



Grafton Land Trust falconry event held in February. Lucia Hackett photo



Grafton's Business Scene

BY CHRISTINE GALEONE

In April and May, many people find themselves feeling like kids in candy stores. With the sun shining brighter from above and the earth below welcoming new life, regional gardeners are rejoicing. It's finally time, once again, for their planting adventures.

And while that's good news, there's more. Grafton businesses and organizations have what gardeners need to embark on their unique adventures this spring.

Community Harvest Project, a nonprofit that fights hunger insecurity in the region, is currently offering people two ways to experience the joy of gardening.

The farm is constantly in need of volunteers to help it plant, grow and harvest the produce it gives to area food pantries and other non-profit organizations. And it will hold its popular annual plant sale. It gave early access to its Plantapalooza online plant sale to its monthly givers. Now, it will open the online sale on its website to everyone on Friday April 24 through noon on Monday May 4. Plants can be ordered online and picked up on Friday May 8. The remaining inventory will be on sale at the farm on Saturday May 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The North Grafton non-profit farm will have all kinds of plants for sale, from annual flowers to berry bushes and heirloom tomatoes. Information can be found by going to <https://community-harvest.org/events/>.

Likewise, the Grafton Garden Club offers people different ways to enjoy the greenest of hobbies. Members can learn about gardening and garden together. But all are welcome to rent a 20-foot by 20-foot garden plot for 2026 in the Lee Knowlton Community Garden. While plots are available, they can be purchased on the club's online store, grafton-garden-club.square.site. More information can be found on the

Millbury Sets Date for Annual Town Meeting

Town officials have announced that the Annual Town Meeting will take place Tuesday, May 5, at Millbury High School, 12 Martin St. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

Residents will have the opportunity to review and vote on matters facing the town includ-

ing the proposed fiscal year 2027 budget. The full warrant and budget details are available online ahead of the meeting.

Municipal spending is projected to rise modestly overall, with total expenditures increasing by \$2.47 million, or 4.09%, to \$62.86 million.

Education remains the

largest share of the budget at 47%, growing by \$1.02 million (3.61%). Employee benefits, the second-largest category at 20%, show a notable increase of \$878,415 (7.55%), marking one of the biggest jumps among

MILLBURY
continued on page 2





O'SHEA'S
furniture



*Amish tradition;
modern comfort*

PROUDLY MADE IN THE USA

*handcrafted custom
designs in solid wood &
luxury upholstery - built for
you; built to last*

10-3 Tues-Sat

(508) 865 - 6385

113 Singletary Ave, Sutton MA 01590

osheasfurniture.com

GRAFTON
continued on page 3

PRSRT STD
 ECXWSS
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 142
 SPRINGFIELD, MA
 Postal
 Customer
 Local

BLACKSTONE VALLEY *Xpress*

Scan this QR CODE
to visit our Website



Scan this QR CODE
to visit our Facebook Page

BLACKSTONE VALLEY *Xpress*



GET NOTICED!
 Contact Bill at 774-289-5564 or by
 email at bcronan@theyankeexpress.com to advertise today!

"The Best Pizza in Town"

WWW.PEPPERONI-EXPRESS.COM

508.839.6040




78 WORCESTER ST., RTE.140N,
GRAFTON MA 01536

NEW FREE WASH
 MICKEY'S WASH BOOK

1 FREE CAR WASH



WASH BOOK
\$104.00
\$130 value

WITH THE PURCHASE OF 4 WASHES

Mickey's Car Wash & Detail Shop
16 Galaxy Pass
Sutton, MA
MickeyCarWash.com
508-917-8565

THANK

SHOP NOW



Local and Life-Changing.

CLASSES START SOON!
 REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 13.

- ✓ 100+ affordable programs, degrees, and certificate options
- ✓ Many MA residents can attend FREE with MassEducate & MassReconnect
- ✓ Small class sizes for personal attention and support
- ✓ Transferable credits—seamless pathways to your next big move



Summer 1: May 26 – July 1
 Summer 2: July 7 – August 12
 Fall: September 9 – December 22

QCC.edu | 508.853.2300



MILLBURY
continued from page 1

departments. General government spending is set to rise 6.93%, while public safety increases by 4%. Smaller gains are seen in culture and recreation, up slightly by 0.56%.

Several areas are expected to decline, including public works (down 1.25%), human services (down 6.07%), and debt service (down 0.84%).

Overall, the budget reflects steady growth driven largely by education and employee-related costs, offset by modest reductions in a few service areas.

Community initiatives also remain a focus, particularly

efforts to preserve open space and natural resources. Local amenities such as Butler Farm, which features a community garden and dog park, highlight ongoing investment in recreational opportunities. The Butler Farm Bark Park is maintained by volunteers and operates through a membership system for licensed dogs.

Millbury operates under a town manager form of government, with a five-member Board of Selectmen responsible for guiding policy and long-term planning.

Officials encourage residents to attend the meeting and participate in the decision-making process, emphasizing the importance of civic engagement in shaping the town's future.

Sutton Historical Society

The Sutton Historical Society, Inc. is a 501(c)3. Membership is open year-round. Member forms and the 2025 Calendar of Events, past newsletters and historical links can be found at sutton1704.org. Questions can be directed to sutton1704@gmail.com. Help this local group of volunteers keep history alive in Sutton and share your returnable cans/bottles with us.

Sutton Annual Spring Town Meeting

Monday, May 11, 2026
 Check-in begins at 6:30pm / Meeting starts promptly at 7pm
 Middle School/High School Auditorium, 383 Boston Road.
 A total of \$42,078,395 is being sought to run all town departments in FY 27. The town manager recommends spending \$41,998,088 – a 3.13 percent increase over last year.



503 Washington St.
 Auburn, MA
 508-832-4300
 508-832-2990
 Open Mon.-Sat. 10am-9pm

• Subs • Wraps • Wings • Salads
 • Burgers • Kid's Menu
 • Seafood • Whole Lot More



SPRING BASEBALL
 WINGS SPECIAL!!



