settlements further inland at Lancaster, Groton, and Mendon.

Sandwiched between the adventurers and Thomas Hooker’s party

was William Blaxton or Blackstone, who moved from the western wilderness of Beacon Hill to settle in Cumberland, Rhode Island in 1635. Roger Williams went on to establish Providence the following year in 1636.

William Pynchon, a trustee of the Massachusetts Bay Company and founder of Roxbury, sailed up the Connecticut River in 1635, and returned in 1636, to found Springfield, MA.

But the Old Connecticut Path offered an overland route from Boston that otherwise would have required sailing around Cape Cod on a ship, passing Rhode Island and going up the Connecticut River. This historic path went through our area and crossed through the Douglas Woods.

Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake Gifts

Souvenirs
Sweatshirts & Tees
Postcards
Hats • Jackets
Tervis Tumblers
Etched Glassware

“Images of America, Webster” book

508-943-4900 • 154 Thompson Rd., Webster, MA

shop online at www.websterlakegifts.com

HARDCORE ROOFING  **FREE Estimates**

Roofing Done Right ★ Faster ★ Affordable

Professional Quality Roofing at Affordable Prices

Residential • Commercial
New Construction

All Types of Roofing
Asphalt Shingles • Metal • EPDM Rubber • Repairs

Call Derek Duquette
508-887-5623

WE SPECIALIZE IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION!

No Job Too Large or Small

Senior Citizen & Veteran Discounts

Lic#217028 & Insured

Serving MA & CT

Most Roofs Completed in 1-2 Days

Veterans Day at the Auburn Historical Museum

The Auburn Historical Society & Museum would like to thank those who came to the museum on Veterans Day and the special evening open house on Thursday, 13th to experience the stories and items that were on display from Auburn Veterans as a way to honor and remember those military people with a connection with Auburn. Children who visited on Tuesday, because they had the day off from school, did a military scavenger hunt and went home with a "We Love Our Veterans" coloring page.

Thursday was special in that the newest acquisition of a woman's navy uniform belonging to Wanda J. (Writer) Miller, that was donated by her daughters Christine Miller and Carol Miller Kaufman. It is a wonderful addition to the collection of uniforms spanning from



the Civil War to WWII with all branches of the military being represented. Also, a thank you to

all who have helped with the new Auburn Veterans History Project that has been started to remember

those served. This ongoing project had over 75 names added to the database which will be used for future research and genealogy help.

If you were unable to visit the museum on Veterans Day or Thursday night, the exhibits will be available through January. If you would like to help with the Auburn Veterans History Project, you can come to the museum or visit the website for more information.

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. and may be reached at auburnmuseum@verizon.net or 508-832-6856, www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org or follow us on Facebook at Auburn Historical.

Submitted by Helen Poirier, Auburn Historical Society

HAWK HILL ORCHARDS

Holiday Gift Cards Available

Visit Our Americana Country Store

OPEN This Weekend and Monday thru Wednesday 10am-5pm

Get Your Pie Orders In For Thanksgiving

• Apples • Cider	• Jams/Preserves
• Specialty Sauces	• Dessert Breads and Salsas
• Apple Crisp	• Gifts • Honey
• Apple Dumplings	
• Apple Cider Donuts	

83 Carleton Rd., Millbury, MA 508-865-4037

Country Bank Donates More Than \$160,000 To Support Local Seniors And Tackle Food Insecurity

In response to the increasing needs of local families and seniors affected by the recent government shutdown, Country Bank announced donations of \$160,000 to support food insecurity programs across Central and Western Massachusetts.

As the bank kicks off its annual "Season of Difference" campaign, it is donating an additional \$25,000 to both the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and the Worcester County Food Bank. Earlier this year, each of these food banks received \$100,000 as part of a 1 million-dollar pledge. Additionally, another \$55,000 is being donated to local food pantries and \$55,000 to senior centers throughout the region.

"With so many in our communities facing uncertainty and hardship, it's more important than ever that we stand together," said Mary McGovern, President and CEO of Country Bank. "These donations are one way we can help ensure that our neighbors have access to nutri-

tious meals and the support they need during this challenging time."

The "Season of Difference Campaign" highlights Country Bank's long-standing dedication to strengthening local communities through financial support, volunteer efforts, and compassionate leadership. Each year, the Bank donates over \$800,000 to nonprofits that focus on food insecurity, education, housing, and community well-being.

"As a community bank, giving back is at the heart of who we are," said Shelley Regin, Chief Marketing and Community Relations Officer. "This season, we are focused on making a meaningful difference for our neighbors and ensuring that those most affected by current economic challenges receive the help they need."

For more information on Country Bank's community giving initiatives, visit <https://www.countrybank.com/season-of-difference/>

About Country Bank: Established in 1850, Country Bank has a rich history of supporting personal and business banking customers through financial solutions with FDIC and DIF insurance for added security. Country Bank is a full-service \$2B mutual community bank serving Central and Western Massachusetts with 15 banking centers and 2 business offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield, Uxbridge, and Worcester. With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.

SMALL LOAD CONCRETE, LLC

OPEN YEAR ROUND

C

Custom Concrete - Metered Pours

CONCRETE APPLICATIONS

- Patios
- Pads for AC units, Sheds, Hot Tubs, Etc.
- Footings
- Retaining Walls
- Walkways/Sidewalks
- Curbing
- Steps

WHY SMALL LOAD CONCRETE?

- Buy ONLY what you need/metered pours
- Less Expensive than mixing it by hand
- Custom Mix / Pour on the job site
- Cost Effective • No Waste
- 1 Yard Minimum
- Winter rates in effect

Call to schedule your pour today
508-770-1200

Saturday pours available

34 Providence Road, Sutton, MA
www.smallloadconcrete.com

HEARING AIDS

We help you bring your hearing back to life

Jim & Ralph - CT Licensed and Board Certified Hearing Instruments Specialists

Call today to schedule your Hearing Evaluation and FREE Better Hearing Test Drive.

amplisound

HEARING CARE CENTERS
800-835-2001 • PUTNAM, CT

Let us check your Medicare supplement for hearing aid coverage. We are a provider for most major insurance companies.

www.amplisound.com

We're Cheap

LEBLANC OIL LLC

508-248-1444

24 HOUR SERVICE

- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Automatic Delivery
- Fuel Assistance Accepted
- Burner Service

- Licensed in House Technicians (NO subcontracting)
- Oil Tank Installations (Free Estimates)

We do **NOT** add biofuel to our product

DELIVERY AREAS

MASSACHUSETTS: Auburn, Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, Cherry Valley, Dudley, East Brookfield, Fiskdale, Holland, Leicester, North Brookfield, North Oxford, Millbury, Oxford, Rochdale, Spencer, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Sutton & Webster.
CONNECTICUT: N. Grosvenordale, Quinebaug, Thompson & Woodstock.

Monday-Friday 7:30am-5pm Saturday 9:30am-2pm

5¢ OFF

PER GALLON OF OIL

OF 175 GALLONS OR MORE

Must present coupon. Offer cannot be combined.

OFFICE LOCATION: 34 NEWMAN AVE., SOUTHBRIDGE

ETIQUETTE EXPRESS

Making Everyday Interactions Better

Etiquette & Leadership Coach helping people show up with confidence, kindness, and credibility.

BY LEE-ANN BARKHOUSE

AWARENESS IN ACTION: THE QUIET STRENGTH BEHIND CONNECTION

In every interaction, whether cheering from the sidelines, standing in line, or walking through town, our behavior leaves an impression. Self-awareness is the foundation of genuine connection. It's the pause that helps us notice our surroundings, choose our words with care, and respond with kindness rather than reaction.

When we take the time to understand how our tone, actions, and presence affect others, we elevate everyday moments into opportunities for respect and trust. Self-awareness builds relationships, strengthens communities, and reminds us that small courtesies often speak the loudest.

Q. At my child's weekend soccer game, I often see parents yelling at referees, coaches, and even kids. What's

the right way for adults to behave at youth sports? And what should bystanders do when it happens?

A. Sports are meant to teach teamwork, perseverance, and fun, not pressure or perfection. They also give children an important chance to learn, negotiate, and build their own skills—both on and off the field. When adults overstep, we unintentionally take those learning moments away.

The best thing parents can do is cheer for effort, not outcome. Applaud good plays on both sides, model sportsmanship, and leave coaching to the coaches.