<< CLIP & SAVE! >>

\$5 OFF

Suicide Squeeze

(Good thru the World Series)

<< CLIP & SAVE! >>

\$7 OFF

Yankee Hater

(Good thru the World Series)

<< CLIP & SAVE! >>

\$10 OFF

Wild Pitch

(Good thru the World Series)

<< CLIP & SAVE! >>

\$15 OFF

The Closer

(Good thru the World Series)

Grafton Cleanup Day

In celebration of Earth Day, teams of volunteers are being organized to clean up the trash along the streets, in neighborhoods, on the school playgrounds, and in parks throughout Grafton. You, your family, and friends can be a part of this town-wide effort, which is coordinated for the 20th year by the Grafton Garden Club.

It's easy to get involved: contact chair-person Helen Blazis at markblazissafaris@gmail.com and let her know which area of town you would like to clean up. Then go to the Grafton Highway Department (DPW), at 64 Old Westborough Road, to pick up the trash bags you need and a sheet of instructions. These are available at the DPW from April 20-24, 2026. Use the bags to clean up an area and then

contact the DPW at 508-839-8525 and let them know where you have left your filled bags. It's that simple.

Everyone who helps with Grafton Clean-up Day is invited to stop by the Common on Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.. If you have not received your bags from the DPW, the Grafton Garden Club is on the Grafton Common handing out clean-up bags, gloves, and the instruction sheet. You can pick up a free tree sapling provided by the DPW and free coffee and doughnuts provided by the Grafton Garden Club. Bottled water is provided by Savers Bank. Each clean-up volunteer receives a coupon redeemable for a slice of pizza or sandwich at Pepperoni Express and another one for a soft-serve, child size cone from Swirls

& Scoops. Both coupons can be redeemed only on Saturday, April 25.

Let's think globally and act locally as we Keep Grafton Green! The Grafton Garden Club is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Grafton Garden Club, where gardeners grow...since 1931.

Millbury Public Library

The Millbury Public Library is located at 128 Elm St., 508-865-1181. The website is www.millburylibrary.org. **Recurring events:** Storytime: Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. For ages 0-4. No registration required. Stories, fingerplays and sensory playtime. Knitting/Crochet Group: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Cribbage Club: Thursdays at 6 p.m. Beginners or experienced welcome. No registra-

tion required. Teen Dungeons and Dragons: Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. Registration required. Watercolor Painting, Level 2: Thursdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Build on techniques learned in the beginner class. Must have beginner class or equivalent experience/knowledge. Must attend all four classes. First class is mandatory. Bring a notebook, all other supplies provided. Registration required.

GRAFTON

continued from page 1

club's website, graftongardenclub.org.

If you're looking for gardening tools, soil, fertilizer and garden décor as well as plants, you'll be happy to know that Perreault Nursery & Landscape Supply, which is located in North Grafton, re-opened for the season recently. Among other things, it sells a variety of flowers, bushes, trees, mulch, soil, yard and garden supplies and gifts. Additionally, its landscape design and installation services are available for purchase.

Over in South Grafton, Pete's Oasis at Blackstone River Farm has annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, house plants, herbs and more to create beautiful gardens.

The family-owned garden center recently re-opened for the season as well.

Koopman Lumber, the hardware and paint store in North Grafton, is also well prepared for the growing seasons. Besides selling a varied selection of items that shoppers can use to enjoy gardening, all of its locations now have an abundance of flowers in their greenhouses.

As the gardeners emerge from their winter doldrums, they can find what they need in Grafton. And if you would like to join them, your own gardening adventures await you in this season of renewal.

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



MULCH • WOOD CHIPS • COMPOST
SAND • STONE • LOAM

605 Quaker Highway (Rt. 146A),
Uxbridge, MA
508.278.2628

P.O. Box 77
Uxbridge, MA 01569

MA Certified Arborist Since 1989

Full Circle
T-R-E-E C-A-R-E



- Expert Pruning
- Planting/Fertilization
- Insect & Disease Control
- Tick & Mosquito Control

Nick Bristowe
774-280-2281
fullcircletree@yahoo.com



connections
PHYSICAL THERAPY

NOW OPEN!

CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT NOW!

40 Douglas St.
Uxbridge, MA 01569



Connections Physical Therapy is a family, locally owned and operated company with 19 clinics throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island! Connections PT is committed to providing the highest quality of care for our patients in a one-on-one setting. We are thrilled to be joining the Uxbridge community this August. Call us now to set up an appointment!

Services:

Orthopedic Physical Therapy
Post-Surgical Rehabilitation
Neck and Back Pain Relief
Manual Therapy • Sports Injury Treatment
Vestibular Rehabilitation And More!

Contact Us:

508-501-5008
508-501-5009
Uxbridge@ConnectionsPT.com
Connectionspt.com

BOOK NOW!
for Spring
2026
House Painting!



Five Star Painting
Quality Workmanship at Affordable Prices

508-479-8040

Grafton Resident • Grafton Based Business
www.MikeFiveStar.com



We fix water-damaged ceilings and walls and work with insurance companies!



\$250 OFF
Any Complete EXTERIOR House Painting For Spring 2026
508-479-8040
With Coupon Only. Must Present at Initial Meeting. Expires 6/30/2026

\$150 OFF
Any INTERIOR Painting of 2 Rooms or More
508-479-8040
With Coupon Only. Must Present at Initial Meeting. Expires 6/30/2026

FREE
WINDOW & GUTTER CLEANING With Any Complete Exterior House Painting
508-479-8040
BOOKED BY 6/30/2026

A Guest Lecture at the Willard House & Clock Museum

“One for the Revolutionary Road: Taverns and Beer in the American Revolution” by Dr. Malcolm F. Purinton

On Saturday, May 9th at 2:00 PM, the Willard House & Clock Museum invites the public to step back into the measured rhythms of the eighteenth century for an engaging lecture by Dr. Malcolm F. Purinton, exploring the vital role of taverns and beer in shaping Revolutionary America.

Titled “One for the Revolutionary Road: Taverns and Beer in the American Revolution,” the program offers a timely reflection on how everyday spaces—and the people who gathered within them—helped set the course of history. This program has been made possible through the generous support of the Gaudette Insurance Agency.

In an age before instant communication, taverns functioned



as the ticking heartbeats of their communities. Much like the cadence of a finely crafted clock, these gathering places kept time with the social, political, and economic life of the colonies. Here, over mugs of beer and shared news, colonists debated ideas, organized resistance, and forged a collective identity that would ultimately drive the American Revolution forward.