Our children learn how to win and lose by watching us. Let the loudest thing from the stands be your support, not your criticism.

For bystanders, the most effective approach is to stay composed and redirect the energy. Yelling back rarely helps and can escalate tension. Instead, model calm enthusiasm, cheer appropriately, and if behavior crosses

a line, discreetly notify a coach or event official. Sometimes the most powerful statement is your example of restraint and respect.

And remember, this isn't just for kids' sports. Good sideline behavior applies at every level—from youth games to professional sporting events. Respectful fans make the experience better for everyone: players, coaches, referees, and fellow spectators alike.

Q. Our town hosts lots of public gatherings such as concerts, parades, and farmers markets. Lately, people seem unaware of basic courtesies. Any reminders?

A. Community events thrive when everyone shows up with courtesy and awareness. Simple acts like standing back so others can see, keeping walkways open, and saying "please" and "thank you" to volunteers make a huge difference.

If you bring chairs, coolers, or strollers, be considerate of space.

Be patient, kind, and flexible. When we practice small courtesies, we strengthen the fabric of our communities.

Q. I have noticed people letting their dogs pee in main foot-traffic areas, near store entrances and sidewalks where people walk. Is that acceptable?

A. Our furry friends bring us joy, but they also come with responsibilities. Allowing a dog to relieve itself in high-traffic areas can create unpleasant surprises for others, and not everyone appreciates stepping where your dog just went. Little ones may be crawling or playing nearby too.

A kind approach is to guide your dog to a grassy or less-traveled spot away from entrances, dining areas, or storefronts. Always carry bags or wipes, and if an accident happens, do your best to rinse or clean the area.

Being a considerate pet owner is more than following rules—it's showing respect for our shared spaces and neighbors. Those few extra steps demonstrate thoughtfulness, responsibility, and kindness in action.

Q. I was at the grocery store and received wonderful service from a young cashier. He greeted me warmly, looked me in the eye, and truly made my day. What's the best way to compliment him? I'm sure most stores hear more complaints than praise.

A. What a lovely observation, and you are absolutely right! Positive feedback can brighten someone's day and reinforce great habits. When you receive exceptional service, start by thanking the person directly. A simple "You've been so helpful—I really appreciate how kind and professional you are" goes a long way.

If possible, tell a supervisor or fill out a customer comment card or online survey mentioning the employee by name. Many stores track positive feedback for recognition or bonuses, and your words could make a meaningful difference in that young cashier's day.

Kindness multiplies when we notice it. Taking the time to acknowledge good service not only rewards the individual, it also reminds everyone watching that courtesy and connection still matter.

ETIQUETTE TIP OF THE MONTH

Disconnect to Reconnect - Some of life's best moments happen when we're fully present—listening, laughing, and sharing time with the people who matter most. Setting aside our devices, even briefly, allows us to slow down and truly connect. Whether it's a family dinner, a walk with a friend, or a cup of coffee shared in real conversation, those simple moments of presence strengthen trust, deepen relationships, and remind others they're valued.

See you next month—and until then, keep showing up as your best self.

-Lee-Ann

Have a situation you'd like help with? Write in or email (info@investinuma.com) 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 (www.investinuma.com), she shares practical tools to make everyday moments more thoughtful and meaningful—whether at work, at home, or right here in the community.



430 Main St., Oxford, MA

We repair all makes and models of Garage Doors and Electric Openers
- Commercial and Residential -

Sales • Service • Installation

800-605-9030 508-987-8600

www.countrysidedoors.com email: countrysidedoors@aol.com



Renew your home's appeal with a new garage door.

Many new styles and colors to choose from.

Visit our display by appointment

THOMPSON

Landscaping & Construction

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL SNOW PLOWING AND SANDING

• Leaf Clean-Ups • Drainage • Land Clearing • Excavation

Millbury, MA • 508-523-7790

Ebthompson36@gmail.com • Free Estimates • Fully Insured

WORCESTER COUNTY LAWNMOWER

ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE

Snowblower & Generator Repair
Tractor Service • Tune-Ups & Repairs
Pickup & Delivery

508-987-2775

492 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540

WWW.WORCESTERCOUNTYLAWNMOWER.COM



Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School has been awarded a Career Technical Initiative (CTI) Round 10 grant totaling \$1,337,077.24

Workforce development initiative supported by the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Workforce Skills Cabinet.

This highly competitive grant will allow Bay Path to deliver no-cost, credentialed training and job placement services to unemployed and underemployed adults across Worcester County. Training will be provided in Automotive Collision Repair, Automotive Repair Technology, Building Maintenance, Culinary Arts, Diesel Technology, Electrical, HVAC, Manufacturing, and Welding—fields critical to the Commonwealth's economic growth.

"We're incredibly grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Workforce Skills Cabinet for this CTI grant," said Superintendent-Director Kyle Brenner. "This funding allows Bay Path to significantly expand our adult training programs, directly addressing the critical demand for skilled tradespeople in our region. We're proud to empower individuals with the skills they need to thrive, while helping build a stronger, more resilient workforce across Massachusetts."

The Career Technical Initiative is designed to meet persistent workforce shortages in the trades and manufacturing sectors by leveraging the state's vocational school infrastructure. Bay Path will continue its close collaboration with MassHire Career Centers and regional Workforce Boards to provide high-quality training leading to industry-recognized credentials and direct employment pathways.

Eligible participants must be 18 years or older and either unemployed or underemployed—defined as earning less than \$56,100 annually (or \$27 per hour). Most recent high school graduates qualify as underemployed and are encouraged to apply.

Bay Path is building on a record of success. Through previous CTI Rounds 7 and 9, the school trained over 70 adult learners in trades such as Culinary Arts, HVAC, Manufacturing, and Automotive Collision

Repair—many of whom are now working in their chosen industries.

Pamela Truenow, CTI Auto Collision class of 2025 and now employed at Long Subaru said, "As a graduate of the CTI Program, I am excited for the new group of students that will be able to take advantage of the hands-on vocational training. This program will provide them the skills and tools needed to acquire jobs and improve their lives. I am working in the auto collision field and am planning on more education to better my current position and enhance my career. The support that Bay Path and MassHire provided throughout the program and after with job assistance was key!"

Bay Path's CTI employer partners include: Masonic Health System/The Overlook, ckSmith Superior, C&C Temp Control, Inc., Kinefac Corporation, Upper Blackstone Clean Water, Dexter, MassDOT, Sheet Metal Workers Local #63, BAPS, The

Arc, Primetals, HVAC/R Service Contractors, Table 3 Restaurant Group, Fuller Collision Center, Long Subaru, Harr Motor Group, UMass, and Flexcon.

Interested participants can learn more or apply by visiting masshirecentralcc.com/baypathcti/h

Worcester Area's Largest and Oldest Window & Siding Dealer

30 Auburn St.,
Auburn, MA 01501
508-832-5981



Honest Sales,
Superior
Workmanship
and Service.

Vinyl Siding • Seamless Gutters • Doors
Replacement Windows • Roofing

Celebrating
over 70 years
in Business

Capitol Siding Company has been in business for over 70 years with over 23,000 satisfied customers. Our customers can expect consistent product quality and skillful performance from our sales staff and trained professional installers. We deliver service and value.

FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED

Offer Lifetime warranty on our siding, window and roofing products.

Check us out on the web: www.capitolsiding.com

Al's RUBBISH & CONTAINER SERVICE

77 Providence Rd., Sutton, MA 01590
Phone: (508) 865-4193
Website: www.alsrubbish.com
E-Mail: alsrubbish@gmail.com



- Al's Rubbish Provides**
- Dumpster Rental Services 7 Days
 - All Rentals Include Drop Off and Pick Up
 - No Service or Fuel Charges
 - Estate Clean Outs
 - Furniture and Appliance Removal
 - We Recycle



Celebrating
30
YEARS IN BUSINESS
1995-2025

Stop and See us at the Sutton Chain of Lights on Dec. 6th



DUMPSTER RENTAL SPECIAL!

Sutton, Millbury
15 yard dumpster
For 2 tons **\$475**

Grafton, Auburn, Oxford, Webster,
Whitinsville and Northbridge
15 yard dumpster
For 2 tons **\$495**

All Other Towns **\$525**

Additional charges for tvs/monitors, mattresses & box springs
Serving the Blackstone Valley and the Surrounding Towns in Worcester County

FREE DROP OFF AND PICK UP!



Locally Owned and Operated

508-865-4193 • WWW.ALSRUBBISH.COM

Support Local Small Business

SPORTS

Auburn Hockey

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

For the past four years Jay Manfreda has been coaching the Saint Paul High School boys hockey team, but with the program struggling to keep up their numbers the school made a decision to move into a co-op and in doing so eliminated the head coach job. Having been close to some of the Auburn coaches and as a follower of the hockey program, he knew the Rockets were looking for a new coach when Glen Bombard decided to step down.

“Auburn is a hockey town that is well supported by its students, facility and community – it was an attractive job that came with good timing,” the new Rockets coach said. “A bunch of these kids have been playing together from the youth leagues right into high school, so this team is typically a playoff team.”

Last winter, the Auburn hockey program was able to go 15-5 and earned a nine seed in the Division 2 State Tournament, where

they would make it all the way into the elite 8. Unfortunately, this is where they would be knocked off by Tewksbury Memorial, the number one seed.

Coming into this season, the Rockets lost a good chunk of talent [six seniors] from the squad that went deep into the post-season last year. According to the new coach, those six players had become the core of the Auburn team over the last four years, so this year’s squad will take a big hit in terms of talent on the ice.

This winter Manfreda will be looking to its four captains to lead the team back into the post-season. Senior defenders Wyatt Zalneraitis and Jon Roacheford will anchor the defense while junior Logan Rada and sophomore Colson Caron will be looked upon to bolster the offense.

“I am looking for the captains to provide good leadership and consistent play,” said the coach. “All four can play hockey and if they can bring the new group of players along then we’ll be in good shape.”

Zalneraitis, the team’s best defenseman, and Roacheford will bring stability and strong defensive play while leading their partners. Along with Caron and Rada junior Danny Miedona, who is the team’s most talented forward, will provide the Rockets with the bulk of their scoring. Having lost a 30-goal scorer from last year’s team, the trio will definitely need to step up their offensive play.

Forward Max Sealey is not only a talented offensive threat, but the senior can also play defense with the best of them. He will become a pivotal player on the ice for Auburn being that he can play both offense and defense, depending on how the team is going. Sealey will also be the team’s quarterback on the power play.

“Being that our defense has a young goalie (sophomore Colin Gaston), out of the gate Max will probably start the season at defense to solidify things back there,” Manfreda said. “He’s a puck-moving defenseman and as time goes along and we find that



we are in the need of scoring, we will bump him up to a forward position.”

Gaston was on the varsity team last year as a freshman but saw limited time with the team having a stellar goalie in front of him. The first-year coach has found his way to some of the incoming sophomores club games and noticed that he has not only gotten bigger but he is moving much better in the crease, and the team will be relying on him to step his game up this season.

Being a team that traditionally makes the playoffs Manfreda is looking for the squad to do that once again this winter, despite not knowing much about the younger players that will be coming out for the team.

“Not knowing how well these younger kids can play, I can’t think about what they could give to us at this point,” the coach said. “We have 10 or so freshman coming out for the team and I believe that about half of them could actually take a step up and make the varsity team. Everything depends on how quickly they adjust.”

Manfreda will be looking for his team to continually better themselves as the year goes on and if they are able to do so they should be able to once again get not the State Tournament, where they are hoping to make another deep run.



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 Ella Gasasira, Liam Valipour, Eli Dexter, Jayannah Mason, and, not pictured, Jazziel Gonzalez as our October Students of the Month.

TALES FROM BEYOND

tomdagostino.com

Sprague Mansion

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

Cranston's Sprague Mansion remains as one of the most haunted houses in the state of Rhode Island. Many tragedies have unfolded in this 18th century homestead. These tragedies have left psychic scars in the passing of time that still resonate in the former estate of the prominent, yet tragic family.

William Sprague built the manor in 1790. His various mills and bleachery amassed quite a fortune for his family. Sprague met with an unfortunate demise during dinner one evening when a fish bone became lodged in his throat. Doctors tried desperately to remove the bone but he died during the surgery. His son William went on to become a United States Senator while his other son, Amasa tended to the family business. Amasa turned an even larger fortune from the business he inherited.

A long running feud between the Sprague family and the Gordon clan, who wanted to put a pub next to one of the Sprague mills would later end in tragedy.

The Sprague family feared it would become a problem with work attendance at the mill. The idea was shot down by the town council. On December 31, 1843, Amasa Sprague was found brutally beaten and shot to death near his home. John Gordon was hanged for the murder, but Gordon's brother later confessed to the crime. This case caused the Rhode Island government to rescind the death penalty.

Amasa was laid out in the living room of the great estate and buried at Swan Point Cemetery where the massive Sprague memorial sits. His original stone is on display at the mansion. The family fortune dwindled during the post Civil War depression and the mansion was eventually sold. In 1966 the Cranston Historical Society obtained the property and restored it as a public building for tours and functions.

The first ghostly activity began around 1925 when an apparition was seen on the staircase. Since that time, there have been numerous sightings of the ghost descending the steps of the 28-room mansion. The mansion

has a number of ghosts roaming its corridors. Along with the wraith on the stairs, witnesses have reported seeing the ghost of Lucy Chase Sprague who lost a large portion of the family fortune. Other ghosts could be the spirits of William Sprague II who founded the empire and left this world so unexpectedly. Some even claim to see the son of Civil War Governor William Sprague IV who committed suicide in the house in 1890.

Paranormal research groups have conducted investigations on the property for years. Some claim to have witnessed wraiths reflecting in the glass of a hutch in the ballroom. As one group stood in the room, three separate times the image of a man passed by the glass. According to data collected at the house, the place is extremely active with all kinds of paranormal activity. Scores of photographs have been taken allegedly revealing ghosts or paranormal activity in many of the rooms. One photo even shows the figure of the ghostly woman ascending the famed staircase. Another has im-

ages in the ballroom of a lady in what appears to be a long white Victorian dress. Other photos are of misty or wispy white figures human in form but not recognizable enough to say whose form it might have been. EVP recordings (Electronic Voice Phenomenon) in the house concluded that the living room, ballroom, wine cellar, doll room, and a spare room seem to be active with spirit activity. Even the gift shop is occupied by a spirit whose footsteps are heard wandering through the room.

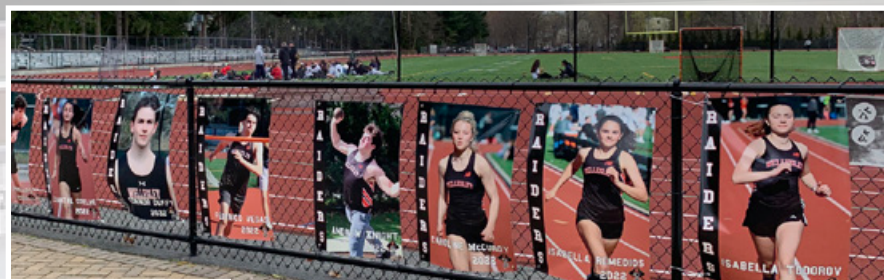
Many visitors through the years have met the ghosts of the Sprague mansion. Guests and

caretakers alike have stories of covers being pulled off beds or objects moving without visible hands to guide them. The ghost of a little girl and a dog were seen in one of the bedrooms. There is a room full of dolls that seem to follow your every move while passing by. Visitors have claimed that they heard voices coming from that particular room. Contact the Cranston Historical Society to arrange a tour and perhaps you may see one of the Sprague family as well. (401) 944-9226

Wescott Custom Homes & Excavation
 Foundations • Site work
 Septic Systems 
NEW CONSTRUCTION
 • Licensed Contractor • Insured • Free Quotes
Scott Butler • 774-696-7332

From **CONCEPT** to **COMPLETION**, we bring your vision to life.

- Graphic Design
- Sports Banners
- Brochures
- Postcards
- Direct Mail Solutions
- Every Door Direct Mail
- Books
- Lawn Signs
- Calendars
- Posters
- Swag
- and so much more!



ANDREW CARINI
 Print and Mail Specialist
 How can I help you?
508-254-2241

Our Town PUBLISHING

Home of localtownpages



ourtownpublishing.com



LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

When Luke has Something Important to Say

A dog owner discovers that listening to her pet's instincts can teach her a thing or two about trust, intuition, and joy.