The Earliest Version of Social Media Dr. Purinton will address how taverns served as essential hubs for civic life in both rural and urban settings. From post-church conversations to town meetings and elections, these spaces bore witness to pivotal

LECTURE
continued on page 5

BLACKSTONE VALLEY 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, Mark Marzeotti, John Paul, Janet Stoica, Christopher Tremblay

Blackstone Valley Xpress/©2026
9 Industrial Road, Milford MA 01757
508-943-8784 • theyankeeexpress.com

SEALCOATING & PAVING



MILL TOWN ASPHALT SERVICES

- Sealcoating
- Crack Sealing
- Asphalt Paving
- Pavement Repair

FULLY INSURED
QUALITY RESULTS
REASONABLE RATES

Call us today for a free estimate!

(508) 278-3493

Tom Downey
Owner

Uxbridge, Massachusetts

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

MASTER PLUMBER
LIC. NO. 9216

MASTER SHEET METAL
LIC. NO. 115

Valley Plumbing & Heating, Inc.

PLUMBING • HEATING • GAS FITTING
BIG OR SMALL, WE DO IT ALL! SENIOR DISCOUNT

RICHARD J. WUNSCHEL
(508) 234-3649

10% DISCOUNT
SENIORS
VETERANS
HANDICAP

30 LACKEY DAM ROAD, SUTTON, MA 01590-2714

\$50 off ANY JOB

(one per household)



Custom Woodworking
Built-Ins • Furniture • Shelving

(508) 864-5555 | Locally Owned & Operated

www.fairview-wood-works.com

DK FLOORS LLC

(Formerly Dan's Carpet Service)

- Carpet • Linoleum • Repairs
- L.V.P. Planks • Restretch • Installs
- Residential & Commercial

FREE ESTIMATES

Grafton resident
Fully Insured
30 years Experience

Call Dan
508-769-5767

SOUR GRAPES

by Tim Jones

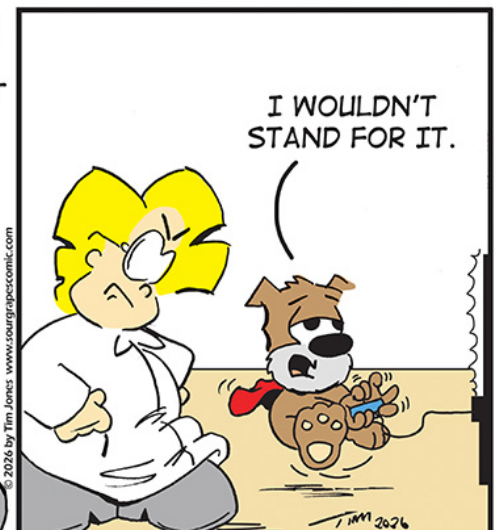
AESOP, I ORDERED A NEW GAMING CHAIR LIKE A WEEK AGO AND I STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN IT YET!



NOW I FIND OUT THAT IT'S ON BACKORDER...INDEFINITELY! WHAT AM I GONNA DO? I CAN'T PLAY MY GAMES 'CUZ I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SIT ON!



I WOULDN'T STAND FOR IT.



LECTURE

continued from page 4

moments in American history. Decisions made around tavern tables reverberated far beyond their walls, influencing events as significant as protests and acts of defiance, including those leading up to the Boston Tea Party.

“Like a well-made clock, the Revolution didn’t happen all at once—it was built moment by moment,” said Dr. Purinton. “Taverns were where those moments accumulated— where ideas were tested, loyalties were debated, and, over a pint or two, a shared sense of purpose began to keep time across the colonies.”

A Runup to the Third Annual Grafton Beer Festival

This special lecture also serves as a celebratory precursor to the Third Annual Grafton Beer Fest hosted by Rushford & Sons Brewery, which will be held on the museum grounds on Saturday, May 16th, beginning at 2 p.m.

Seating for the lecture is limited, and advance reservations are strongly encouraged. To reserve your spot, please visit: <https://willardhouse.org/events/calendar/2026/5/9/one-for-the-revolutionary-road-taverns-and-beer-in-the-american-revolution>

Dr. Malcolm F. Purinton is an Assistant Teaching Professor in the History Department at Northeastern University, where he teaches courses on World History, the British Empire, and the histories of Boston and colonial America, with a particular focus on beer history. He is the author of *Globalization in a Glass: The Rise of Pilsner Beer through Technology, Taste, and Empire*, which traces the global spread of one of the world’s most popular beer styles.

This lecture continues the Willard House & Clock Museum’s tradition of connecting horology with broader cultural and historical narratives, inviting visitors to consider how time—kept, marked, and experienced— shapes human events.

About Gaudette Insurance Agency

Gaudette Insurance Agency is a third-generation family business founded in Grafton in 1926. As an independent agent, they represent more than 20 different insurance companies. Commitment to the community has always been at the forefront of Gaudette Insurance Agency. From local sponsorships to participating in events throughout the community, Gaudette is proud to go the extra mile and contribute to the improvement of local civic life.

Learn more about Gaudette at gaudette-insurance.com

About Willard House and Clock Museum – Planning for The Next 50 Years

Located at 11 Willard Street in North Grafton, MA, Willard House and Clock Museum exhibits more than 90 Willard clocks in the birthplace and original workshop of the Willard clockmakers, along with family portraits, furnishings and other family heirlooms.

The work of all three generations of Willard clockmakers, focusing on the famed brothers, Simon Willard and Aaron Willard are displayed. The Museum tour includes the original Willard House built in 1718, the original 1766 clock-making workshop, and three modern galleries.

Willard is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sutton Public Library

The Sutton Public Library is located at 4 Uxbridge Road, 508- 865-8752, www.suttonpubliclibrary.org. Special events: Call or register at <https://suttonpubliclibrary.org/calendar-of-events/> Recurring events: Baby Storytime: Tuesdays, 10:30 to 11 a.m. For babies and caregivers to meet friends, read books and sing songs. No registration required. Wednesday Storytime: Every Wednesday, 10:30 -- 11 a.m. No registration required. Thursday Storytime: Every Thursday, 10:30 - 11 a.m. No registration required. Cribbage Club: Mondays, 1 - 2 p.m. Beginners or experienced players’ welcome! No registration required. Writing Group: Second Thursday of each month, 6 to 7:45 p.m. Join local author Lisa Shea for our writing group. Come bounce your ideas off other authors and get creative and constructive feedback. For full details about the writing group please visit <http://www.suttonmass.org/writinggroup/>

New England Steak & Seafood Restaurant



Make Your Mother’s Day Reservations NOW!