BY AMY LECLAIRE

Luke's language is silent yet expressive. He tells me all I need to know with dark, honest eyes and a subtle tilt of his head. Over time, I've grown fluent in this quiet dialogue, as one might grow attuned to a favorite song—the rhythm, the pauses, the spaces where meaning hides between notes.

"Let's go for a walk, Luke," I tell him, looping the leash. "You can pick the way."

He doesn't move. Instead, he anchors himself to the front step, bracing against my tug. His face folds in protest. I can't help

"Go get the frisbee, Luke!"

His sprint—smooth, elastic, athletic—tells me otherwise. He zigzags through the yard with the focus of a bloodhound, then gallops back, triumphant. The soft disc dangles loosely from his teeth, teasing me to grab it. But I've learned my lesson. The frisbee is looped around his two front canines in a remarkably strong hold. I could pry open his mouth and free it, but why resort to barbarism when Luke is cognitively advanced?

"Luke, do I need to get the beeper?"

The word barely escapes my tongue before he drops the frisbee at my feet. That he associates the word "beeper" with its imagined sound—and adjusts his

I fret.

Luke, oblivious, sniffs the ground. Where's the frisbee? What happened?

Upon seeing me lost in the shrub's arms, he connects the dots. Watch out, Mom! I'll rescue it! He noses in and out of dense branches, bobbing his head as if determination alone might free the disc. Meanwhile, I devise a more creative plan.

I aim the garden hose at the hostage frisbee. A steady stream loosens its grip until it trembles. Luke, now fully involved, invades my space and barks—head lifted high—DROP IT. DROP IT. DROP IT. The frisbee obeys, falling just in time for Alligator Luke to snatch it up.

He takes off across the grass—a streak of muscle and light, tail whisking the air behind him. For a moment, I swear he's advertising joy itself: an emblem of what it means to be healthy, happy, and wholly alive.

Luke's insistence that frisbee is more fun than a walk seems perfectly reasonable. Note to self: Listen to Luke. Take him seriously. He knows how to be happy.

But what about when Luke's body language conveys something darker—something protective, even foreboding? Is it possible for a dog to sense a bad vibe? I'm convinced it is, and that we should take heed.

We had just settled into our usual spot at the local bookstore. Luke, tied to the round table on a short leash, relaxed at my feet as I worked, waiting for his share of blueberry scone. The routine had long been smooth and predictable. I'd write, he'd charm visitors and accept gentle pats with regal calm.

"Your dog is so calm!"

"What's his name?"

"Can my daughter pet him?"

"Look, honey—he's so soft."

Sometimes, between greetings, Luke would nap beside me like a lion, utterly at peace. But not today.

"Grrr."

He lifted his nose to the air, a low grumble rising from his chest.

"What's the matter, Luke?" I asked, scanning the room. A baby sat in a carriage nearby. I stroked his head. "It's okay, Luke."

He wasn't convinced. Another growl followed, sharper this time, building into a coyote-like howl—"Ahroo! Woo, woo!"—and ending as suddenly as it began. I returned



but smile. He looks like a furry Eskimo—steadfast, resolute, unwilling to compromise his point of view. I don't want to walk. Frisbee is more fun.

I stop, considering his proposal. "You'd rather stay home, Luke?" His head tilts, eyes bright, as though to say, You truly do understand me. Yes! Let's stay here and play! His conviction makes me wonder if he's part human.

behavior accordingly—makes me ridiculously proud.

Fine, he seems to say. Have at it. Until he humbles me again.

I'm about to launch the frisbee—graceful as a magician freeing a dove—when Luke charges me like a linebacker. "Luke, please!" I lose balance, the frisbee veering off-course and disappearing into a Rose of Sharon bush.

"What are we going to do now?"



to work, though he remained upright, alert.

Moments later, a man appeared from behind a bookshelf like a troll emerging from a stony fortress.

"I cannot believe you have your dog here."

The contempt in his voice was thick with anger. His eyes, black and unblinking, locked on mine.

The air turned cold. I'd never encountered such hostility in a lifetime of dog parenting.

"Excuse me? I've been here about sixteen times," I replied, voice measured but firm. "My dog is on a short leash. He barked. Dogs do that occasionally."

Two wrongs don't make a right, I reminded myself (on sarcasm). Still, my steadiness must have lit a spark in his already smoking temper.

"It's a f---ing bookstore. It's for humans."

The curse word hung between us like a hard menthol cough drop—sharp, bitter, lingering. Luke sat at my side, panting calmly. He knew.

"Go report your story to management," I said. "And please, be kind."

My faith in humanity proved to be as strong as Luke's sixth sense. The manager—fair, calm, and diplomatic—listened to both sides. "I see no reason for you to leave," he said, restoring a small but powerful balance to the moment.

Relief swept through me. Luke, ever intuitive, sensed the shift and leaned into my leg.

Our happy ending got even happier. A follow-up conversation with the area supervisor confirmed that the man's behavior would be addressed—and that Luke would always be welcome back.

Now, each time we return to the bookstore, Luke trots through the door with quiet confidence, ready to resume his post by my chair. He settles beside me as I write, as though nothing ever happened—even though we both learned something important.

Luke reminds me, with every steady breath at my feet, that calm can be contagious, kindness still counts, and sometimes the best way to listen is simply to trust.

Write to Amy at amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Follow Luke on IG @livingwith-lukevalentino

REAL ESTATE

New home inspection law in Massachusetts, what is it?

What home buyers and sellers need to know

Massachusetts has implemented a new law that significantly changes how home inspections are handled in real estate transactions. The law takes effect October 15, 2025 and applies to transactions entered into on or after October 15, 2025.



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

There are two very significant changes that this law brings moving forward: First, buyers are given the right to conduct a home inspection if they choose. However, once under agreement, the buyer may choose not to conduct a home inspection. Second, sellers (and their agent) are required to provide buyers with a new disclosure form which details the rights and obligations of each party.

This law, part of the Affordable Homes Act, a statute passed in August 2024, aims to protect buyers' rights to conduct home inspections and introduces specific restrictions on how offers involving inspection waivers can be made and not made. The law is intended to prevent the seller or their agent from putting pressure on buyers to waive an inspection as part of the home purchase process. After several delays in late 2024 and early 2025, the final regulations were published by Governor Healey's Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities in June 2025. The regulations (760 CMR 74) provide the details on how the law will operate.

The law applies to purchase agreements dated after October 15, 2025, and only on the sale of residential buildings with one to four units, condominium units, and co-op shares tied to residential occupancy. First, sellers or their agent cannot state that they will only accept offers from buyers who agree to waive, limit, or forego a home inspection. As an example, this means that a seller cannot counter a buyer's offer with a provision that would remove the buyer's contractual right to conduct a home inspection. Second, sellers cannot accept an offer that waives the home inspection. During negotiations, a buyer (and their agent) should not convey any intent to waive a home inspection. As a con-

sequence of limitation being placed on sellers, buyers can no longer make their offer more attractive by indicating their intent to waive an inspection in advance of acceptance. Third, there is a new disclosure form requirement. Sellers or their agents will be required to provide the disclosure form to buyers and the form must be signed by the buyer and seller on or before the date of signing the first written purchase agreement. For most of Massachusetts, the first purchase agreement is the "Offer to Purchase" or "Contract to Purchase", although in some parts of the state, the first purchase agreement is the "Purchase and Sale Agreement." Regardless of what agreement is used, the new disclosure form must be signed at or prior to signing the purchase agreement.

The form confirms several things: seller represents and warrants that the purchase agreement is not contingent on the waiver or limitation of the buyer's choice to have a home inspection. A seller's acknowledgement that the buyer may have the property inspected by a licensed home inspector of the buyer's choice. A notice that the seller will provide the buyer with a "reasonable" period after entering into the purchase agreement to decide whether to proceed with the transaction.

What About Negotiations? The regulations state that the parties cannot include a provision in the purchase agreement that would "Render a Home Inspection Meaningless." This means that the parties cannot agree on an unreasonable limit on the buyer's ability to schedule, receive, or review a home inspection. It also means that the agreement cannot prevent the buyer from choosing not to proceed with the deal if the buyer

is unsatisfied with the results of the home inspection. As an example, the parties cannot agree that the buyer has just 12 hours from signing the purchase agreement to complete a home inspection and review the results. This provision would likely "render a home inspection meaningless" because it's highly unlikely the buyer could schedule a home inspection in that time frame and review the results.