9 SEATING TIMES AVAILABLE:

12:00 noon	2:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
12:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m.

Route 16, Mendon, MA
 508-473-5079 • 508-478-0871
www.nesteakandseafood.com

SUMMER GUIDE!

Think Summer! Warm weather. Beaches. Golfing. Hiking. Outdoor dining. Are you looking forward to it as much as we are? Then Promote your Business and Events with our Annual Summer Guide – jam-packed with things to do this summer. Just add warm weather!



NOW INCLUDING Holden, Paxton & Rutland!

REACH MORE THAN 77,000 HOMES & BUSINESSES

this June with our **Annual Summer Guide!**

DIRECT MAILED TO:

- Auburn • Charlton • Douglas • Dudley
- Grafton • Holden • Millbury • Northbridge
- Oxford • Paxton • Rutland • Sutton
- Uxbridge • Webster

RESERVATION DEADLINE is MAY 6th!

Contact Bill Cronan at **774-289-5564** or by email at bcronan@theyankeeexpress.com
TO BOOK YOUR SPACE TODAY!

TheYankeeXpress
 BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

FREE PRESS

CABINET DEPOT®

Quality at Warehouse prices!



Before

Call Margaret to get your Free Measurement Free Design & Quote and ask how you can get **FREE GRANITE!**
*Does not include install



After

833 Providence Rd.
 (Rte. 122)
 Whitinsville, MA
 508-372-9023

Exceptional Price & Great Quality at
CABINETDEPOT.COM SHOWROOM OUTLET
Marscott.CabinetDepot@gmail.com

BVTi Opens Doors for Adults Exploring Careers in the Skilled Trades

Adults and recent high school graduates considering a future in the skilled trades will have a chance to explore training opportunities at an upcoming open house hosted by the Blackstone Valley Technical Institute (BVTi) on Wednesday, May 6, at 6:00 p.m.

The event will take place at 65 Pleasant Street in Upton and is designed to introduce prospective students to the institute's adult education programs and hands-on training environment. Visitors will be able to tour the facility, meet instructors and staff, and gain a closer look at the school's workshop spaces.

BVTi offers 200-hour training programs in high-demand fields including HVAC, plumbing, welding, CNC machine operation, and electrical work. During the open house, attendees will also learn about program requirements, industry-recognized certifications, and pathways that connect graduates with employment opportunities in their chosen trades.


Organizers will provide information on application assistance as well as grant-funded training options that may allow eligible

participants to complete programs at little or no cost, helping to expand access to career-focused education.

Advance registration is requested, and those interested in attending should reserve a space by emailing info@bvtadulterd.org.

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves a wide network of communities across the region, including Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Through its adult education division, BVTi continues to focus on preparing learners for success in both technical and academic fields, supporting workforce development throughout the Blackstone Valley.

More information about adult education programs is available at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/bvti.



***Best Meats in the Blackstone Valley**
***Large Micro Brew Selection**
***Full Liquor License**
***Fresh Baked Breads & Rolls**
***Prepared Meals**

Look for our 1 Day Sales Every Tuesday and Saturday

3 WEEKS OF COUPON SAVINGS

WEEK 1 PLU 1234 April 27th - May 3rd	WEEK 2 PLU 5678 May 4th - May 10th	WEEK 3 PLU 2468 May 11th - May 17th
\$7.50 off	\$7.50 off	\$7.50 off
The purchase of \$75.00 or more April 27th - May 3rd <small>Coupon good April 27-May 3, 2026. When you spend \$75.00 or more in a single purchase EXCLUDING THE COST OF BEER, WINE, LIQUOR, TOBACCO, LOTTERY AND GIFT CARDS. One coupon per person per visit.</small>	The purchase of \$75.00 or more May 4th - May 10th <small>Coupon good May 4-May 10, 2026. When you spend \$75.00 or more in a single purchase EXCLUDING THE COST OF BEER, WINE, LIQUOR, TOBACCO, LOTTERY AND GIFT CARDS. One coupon per person per visit.</small>	The purchase of \$75.00 or more May 11th - May 17th <small>Coupon good May 11-May 17, 2026. When you spend \$75.00 or more in a single purchase EXCLUDING THE COST OF BEER, WINE, LIQUOR, TOBACCO, LOTTERY AND GIFT CARDS. One coupon per person per visit.</small>

Goretti's Supermarket • 1 Providence Street, Millbury, MA • 508.865.9577

Sutton Senior Center

The Monday Brew Crew: Every Monday at 8 a.m. Enjoy coffee, tea, juice and a morning treat. Darts - Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Cribbage - Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Pitch - Thursdays at 10 a.m. I'm Sorry - Fridays at 9:30 a.m. A fun and easy-to-learn card game Bingo - Fridays at 1 p.m. presented by The Friends of Sutton Elders Book Club - Our reading group meets monthly. Sutton Library Computer Club - A social gathering for all skill levels Thursdays at 9 a.m. led by Paul Holzwarth.

Millbury Historical Society

The Museum of The Millbury Historical Society is located in The Asa Waters' Mansion and houses an extensive collection of Millbury photos and displays. Admission is free. Visit at <https://www.millburyhistory.org/> The next museum openings are: March 21 - 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. • April 25 - 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Contact Bill at 774-289-5564 or by email at bcronan@theyankeeexpress.com to advertise today!

Come visit our gardens and shop our nursery on these days, Please respect the fact that we are only open to the public on these days.



The Hosta Farm of Mendon
Open to the Public Days 2026

will be open on the following
Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM:

--- May 16th --- May 23rd --- June 6th ---
 --- June 13th --- June 27th --- July 11th ---
 --- August 15th --- Sept 12th ---

52 Bates St - Mendon, MA
hosta_farm@yahoo.com
 508-634-1914





August 15th the Fragrant Hosta should be flowering!
Not all Hosta are Fragrant
 This is the best time to smell test the ones that are!