But the regulations do allow for negotiations around two specific areas: First, it is permissible to agree to limit a buyer's choice not to proceed with the transaction if the aggregate estimated cost of repairs exceeds a reasonable threshold to be negotiated by the parties. Second, the parties can agree to reasonably limit a buyer's deposit refund if the buyer chooses not to proceed after the home inspection. While these areas are negotiable, they call for the agreement to be "reasonable." There is no single definition of "reasonable." It is used as a flexible standard and dependent on the totality of the facts and

circumstances in the transaction.

There are however exemptions. For this complete list, reach out to a member of the Marzeotti Group or your trusted real estate professional.

Penalties for Non-Compliance. Failure to comply comes with harsh penalties. For sellers, a violation may be used as evidence of an intent to misrepresent or conceal a material fact about the home. For agents, a violation may be considered an unfair or deceptive business practice under Massachusetts consumer protection laws (Chapter 93A).

This law is designed to create a more level playing field for home buyers by ensuring all buyers have a fair opportunity to inspect a property. However, it removes the ability of the buyer and seller to negotiate around certain areas and introduces significant changes to how offers are structured and what can be communicated before acceptance.

For more information on this topic, please reach out to the Marzeotti Group or your trusted real estate professional.

LAMACCHIA
REALTY

Mark Marzeotti
REALTOR®

Marzeotti Group
Mark.Marzeotti@LamacchiaRealty.com
(617) 519-1871
www.MarzeottiGroup.net

945 W Boylston Street
Worcester, MA 01606

AmeriGutter
SEAMLESS GUTTERS
LLC

5" Seamless Gutters
6" High Capacity Gutter
Gutterglove Gutter Guards
Heated Gutter Guards
25 Colors

508-278-4170
AmeriGutter.com

Licensed and Insured: RI12545 MA163421 CT0633324

Family Run Since 1997!!

Leaf-Free Gutters!
Never clean gutters again with Gutterglove Gutter Guards the #1 rated micromesh gutter guard.

QUALITY BUILDING MATERIALS
FOR ALL YOUR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING NEEDS

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE • FREE DELIVERY • ESTIMATING
Lumber & Plywood • Windows • Doors • Millwork • Roofing • Insulation •
Decking • Rail Systems • Siding • Hardwood • Fasteners • and Much More!

C S LUMBER CO., INC.

Family Owned And Operated Since 1952
124 Main St., Millbury
cslumberco.com • 508-865-4822
Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-3pm • Sat. 7:30am-noon

VISIT US FOR YOUR NEXT PROJECT!
HOMEOWNERS WELCOME!

THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

Getting the Bird Droppings off Your SUV

Q. My Grey 2023 Jeep Grand Cherokee has several stubborn bird poo that defy my numerous efforts to remove them. Is there a product out there that you recommend that will remove the “cement-like” droppings? The droppings are on the side of the Jeep.

A. Having the dropping on the side of your Jeep makes it a little harder to remove. Generally, I suggest a solution of warm water and dish detergent soaked into a microfiber cloth and allowed to sit for about 15 minutes to soften the droppings. You could also try a mixture of baking soda and water to break down the droppings. If you have one, a handheld steamer can work wonders. I have

small battery powered steamer from WORX products that has removed some stubborn stuff. When all else fails or before any potential damage, consult a car detailer.

Q. I had my car parked for two weeks while on vacation. When I came back and drove it for the first time, I am hearing a “thudding” sound coming from the rear when I apply the brakes. I have not had the rear

brakes replaced yet the front brakes were replaced at 90,000 miles. What is your opinion of what is needed and if the brakes need replacement, what do I ask my mechanic? Is it safe to drive short distances?

A. From your description the noise may be just from accumulated rust from sitting for two weeks unused. The rust should wear off after driving a short distance. That being said, at over 90,000 miles the rear brakes may most likely be just about worn out. I would start by asking the shop to go on a road test and then remove the wheels and inspect the brakes. Typically, the brake pads and rotors are replaced.

Q. I have question, we are looking for family car; currently we own 2016 Honda Pilot Touring, bought new. Our only problem, third row seating is cramped, not ideal for adults. We came across Jeep Wagoneer, which has the option of seating for up to eight. The third row seems roomy and good for adults on long drive. Our question is what you think about Jeep Wagoneer? Do you recommend it, or any other options?

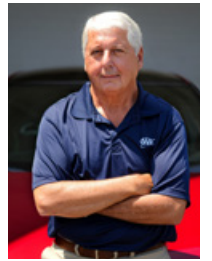
A. The Jeep Wagoneer is a very good vehicle, but I am concerned about long-term reliability with the Wagoneer or any Jeep product. Most buyers when looking for a three row SUV that can handle adults look at the Chevrolet Suburban, Cadillac Escalade, Ford Expedition, Lincoln Navigator, Infiniti QX80. These are all big vehicles with room for adults. One vehicle that I would recommend that slots in between smaller Pilot and the bigger vehicles that could work is the Toyota Grand Highlander or more upscale Lexus TX.

Q. I installed two new brake light bulbs in my 2008 Toyota Corolla. One side I have to push down on the bulb for it to light up. The other side lights up, but when I twist the assembly into the socket to lock it, it turns off. Why?

A. Both of these issues sound like dirty connections are the culprit. Clean the sockets with a round wire brush. A battery terminal cleaning brush works pretty well for this. Use a little lubricant like WD-40 to clean up the connections and get everything moving. If this cleaning does not work you may be replacing the sockets. Also take a look at the wiring, just to make sure there are no issues.

Q. What do you think of Subaru vehicles? I was thinking of the Crosstrek. When I was in college, I had a Subaru and it was horrible, it never really broke down, but it was just a hard riding rusty smelly car.

A. Subaru's have come a long way. Although being in college, I am not sure the smelly part of your old Subaru was the car's fault. Today the cars are solid and well crafted. Yes, some could be a bit more powerful and maybe a bit quieter. I evaluated a Crosstrek sometime back and found it to be a good car. I described it to someone like a good pair of hiking shoes, comfortable and ready for a long walk. The model I drove was the Sport and although not overly sporty, handled fine, the engine performance was certainly adequate. The interior was comfortable, and I really enjoyed the heated cloth seats. Technology was up to date and the large infotainment system worked well. In a day where the average new car is \$50,000, the Subaru Crosstrek at \$30,000 also seemed like a particularly good deal.



BY JOHN PAUL



Rob's Automotive
(508) 943-0009
138 West Main St.
Dudley, MA

EVERYTHING FROM DAILY DRIVERS TO CLASSICS

HOT ROD SERVICES:
Wiring, Plumbing, Tune Ups
Brake & Suspension Upgrades
Aftermarket A/C Installations
Disc Brake Conversions

GENERAL MAINTENANCE:
Oil Changes, Brakes, Suspension
Alignments, 4 Wheel Drive, Tires

robsautomotiveshop.com
repair@robsautomotiveshop.com

BUY HERE PAY HERE

Payments as low as \$60 per week
 Come Pick Out Your Car!
 Bad Credit • No Credit
 No Problem
WE FINANCE EVERYONE!
 Come Check Out Our Prices!
FARRAR AUTO BODY, INC.
 204 Main Street • Oxford, MA
508-987-0022







COMPLETE AUTO GLASS SPECIALISTS

- Chip & Crack Repair
- Windshield Replacement
- FREE Mobile Service



MOBILE AUTO GLASS SPECIALIST
Insurance Company Preferred Shop.

- Certified technicians to your location
- In-shop service • Free mobile service
- Foreign & domestic auto, truck, bus, motor home, windows & sunroofs
- Saturday service
- Construction equipment, heavy duty vehicles
- Free pick-up and delivery within a 10 mile radius
- Fabrication of flat glass
- Quality workmanship guaranteed
- Customer safety and satisfaction is our first priority
- Vehicles equipped with convertible or vinyl roof
- Servicing customers for over 25 years

201 W. Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571
 800-479-7697 • 508-949-1327
 Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm • Saturday 8am to 12pm

Visit Us at roysautoglass.net

CAR DOCTOR
continued on page 13

M&M Auto Body

Ron Moscoffian
Appr. #9537



Scott Milner
R.S. #3926

**7 Industrial Park West,
Building 2
Oxford, MA 01540**
508-987-7070

“Guaranteed Fast Service, No Matter How Long It Takes”

TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING

dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com

Millennials and financial fraud: Protecting yourself in a digital world

Fear of fraud is universal. Today, 77% of Americans are concerned about fraud and identity theft when managing



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

finances online, according to 2025 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult. Even more striking: 26% of Americans

have personally experienced financial fraud.