Stay Connected
Postcards and ads are only once a year

~~~~~

For up to date information you can:  
 Find us on Facebook & Instagram  
 Join our email List by Email us at [hosta\\_farm@yahoo.com](mailto:hosta_farm@yahoo.com)  
 Check out our website - [www.thehostafarmofmendon.com](http://www.thehostafarmofmendon.com)





*Serving the Community since 1980*

**WE PLANT TREES & SHRUBS!**

**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](mailto:sales@templemantree.com)**  
 MAA & TCIA Member

# Emergency funds offer breathing room when it matters



Jamie DeCaire

## FINANCIAL FOCUS® Provided by Edward Jones

Everyone needs an emergency fund. Financial experts recommend it, and we've all experienced surprise expenses: a costly car repair, a broken water heater or unexpected medical bills. Despite our best intentions, building a financial cushion can feel impossible. After rent or mortgage, groceries, utilities and everyday expenses, it seems there's nothing left to save.

If this sounds familiar, you're not alone. Many Americans struggle

to maintain emergency savings. But building those savings doesn't necessarily require massive lifestyle changes or windfalls. With a strategic approach and realistic milestones, you can create the financial safety net you need.

**Start small and build momentum.** Traditional advice suggests saving three to six months of total expenses. It's excellent goal but can feel overwhelming when you're starting from zero.

Instead, begin with a more achievable target, such as \$500 or a full month's worth of expenses. The key is to get started and contribute consistently.

Even a few hundred dollars can provide meaningful protection and help you avoid relying on credit cards or high-interest loans. This initial milestone can cover many medium-sized emergencies. Once you reach the first milestone, work toward one and a half to two months of expenses, then the full three to six months.

**Find money you didn't know you had.** Building your emergency fund doesn't always require cutting expenses. If you're employed, set up automatic trans-

fers from your paycheck into a separate savings account. Cancel subscriptions you rarely use, shop around for better insurance rates and take advantage of sales whenever you can.

Consider saving windfalls like tax refunds, work bonuses or birthday money. If your budgeted expenses come in lower than expected — perhaps your health care costs or home maintenance needs were less than anticipated this month — save the difference in your emergency fund.

**Have a dedicated account for your fund.** Keep your emergency savings in a separate account from your regular checking, so you're less tempted to use the money for non-emergencies. Choose an account that's easily accessible and without penalties and, while you shouldn't invest emergency money in stocks or bonds, look for an account that earns interest.

**Balance competing priorities.** Building an emergency fund is important, but it shouldn't come at the expense of other crucial financial goals. If you're carrying high-interest debt or missing out

on your employer's retirement contribution matches, address those priorities first, while still building your emergency savings.

Ultimately, you'll want to balance your emergency fund with other goals. To determine an emergency savings target, consider your personal risk for unexpected expenses, your job security and family circumstances. You may need three to six months' worth of savings, or possibly some other amount. If this step feels overwhelming, ask a financial advisor to help you come up with a suitable plan.

The path to financial security requires progress rather than perfection. Begin where you are, use what you have and take one

small step at a time. That first \$500 might feel modest, but it represents the freedom to handle whatever life throws your way.

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

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

*Sponsored articles are submitted by our advertisers. The advertiser is solely responsible for the content of this article.*

## 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](http://www.EconomyCanvasAndAwning.com)

## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A MEANINGFUL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY?



Seeking volunteers in the Worcester/Millbury area who are interested in:



**BOARD & CARD GAMES**



**MOVIE NIGHTS**



**OPEN MICS & LIVE MUSIC**



**GOOD CONVERSATION**



**ARTS & CRAFTS**

**Club 21 is a 1-on-1 volunteer program connecting volunteers (Discovery Members) with an individual with behavioral health challenges or disabilities (Recovery Members). Partners meet twice monthly to do activities and build connection!**

**Interested? Visit [openskycs.org/club21](http://openskycs.org/club21) to learn more!**

# Whitin Community Center Awarded CHNA-6 Grant to Launch Blackstone Valley Essential Needs Distribution Network

The Whitin Community Center, in partnership with Chief Montminy of the Uxbridge Police Department and the Blackstone Valley Interagency Coalition, is proud to announce we have been awarded a Greater Milford Community Network CHNA-6 Community Grant. This funding will support the launch of the Blackstone Valley Essential Needs Distribution

Network, a new initiative focused on making sure families across the region can more easily access everyday necessities like food, clothing, hygiene products, and basic household items. Right now, many organizations receive donations, but there isn't always a simple or coordinated way to share those resources across the region. In addition, sometimes

these donations can be from large regional distribution centers on pallets or in large quantities from stores which makes it difficult for any one agency or organization to accept the donation. This project will change that.

The network will create a centralized system that:

- Collects large donations from regional distribution centers
- Organizes and stores donated items safely with new equipment and shelving
- Shares donated goods across

the region efficiently with local nonprofits, food pantries, shelters, churches, and service agencies through new communication and volunteer apps

By working together, these organizations will be able to reduce waste, avoid duplication, and ensure that donated goods reach the people who need them most and more effectively.

*The Whitin Community Center is committed to enhancing the health and well-being of individuals and*

*families and building a strong community in the Blackstone Valley. We offer social, recreational, educational, and outreach programs that bring community members of all ages and backgrounds together. The Whitin Community Center is the Blackstone Valley's most complete family and recreation center with two swimming pools, a gym, fitness center, early learning programs, summer camps and a seven and a half acre park. For more information call 508.234.8184 or visit www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com.*

## FRED the FOOT GUY

Call Fred Gibson • **Foot Care Nurse**

**508-844-7534**

Providing in-home Senior Toenail and Foot Care Services for 13+ years.

*Trust your feet to Fred!*

**Fully Insured / Flexible Schedule**



## WANTED TO BUY

*Antiques and Old Stuff*