While fraud is often associated with the elderly, millennials are among the hardest hit. Over one-fourth (28.6%) of millennials reported experiencing financial loss due to scams — more than any other generation, per 2024 research from PYMNTS Intelligence.

Here are common scams targeting millennials:

- **Cryptocurrency** – Promises of guaranteed profits or zero risk are red flags. Watch for Ponzi schemes and fake crypto

launches.

- **Payment apps** – Watch for scammers impersonating someone you know or spoofing app emails to steal credentials.

- **Online shopping** – Beware of fake sites or ads selling trendy items at unrealistic prices.

- **Student loan forgiveness** – Scammers who offer debt relief for a fee just want your info or money.

- **Government** – IRS calls or texts about an unclaimed refund or an unpaid tax bill are scams. The IRS only contacts taxpayers in writing by U.S. mail.

- **Job and gig** – Avoid unusually high-paying online jobs requiring upfront purchases.

- **Romance** – Requests for money in online relationships are a major warning sign.

Stay vigilant. Learning to spot fraud matters. Be suspicious of these warning signs: unexpected windfalls, like contests you didn't enter; pressure to pay immediately or upfront; requests for payment via gift cards, wire transfers or crypto; or receiving a check and

being asked to wire part of it back.

Also look out for spelling and grammar errors in emails and texts, fake social media profiles, requests to access your computer to “fix a problem” and unsolicited contact, especially from a bank, government agency or tech support.

Protect yourself. Some practices can help you stay safe. Use strong, unique passwords and different ones for different accounts. Use multifactor authentication (MFA) wherever possible; it can block unauthorized access. And before entering personal or financial information on a website, make sure the URL starts with https:// and shows a padlock icon. This means it's a secure site.

If you think you've been scammed, don't beat yourself up. Scammers are professionals who exploit human psychology. Anyone can fall victim. Here's what to do:

Act quickly. Contact your bank or payment company

The cause according to Honda is radio waves (interference) is being picked up in the wiring harnesses and triggers a Evap code. The repair involves replacing harness that runs under the passenger and driver's side door sill area.

system. My shop is very capable but cannot seem to find an issue. The code has something to do with the evaporative emissions system. Any ideas?

A. There have been a few weird issues with this car and phantom codes.

CAR DOCTOR

continued from page 12

Q. I have a 2020 Honda CR-V it is a great car, but the check engine light comes on for an issue with the emissions



2003 Chevrolet Express Van
ONLY 1000 MILES as van has been in storage

Great condition

To schedule a time to come and look at the van, or for more details

CALL EDDY AT 508-791-0987
Asking \$16,000 (serious inquiries only, please)

immediately to try to stop any payments in progress. Change your passwords and usernames right away if they may have been compromised. Run an antivirus scan on devices that might be affected.

Report the crime. File a report with the Federal Trade Commission at reportfraud.ftc.gov. For online fraud, also file a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (ic3.gov). These agencies can provide resources and connect you with law enforcement.

Protect yourself going forward. Monitor your credit reports regularly and consider freezing

your credit with the credit agencies. Learn more ways to protect yourself at consumer.ftc.gov.

The digital world offers incredible convenience but also opportunities for criminals. Stay alert and know how to respond to help protect yourself and your financial future.

Dennis Antonopoulos
Edward Jones Financial Advisor
5 Albert Street, Auburn, MA 01501
508-832-5385
Dennis.Antonopoulos@edwardjones.com

THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY EDWARD JONES FOR USE BY YOUR LOCAL EDWARD JONES FINANCIAL ADVISOR

EDWARD JONES, MEMBER SIPC

Fred D. Giovaninni HANDYMAN SERVICE

ALL TYPES OF REPAIRS • IN & OUT
NO JOB IS TOO SMALL



- FREE ESTIMATES
- GENERAL CARPENTRY
- DRY WALL REPAIR
- RENOVATIONS
- ITEMS ASSEMBLED
- INTERIOR PAINTING
- ETCETERA....

MA# 155844 INSURED
CALL (508) 904-9728 DUDLEY, MA

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Job change?

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



There are four potential options for your 401(k) when leaving an employer:

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

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



Dennis Antonopoulos
Financial Advisor

5 Albert St
Auburn, MA 01501
508-832-5385



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

THROUGH DECEMBER 5

Dudley Town Hall launches Holiday Food Drive for the Webster-Dudley Food Share 'Tis the season for good will toward all. That rings true this year when offering the joy of a holiday meal, and the security of food on the pantry shelves, seems more meaningful than ever. Please join the Town of Dudley's effort to help those who receive support from the Dudley-Webster Food Share by donating nonperishables through December 5. Collection bins are located at the Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library, the Dudley Police Department lobby, the Dudley Fire Department lobby and the first and second-floor entrances at Dudley Town Hall.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Annual Church Turkey Raffle at C.F. Minney VFW Post at 16 South Main Street, Millbury. First prize: \$500 cash. Second prize: \$250 Amazon gift card. Third prize: Case of assorted wines. Fourth prize: Thanksgiving dinner basket with turkey. Also, many items will be on view to be raffled off during the evening.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

On Saturday, November 22, stop by the Millbury Historical Society Museum at the Asa Waters Mansion, 123 Elm Street from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. to check out the renovations. Explore treasures from Millbury's past, including 100 years of Aftermath yearbooks and photos of churches, schools, downtown and local sports. There are also scrapbooks and research dating back to colonial times, military uniforms, guns, flags and President Taft memorabilia. Admission is free. Come rediscover Millbury's history. • Shepherd Hill Festival of Crafts from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Shepherd Hill Regional High School, 68 Dudley-Oxford Road, Dudley.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

The United Church of Christ in Webster will host a Thanksgiving dinner at 3 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. The dinner is free. Reservations are recommended for planning purposes, call 508-943-0061 or email office@uccfedwebster.org. The church is located at 4 Church Street, Webster. Guests will enjoy a large buffet of turkey with all the homemade trimmings: mashed potatoes with gravy, stuffing, green bean casserole, roasted butternut squash, corn, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls and an assortment of pies. The dinner is made possible through the generosity of volunteers and donations. In these difficult times, donations are increasingly appreciated. Volunteers are always welcome to assist with meal preparation.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Vaillancourt Folk Art, 9 Main Street, Sutton, Yuletide Wine Garden, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Also: Saturday, Nov. 29; Sunday, Nov. 30; Saturday, Dec. 6; Sunday, Dec. 7; Saturday,

Dec. 13; Sunday, Dec. 14; Saturday, Dec. 20; Sunday, Dec. 21.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Treat yourself to a tour of Angel Hair Alpaca Farm from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Small Business Saturday at 66 Wesson Street, North Grafton. Join us for this event and meet our friendly alpacas! We will have tours of the farm throughout the day, and we love to talk about everything alpaca! Learn about these magnificent and beneficial animals. We will also have several local vendors selling amazing local products, so shop locally and relax while finding that special holiday gift. Our farm store will be open for the most comfortable cold weather accessories you have ever worn and terrific gifts! Free cookies and cider for visitors. No outside pets please. Our property is hilly and may not be accessible to everyone. We can accommodate a front yard alpaca visit on request. Parking is at the Willard House and Clock Museum which will also be open for tours with admission. For more information, visit angelhairalpacas.com.