- Bottles • Crocks • Jugs • Costume Jewelry • Pottery • Toys
- Pewter • Glassware • Sterling Silver • Coins • Gold
- Silver Plated Items • Watches • Typewriters • Sewing Machines
- Tools • Radios • Clocks • Lanterns • Lamps • Kitchenware
- Cookware • Knives • Hunting • Fishing • Military • Masonic
- Fire Dept. • Advertising Signs & Much More

**CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396**



## UniQue Checking. Designed Around Your Life.

Experience a UniQue way to bank.

Our new UniQue Checking accounts make banking feel effortless. With two custom crafted accounts, you're able to choose the benefits that fit your lifestyle. Prefer an enhanced experience? Step up to our UniQue Plus Checking for even more rewards, access, and value.

Select the checking account that fits your goals. Apply online or visit any branch to get started.





Member FDIC | NMLS #583135 | 800.578.4270  
49 Church Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588

## Healey Driscoll Administration Awards \$247,000 for Adult Students Heading to College and Workforce Skills

Funding supports 200 entry-level adult students earning college degrees

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced today it awarded \$247,000 in Bridges to College grants to five community colleges and a health care staffing agency to help nearly 200 adult learners strengthen their academic skills and successfully transition into higher education and career training programs.

The Bridges to College Program supports community colleges and organizations that prioritize helping adult, low-income and entry level workers overcome obstacles that may prevent them from completing their degree and launching in-demand careers.

“Every Massachusetts resident deserves the opportunity to con-

tinue their education and build a better future for themselves and their families,” said Governor Maura Healey. “These Bridges to College grants are making it easier for adult learners in the state to get back into the classroom and earn a degree by helping remove barriers, strengthen pathways to college, and create opportunities for Massachusetts residents looking for economic and career growth.”

“Adult learners often face unique challenges when returning to school,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “Bridges to College supports community partnerships that provide the academic preparation, advising

and encouragement students need to take the next step with confidence.”

Quinsigamond Community College (QCC): \$38,208

QCC will register and enroll low-income and entry-level adult workers into the Bridges to College summer program, including outreach, academic preparation, support services and career readiness.

# THOMPSON

## Landscaping & Construction

- DRAINAGE • POOL FILL-INS • LAWN CARE
- LAND CLEARING • FULL LAWN INSTALLS • MULCH
- EXCAVATION • STONE & GRAVEL DRIVEWAYS
- PATIOS • RETAINING WALLS • WALKWAYS

**Millbury, MA • 508-523-7790**

**Ebthompson36@gmail.com • Free Estimates • Fully Insured**

# New England Stone Walls

BY THOMAS J. MCLAUGHLIN

No matter where you go in the New England woods, you're bound to come across the iconic 19th century stone wall. They can be seen everywhere, including on the Midstate Trail.

It's commonly believed that the early New England farmers made these walls as they uncovered frost heaving rocks while plowing their fields each spring, which surely happened. But as to why and when the walls were built, it depends on the wall and who you ask.

Robert Thorson, a landscape geologist at the University of Connecticut, the founder of The Stone Wall Initiative, and the author of Stone by Stone, shares this view, "The walls are simply a disposal pile." But Tom Wessels, an ecologist and the author of Reading the Forest Landscape, says that the earliest New England farmers fenced in their livestock with wooden split rail fences, which was much easier than lugging heavy stones up a hill to build a wall. Wessels believes that farmers would throw the rocks in a rock dump rather than putting time and effort into constructing an extensive network of walls.

Nearly a quarter of a million miles of stone walls were constructed throughout our region

according to Thorson. Wessels calculates that central New England alone has 125,000 miles of stone walls, a length that could wrap around the equator five times or extend more than halfway to the moon. Wessels believes that most of these walls were built in thirty years and that if these walls were in the Mediterranean, rather than New England, they would be the eighth wonder of the world.

Some walls are older than others, depending on when the area was first settled. Walls were built between 1750 and 1850, when New England farms were in their heyday. But according to Wessels, most of the stone walls you see today in Central New England were built between 1810 and 1840, during a period known as "Sheep Fever."

New England was about to experience the most profound change to the landscape since the Ice Age. It was an event that would see more than 80 percent of our forests cut down, hillsides eroded to bare rock, and natural habitats wiped out.

It was a shift from the small farm to larger commercial farming. Between 1810 and 1820 the number of textile mills in the region processing Merino wool multiplied threefold.

It all began after France and

Spain invaded Portugal in 1807, then Napoleon and his French army invaded Spain in 1808, toppling Spain's King Ferdinand VII.

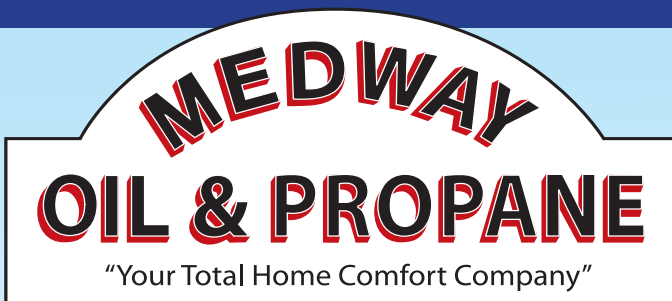
A Bostonian financier, William Jarvis, was appointed by Thomas Jefferson to be the U.S. Consul to Portugal. During the chaos of Napoleon's conquest of Spain, Jarvis seized the opportunity to obtain the previously restricted and much sought after Merino breed of sheep, known for its fine, soft wool. He imported 4,000 of them back to his farm in Weathersfield, Vermont.

Those 4,000 sheep eventually surpassed a million and a half in the next two decades. The boycott of British goods during the War of 1812 was an additional boon to New England's farmers. Wessels believes that it was during this thirty-year period that most of New England's stone walls were built to pen the Merino sheep.

But by 1840, as prices plummeted, new markets opened, and land became available for farming in the west; New England's sheep farms were being abandoned, and by 1900 more than half of the cleared land was reforested once again. Today, these picturesque walls that once meandered through fields and pastures can be found throughout our forests.



Your Neighbors have Voted us **GOLD MEDAL WINNERS** 5 Years in a Row!



FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1954



PROUD WINNER IN THE PROPANE SERVICE & DELIVERY AND HOME HEATING SERVICE CATEGORIES

Supporting the local communities we serve as a charitable partner

**We Provide Support & Discounts\* for Veterans, Military & First Responders**

**CONTACT US TODAY for more information about our Award-winning Delivery & Service**



\*DISCOUNTS ARE FOR AUTO DELIVERY WHOLE HOUSE HEAT CUSTOMERS ONLY, ASK FOR DETAILS.

**800-649-5949 • medwayoilpropane.com • info@medwayoilpropane.com**

# Etiquette Express: Making Everyday Interactions Better

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

BY LEE-ANN BARKHOUSE

The small moments still matter. As we welcome spring here in the Blackstone Valley, there's a natural sense of renewal all around us. The days are a little brighter, neighbors are out walking again, and we begin to reconnect in ways that winter often puts on pause.

It's a gentle reminder that we also have an opportunity to reset how we show up for one another.

In today's world, we are more connected than ever -and yet, in many ways, more distracted. We move quickly. We respond in short messages. We check our phones in between conversations. None of it

is intentional, and yet it can leave others feeling unseen or unheard.

Etiquette today isn't about knowing every rule. It's about awareness. It's about how we show up in the small, everyday moments.

Holding the door. Looking up when someone is speaking. Taking a moment before responding. Following through when we say we will. These are simple things, but they carry meaning. They signal respect. They let others know they matter.

Maya Angelou once said that people may forget what you said or what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel. That feels especially relevant right now.

Here in our community - whether at the market, a local event, or simply passing someone on the sidewalk - we have opportunities every day to make a positive impression. Not in a grand way, but in a genuine one.

We don't need to be perfect. We just need to be present. Because how we show up in the smallest moments is what people remember most.

This spring let's keep it simple. A kind word. A little patience. A thoughtful pause. Small reminders that, together, make our community feel just a little more connected.

**Q.** Is it rude to check your phone during a conversation?

**A.** It can be perceived that way. Even a quick glance can signal that your attention is elsewhere. When possible, give the person in front of you your full attention. It's one of the

simplest ways to show respect.

**Q.** What if I'm busy and can't respond to messages right away?

**A.** That's completely understandable. A brief acknowledgment, "I received this and will follow up" goes a long way. It shows consideration and keeps communication clear.

**Q.** How can I be more present in everyday interactions?

**A.** Start small. Make eye contact. Listen without interrupting. Pause before responding. Presence doesn't require extra time, it simply requires intention.

**ETIQUETTE TIP OF THE MONTH**

**Pause before you respond.** A brief pause, whether in conversation, email, or text, allows you to

respond with intention rather than reaction. It's a simple habit that brings clarity, respect, and thoughtfulness into every interaction.

See you next month, and may we all spring forward with confidence, kindness, and grace.

- 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 U (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.*

## BVT Band & Choir Host Concert for All Evening Performance Celebrates Diversity Through Music

The music program at Blackstone

Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) goes beyond teaching students how to play instruments and sing. It provides a transformative experience that deepens students' understanding of music — its origins, influences, and theory — and encourages them to apply these concepts in performance.

The Band & Choir will present its Concert for All on June 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Competition Center at BVT, 65 Pleasant St., Upton. Conducted by Dr. Colton Cox, students will showcase their musical talents in a dynamic performance. The ensembles will perform a diverse selection of music spanning genres from folk and classical to pop and movie soundtracks and incorporate singing in multiple languages.

The music program has received instrument donations from Hungry for Music, as well as grant funding from local cultural councils. This support is instrumental in building a sustainable program that increases equitable access to a broad range of musical instruments for students. Each instrument placed in a student's hands represents an opportunity for learning and increased participation in the school's band program. By removing financial and other barriers, the program ensures greater access to music education for students who might otherwise be unable to participate.

Students, families and community members are invited to attend the free performance, which is open to the public. This program is funded in part by grants from the Grafton, Northbridge and Upton Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

*About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT):*

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning community that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills. Visit [www.valleytech.k12.ma.us](http://www.valleytech.k12.ma.us).

# Healthier Baking in the Blackstone Valley

BY CHRISTINE GALEONE

As the saying goes, April showers bring May flowers. But they also bring spring baking. Springtime is an ideal time to try recipes that are lighter, more delicate or rich in berries.

As for the latter of the three, have you ever heard of spoon cake? Although its origin is uncertain, many believe that it was invented by early American settlers in the South. And the dessert, which is a cross between a pudding and a cake that's dished out and eaten with a spoon, truly shines when it features berries. This recipe for strawberry almond spoon cake could be an excellent introduction to the delicacy and a cozy addition to your spring baking.

In addition to being made with simple ingredients and less added sugar than many desserts, the featured berry also makes this spoon cake a bit healthier than several other options. Heart-healthy, brain-healthy strawberries offer several benefits. They're rich in fiber, which aids digestion and promotes heart health and brain health through a healthy gut. They're also rich in vitamin C and are sources of calcium, potassium,

folate, manganese, magnesium and iron.

Strawberries contain an abundance of polyphenols, anthocyanins and flavonoids as well. These antioxidants and antioxidant compounds fight free radicals and reduce inflammation, reducing



the risk of cancer (and possibly shrinking it), dementia and other diseases and conditions. And because strawberries are a low-glycemic fruit, they're ideal for people who need to control their glucose levels.

Almonds are also a healthy

ingredient. They're especially good for heart health since they can reduce inflammation and lower blood pressure. They also can lower bad LDL cholesterol while increasing good HDL cholesterol. Additionally, they contain protein, magnesium, calcium, phosphorus, potassium, vitamin E and vitamin B2.

## STRAWBERRY ALMOND SPOON CAKE

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup of flour
- 1 tsp. of baking powder
- ½ cup. of salted butter (melted)
- 1/3 cup of buttermilk
- ½ cup of brown sugar
- 1 tsp. of almond extract
- 2 tsp. of lemon peel (grated)
- 1 cup of strawberries (rinsed and sliced)
- ½ cup of almonds (sliced)

### Directions:

Pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees. In a medium-sized bowl, toss the strawberries with a teaspoon of lemon peel. Whisk flour and baking powder together in another medium-sized bowl. In a large bowl, combine the butter, buttermilk, brown sugar, almond extract and the remaining lemon peel. Mix in the flour mixture until a smooth