Annual Northbridge Tree Lighting Celebration on Whitinsville Town Common, 3-5 p.m. Free hot chocolate, baked goods, face painting, balloon making, Santa letters, Kids' crafts, live music, raffle baskets, Ugly Sweater Contest and toy & food drive.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

Cookies and Carols at 4 p.m., United Presbyterian Church, 51 Cottage St., Whitinsville. Kick off the Advent season with the singing of Advent and Christmas Carols led by a guest organ player (William Cudmore, who has played for the Woo Sox) and pianist (Eileen Straub, the church's Minister of Music). There will be activities for the kids

and singing of seasonal songs. For more information, call 508-234-8220.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

Dudley invites the community to its Annual Tree Lighting at 6 p.m. December 4 at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street. Holiday music and warm cheer will greet all for the seasonal celebration that will include crafts, pizza, hot cocoa and sweet treats. A little Christmas magic is expected when Santa arrives atop his big, red firetruck sleigh to visit with the wee ones.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

also Saturday Dec. 6, Sunday, Dec. 7; 12-14; 19-23; and 27-30
Olde Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, 2- 8 p.m. Christmas by Candlelight, tickets required. Experience the history of Christmas festivities, relish old traditions and create new ones. www.osv.org/event/christmas-by-candlelight

Vaillancourt Folk Art's Blaxton Hall Theatre, Sutton "A Christmas Carol" with Gerald Charles Dickens – Nov. 28 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Nov. 30 1- 3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. This performance by Charles Dickens' great-great-grandson gives life to the beloved holiday ghost story, performance of The Christmas Carol. The two-hour performance includes intermission. This one-man tour-de-force includes Dickens portraying 26 different characters using different gestures, vocal changes and mannerisms. Due to length, the show is not recommended for children under the age of 8 years old. Valfa.com/calendar

Holiday Tree Lighting, 6 p.m. at the Auburn Fire Station Headquarters, 47 Auburn Street. Special appearance by Santa Claus. Cookies (sponsored by Central one), the Dance Dazzlers, AHS Marching Band & Chorus/SWIS Honor Choir/AHS Chamber Singers/ Boy & Girl Scouts/ hot cocoa, coffee and cookies baked by Bay Path Culinary Arts students.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

9:30 a.m., Waters Farm Preservation, Sutton. Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by Sen. Ryan Fattman and Stephanie. Breakfast, photos, crafts. Free but reservations are required. <https://bit.ly/breakfastwithsantatickets>

4th Annual Oxford Holiday Extravaganza with 70 vendors, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. The Student Council will also host its Breakfast with Santa from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the cafeteria. Cost is \$5 per person, including breakfast and a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Also, a raffle table set up with vendor-donated items, \$1 per ticket or 15 for \$10. Cash only for raffle and breakfast. The Holiday Lights Parade starts at the North Oxford Fire Station at 5 p.m. and concludes with the tree lighting at the Joslin Park Bandstand. Hot cocoa and treats for all.

Sutton Chain of Lights from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., in various locations, Sutton. Celebrate Christmas in historic Sutton with businesses, churches and organizations in town for the annual Christmas and holiday season celebration. Hop on a free trolley for rides to more than three dozen locations to do shopping, enjoy delicious food, kids' activities and animals. The Sutton High School Band plays traditional carols and Christmas tunes at 5 p.m. on the Town Common and Santa Claus comes by to light the Town Christmas tree. Live performance by Sam James of the Kelly Clarkson Show and The Voice at Vaillancourt Folk Art from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Christmas Fair at First Congregational Church of Dudley, 135 Center Road 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Santa Claus, live entertainment, vendors, LBS gift shop, cookie corner, basket raffles, quilt raffle. Live auction starts at 1:30 p.m.

Uxbridge First Holiday Night Parade and Celebration. The parade starts at 4:30 p.m. It begins at Rivulet Street and ends at the Town Common on Route 16. Local

HAPPENINGS!
continued on page 15

SAMUEL SLATER'S
RESTAURANT
LAKESIDE DINING
200 GORE ROAD, WEBSTER, MA • WWW.SAMUELSLATERS.COM



WEEKLY SPECIALS

Happy Hour

1/2 PRICE APPS!
WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS
(4PM - 6PM)
ONE PER PERSON ONLY. PORTIONS MAY VARY. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS OR SPECIAL EVENTS.

~ BAR SELECTION ~
\$5 BEER • \$6 WINE • \$7 COCKTAIL
THESE PRICES ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE. BAR OPTIONS ARE ROTATING.

SUNDAY BRUNCH

10:30AM - 5PM

BREAKFAST MENU AVAILABLE UNTIL 2PM

PRIME RIB WEDNESDAYS

12OZ PRIME RIB + TWO SIDES



ONLY \$25

STARTS AT 4PM

LIMITED TIME OFFER • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • DINE-IN ONLY

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SAMUEL SLATER'S HALL

COMEDY NIGHT AT SLATERS



NOVEMBER 21

DOCK 10



NOVEMBER 22

K&F



NOVEMBER 29

ALTER EGO PARTY BAND



DECEMBER 5

COMEDY NIGHT: KELLY MACFARLAND, CAROLYN PLUMMER, AND ANDREA HENRY



DECEMBER 13

COMEDY NIGHT: KELLY MACFARLAND, CAROLYN PLUMMER, AND ANDREA HENRY • December 19

NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH WHISKEY BOULEVARD • December 31

ELVIS PRESLEY'S 91ST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION • January 9

FRANK SANTOS JR HYPNOTIST/COMEDIAN • January 10

THE FOOLS • January 24

THE BANGING 88 DUELING PIANOS • January 31

For reservations, event tickets, and more information, visit www.samuelslaters.com.

RESTAURANT HOURS: Wed-Fri, 4PM-9PM | Sat, 12PM-9PM | Sun, 10:30AM-5PM



MASSACHUSETTS
visitma.com

It's Happening in

THE last green valley™



Now is the Time to Experience Nature

Over 100 choices beckon you outside in the fresh air! Blossom with friends & family on guided walks, hikes, pedals, paddles, runs, events and more.

www.thelastgreenvalley.org

HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 14

businesses, community groups, three high school marching bands, fire dancing, ice sculpture and the arrival of Santa & Mrs. Claus.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

• Annual Christmas Bazaar, St. Joseph's Parish Center, 68 Central Street, Auburn, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Come enjoy an old-fashioned Christmas Bazaar and check out the collectibles, attic treasures, jewelry, plants, knit goods, holiday décor, toys, candy, baked items and so much more! Take a chance on one of our many raffles. There is something for everyone! Free Admission. Plenty of parking available. Handicap accessible.

• Grafton Celebrates the Holidays. Start the day with a Pancake Breakfast at North Grafton Elementary School 46 Waterville Street with crafts, a book fair, and holiday photos from 8 - 11 a.m. Then visit designated Frosty Stops around town, 12-4 p.m. A trolley service will be available to help with transportation between key locations. Craft & Vendor Fair, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Grafton High School, 24 Providence Rd., Grafton. Over 75 vendors featuring baked goods, home décor, jewelry, woodworking, activities and more. Enter to win a special giveaway.

Tea at the Museum: The Grafton Historical Society will host a holiday tea from 2-4 p.m. at 71 Main Street.

Community Strum: Apple Tree Arts will host a community strum-along or sing-along to holiday songs starting at 2 p.m.

Events on the Common: 3:30-4:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 2019 will give away homemade holiday treats. 3:45-3:55 p.m. Beatz Dance Studio performs a holiday dance routine

3:55-4:10 p.m. Join the Grafton Girl Scouts in singing winter and holiday tunes.

4:10- 4:15 p.m. Join Rabbi Rachel as she shares a few words about Hanukkah.

Santa's Arrival and Tree Lighting: The event culminates on Grafton Common with Santa's arrival at 4:15 p.m., followed by the official tree-lighting ceremony.

For more information, visit GraftonRec.com

• The 25th Annual Millbury Chain of Lights, a town-wide event to celebrate the holidays with local food, shopping and entertainment! From 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., various locations around town.. Enjoy nearly 40 stops in town for live music, holiday shopping, holiday figures like Buddy the Elf and the Grinch, raffles and food. Old-fashioned trolleys provide free transportation throughout the day. The event is sponsored by local businesses and concludes with a tree lighting and appearance by Santa Claus at the Millbury bandstand. www.facebook.com/millburychainoflights/

• The Unitarian Church at 3 Grafton Common is having a traditional Church Faire and Musical Program from 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Enjoy lunch with holiday music and shop local artisans for unique gifts not available anywhere else, fresh holiday greens, vintage Christmas decorations and jewelry extravaganza. Take a photo of your family in our Winter Wonderland photo booth. Free kids' crafts. Stay and enjoy a free performance by our church Hand Bell Choir at 2 p.m.

• Webster Dudley Business Alliance Holiday Stroll on Main Street, Webster from 3-6 p.m. Local shops stay open late with treats, raffles, and festive displays. Great for holiday shopping and meeting Santa before the tree lighting.

Webster Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting. Parade steps off from Town Hall at 5 p.m., followed by the tree lighting at 6 p.m. Scout troops, floats, and Santa along with live music, hot cocoa and caroling.

• Auburn High School to City Hall, Auburn. Lighted Santa Parade & Tree Lighting. Live music begins at 4 p.m. at City Hall, parade begins at 4:30 p.m. After parade ends, at City Hall there will be a tree lighting, a visit from Santa, and live music. bit.ly/AuburnSantaParadeTreeLighting2024

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

• "The Fright Before Christmas" with author and television personality Jeff Belanger sharing stories of ghoulies, ghosts, and things that go bump in the night during this darkest time of year. Be delightfully frightened during this multi-media program. Caution: this program is not for young children. Register. Millbury Library.

Remember the Ladies Series

This series will look at the women who served our country and the town of Auburn. The following article highlights the career of Genevieve V. Kusian.

Genevieve V. Kusian was born August 26, 1916, in Worcester. Her parents were John Louis and Claire M. [Decatur] Kusian. Her father was born in Canterbury, Connecticut and worked for the New York, New Haven, & Hartford Railroad for over 30 years. Her mother was Valrie M. Decatur of Putnam, Connecticut.

Genevieve graduated from South High School in Worcester, then attended Becker Business College. She was listed in an article of patrons for a prom at N.E. Institute, N.E. School of Accounting Seniors party on May 28, 1937. In 1941 the Worcester City Directory listed her as a cashier at F. W. Woolworth Co. and living with her parents on Kingsbury Street.

According to her headstone application, Genevieve enlisted in the Navy, February 12, 1945. She went to WAVE Recruits Training School in Bronx NY March 31, 1945. In Nov. 1945 she was at the US Navy Receiving Station at Fort McHenry in Baltimore MD. Her rank was RM1 which is a

Radioman responsible for transmitting, receiving radio signals, processing all forms of telecommunication, aboard ships, aircraft and shore facilities. Duties could also include message systems for generalized broadcasts and unit specific messages, proper handling & destruction of classified material. along with periodic maintenance of equipment to include transmitters, receivers and antennas.

The Muster Rolls for that time also showed that Genevieve was Senior Officer Present Ashore many times. According to the Naval Military Regulations the Senior Officer present, unless some other officer has been so designated by a competent authority, is the senior line officer of the Navy on active duty, who is eligible for command at sea. That person is present and in command of any part of the Department of the Navy in the locality. Exceptions exist when a senior Marine is present.

In March of 1954, Genevieve was part of the military delegation that attended the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. This was

confirmed by the passenger list landing in New York coming back from Southampton England. In her 25 years in the Navy, Genevieve served at the Pentagon in Washington, England, and Hawaii. Genevieve was an instructor at Quonset Point and Newport, both in Rhode Island. She was also an instructor in Norfolk Virginia and Baltimore Maryland in the junior officer boot camps.

It was unfortunate that two months after her discharge on November 14, 1970, at age 54, Genevieve died of cancer. She is buried in Hillside Cemetery with her parents.

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. and may be reached at auburnmuseum@verizon.net or 508-832-6856, auburnhistoricalmuseum.org or follow us on Facebook at Auburn Historical.

- Submitted by Helen Poirier

WANTED

Cash paid for non-working pinball machines call or text at (774) 482-0755

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?

Licensed & Insured
MA Journeyman Lic# 36172E
MA Master Lic# 22728A

DUROCHER ELECTRIC
MASTER ELECTRICIAN
Fast, Honest, Affordable

Over 50 years of experience

Residential & light commercial electrical work

No job too small!

Visit us at: durocherelectric.com

Proudly serving Worcester County

CALL TODAY! 508-864-1135
or email us: durocherelectric995@gmail.com

FREELANCE WRITERS NEEDED!

Do you have a talent for engaging writing that informs and inspires? We are looking for a local interested in telling stories important to the area. If so, Our Town Publishing wants you to join our team of dedicated journalists. If interested, please submit writing samples to proy@yankeeshopper.net

American Legion
Chester P. Tuttle Post 279
88 Bancroft St., Auburn, MA 01501

Find us on facebook.

THURSDAY IS...
By Wise Guy Trivia **TRIVIA NIGHT** 7-9 PM!

EVERY FRIDAY
Karaoke 7:30PM-11PM

Live Bands Every Friday 7-10
November 21 - **Nostalgica**
November 28 - **Fender Road**

\$10 cover charge for bands unless receipt of same day liquor and/or food purchase from the Tuttle.

ALL Are Welcome!
Membership Not Required!
Monday - Saturday: 11:00-1:00 • Sunday: 11:30-close

Tiny Tim's at the Tuttle
Open for Breakfast & Lunch 7 days a week
Sun. & Mon. 7am-2pm, Tues. to Thurs. 7am-3pm, Fri. & Sat. 7am-9pm
Phone: (508) 832-2701
For Hall Reservations: (508)-721-5142 or email TinyTimsCatering@gmail.com

MEAT RAFFLE
EVERY SATURDAY
12:30 - 4pm - 6 tables
Don't Be A Chicken. There's A Lot At Steak.

Featuring... **K&M** ENTERTAINMENT
Karaoke every Saturday 8-11:00 pm

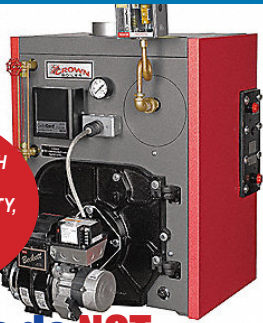
FOR ALL YOUR FUEL NEEDS

NEW BOILER INSTALLS

- Crown Boilers
- Williamson Furnaces
- Oil Tank Installs



ALL NEW INSTALLS COME WITH A 3 YEAR PARTS AND LABOR WARRANTY, AS WELL AS THE MANUFACTURERS WARRANTY.



We do NOT Sell Biofuel!

Which will help prevent system breakdowns.

Central air conditioning and ductless mini splits

HELP WANTED -

Class B CDL driver with air brake, tanker and hazmat endorsements. Must have DOT Medical Card.



A Full Service Oil Company
24-Hour Emergency Service

WWW.LMTOIL.COM • WE DO ONLINE ORDERING

Print & Deliver

We Print and Deliver your inserts.



Perfect for Big Events, Coupons, Menus and More!

For more information, or to schedule your insert, please contact Laura Gleim at 508-943-8784 or by email at lgleim@theyankeeexpress.com

BLACK NOVEMBER

ALL MONTH LONG!

BEST PRICES OF THE YEAR!

HUGE KITCHEN PACKAGE & LAUNDRY REBATES

MATTRESS SALE!



TWIN: \$199
(REGULARLY \$299)
FULL: \$269
(REGULARLY \$499)
QUEEN: \$299
(REGULARLY \$599)

- 32" HD Smart TV.....\$99.99
Regularly \$149.99
- 43" Smart TV.....\$199.99
Regularly \$249.99
- 50" HDTV Television...\$229.99
Regularly \$269.99
- 55" Samsung HDTV ..\$329.99
Regularly \$349.99
- 65" HDTV.....\$399.99
Regularly \$599.99
- 75" HDTV.....\$499.99
Regularly \$699.99

LG 20 CU. FT. BOTTOM FRENCH REFRIGERATOR
Reg. \$1499.99
\$1299.99

G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE
Reg. \$899.99
\$699.99

FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER
Reg. \$399.99
\$299.99

SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER
Pair - Reg. \$1199.99
\$1199.99
AFTER REBATE!

DELUXE FRIGIDAIRE INDUCTION STOVE
Reg. \$1299.99
\$999.99

GE DELUXE DISHWASHER
Reg. \$499.99
\$369.99

21 CU. FT. FREEZER
Reg. \$999.99
\$799.99

WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR
Reg. \$899.99
\$699.99

FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR
Reg. \$699.99
\$599.99

FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE
Reg. \$249.99
\$199.99

LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER
Front Load, Reg. \$1599.99
\$1399.99

MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER
Reg. \$699.99
\$549.99

WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE
Reg. \$1499.99
\$1199.99

AMANA WASHER OR DRYER
Reg. \$599.99
\$489.99

WE INSTALL TELEVISIONS, MICROWAVES & DISHWASHERS!

HUNDREDS OF BIKES and E-BIKES!



ASSEMBLY INCLUDED!

HUGE TOY DEPARTMENT!



INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000!

WHITCO

140 MAIN STREET,
SPENCER, MA
508.885.9343
SEE WHITCOALES.COM
FOR 100's OF DEALS!



Store Hours: Mon. thru Fri: 10am-8:30pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 12 Noon-7pm