batter has been formed. Spread the batter evenly in an 8"X 8" baking pan. Distribute the strawberries and almonds evenly over the batter. Bake the spoon cake for around 25-30 minutes and let cool for 15-20 minutes. Serve warm and enjoy!

The rainy days of April may inspire you to stay in and whip up some spring recipes in your kitchen. But this recipe comes together so easily that you may be equally inspired on a beautiful day in May. Happy (healthier) baking!

**Worcester Area's Largest and Oldest Window & Siding Dealer**

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

**CAPITOL SIDING CO., INC.**

Honest Sales,  
Superior  
Workmanship  
and Service.

**Vinyl Siding • Seamless Gutters • Doors  
Replacement Windows • Roofing**

**FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED**

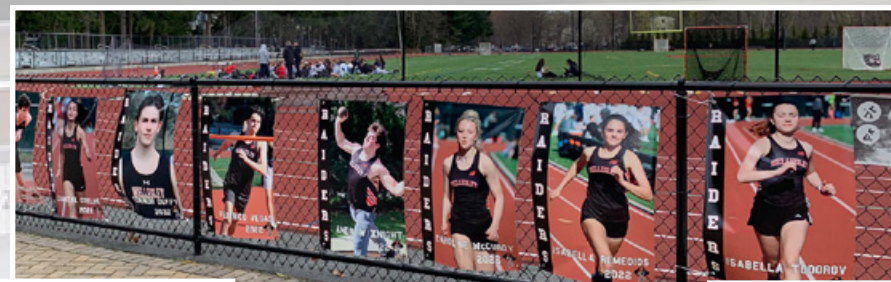
Capitol Siding Company has been in business for over 75 years with over 23,000 satisfied customers. Our customers can expect consistent product quality and skillful performance from our sales staff and trained professional installers. We deliver service and value.

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

**Check us out on the web: [www.capitolsiding.com](http://www.capitolsiding.com)**

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 [loctownpages.com](http://loctownpages.com)



ourtownpublishing.com

## GET NOTICED!

Contact Bill at 774-289-5564 or by email at [bcronan@theyankeeexpress.com](mailto:bcronan@theyankeeexpress.com) to advertise

### The Little Coffee Bean

#### SPRING SPECIAL!!



SOUP AND  
WHOLE SANDWICH

Just **\$11.99**  
(with this coupon)

Look for other  
Spring Specials throughout  
the coming months



113 Main St,  
Upton, MA  
(508) 529-2161

Remember,  
GIFT CARDS  
Make  
Great Gifts!

## NORTHBRIDGE

# COIN & GOLD

83 Church St., Whitinsville, MA  
(508) 266-0265

Store Hours: Wednesday and Thursday 10-5  
Friday 10-7; Saturday 10-2

Shop our always changing  
inventory

## BUYING

Gold & Silver  
Coins & Currency  
Jewelry & Diamonds  
Comics & Cards

Stop by or make an appointment

## TALES FROM BEYOND

[tomdagostino.com](http://tomdagostino.com)

# The Legend Of Laura Sherman

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

New England is full of incredible legends and stories that add to the magic of the region. There is one certain legend that resides near the Tri-State border of Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

At the crossroads of Wakefield and Croff in Burrillville, Rhode Island, one will find the remains of a small burial lot. If it were not for the sign that marks it as Rhode Island Historical Cemetery #1, visitors may never know it is actually the Sherman family burial lot.

Raised up from the road by a stone wall, the unmarked plot holds the remains of five members of the Sherman family and what looks like the remains of a cellar hole where perhaps their cabin once graced, or the last remnants of a family mausoleum. Buried in this lot are Caroline Sherman, born 1837- death unknown, Clark Sherman, born 1831- death unknown, Ellen Sherman, birth and death dates unknown, Laura Marsh Sherman, born September 24, 1803- died 1870, and Squire Crandell Sherman, born July 1828 and died April 21, 1879.

The only trace of gravestones is the base of Laura Sherman's monument. The others have nothing left but mounds rising

from the earth to show of their being buried there. Legends states the rest of the stones were stolen to perform some sort of rituals. More than likely, they were field stone markers long sunken into the earth or stones that were carried away for some other re-purposing. This would seem easy to do as the lot is located in an isolated area along the woods of Buck Hill.

The lack of death dates on record would indicate that the Clark family buried their own and never bothered to record exact dates of death with the town. Some claim that Caroline and Ellen may have been the wives of Clark Sherman, but it is the grave of Laura Sherman, the oldest of them all, that is of interest in this narrative. Laura may have been the matriarch of the family, who even in death, still watches over her loved ones.

It has been passed down from generation to generation that Laura haunts the lot. If you visit on a full moon and dance around her grave thirteen times, she will appear and answer your questions. It is a local legend that has been attempted many times. Some have fled in fear as Laura Sherman materialized out of a wisp of smoke, keeping her part of the bargain for their toil, while

others swore the whole story is nothing more than an urban legend created by the local boy scout camp at Buck Hill.

There are other stories of people who swore Laura Sherman watches over the graveyard. Many of the Burrillville residents say that they have been startled, or even frightened by what they believe is the ghost of Laura standing at the edge of the plot looking at the road as they drove by. When they would look back, the ghost would be gone.

One account relates to a small group of high school students who decided to call forth the spirit of Laura. One of the girls circled the grave thirteen times while the small throng waited anxiously for the ghost to appear. After a while, they felt deceived by the spirit and left the lot. While driving away, the people in the other car noticed an old woman sitting in the back seat of the car driven by the girl who tried to summon Laura from her eternal rest.

If you decide to visit the cemetery, it is advised to do so for historical purposes only and be thoughtful and courteous to both the living and the dead. The neighboring houses keep watch for vandalism or unruly behavior.



## Nicolopoulos Plumbing and Heating, Inc.

5 Harback Road  
Sutton, MA 01590  
508-865-3713

### RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL

- Heating Repairs & Installations
- Plumbing Repairs & Replacements
- HVAC Repairs & Replacements
- Remodels • Drain Cleaning

NO JOB  
TOO  
SMALL

**NOW SERVICING OIL SYSTEMS!!**

**- 24 Hour Emergency Service -**

[www.nicolopoulosplumbingandheating.com](http://www.nicolopoulosplumbingandheating.com)

Lic. #MPL 15663

SPORTS

# From Nothing to Something

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTSWRITER

Allison DaSilva found herself running track in middle school, but by the time she entered high school, the Sutton native was looking to put running behind her and try something new.

found she was going to start for the team as the third singles player. At the time Sutton already had two established doubles teams so she found her way into third singles, which she believes was for the better.

“Playing third singles was better for me as it allowed me to figure

and the Hustle and Drive award as a junior,” Zagame said. “As a field hockey player she has also won the sportsmanship award, which speaks volumes of her character.”

Now as she enters her senior season with the Sutton racketeers she has once again been elevated and will play as the team’s number one singles player. With the promotion she is once again somewhat scared to take upon the best tennis players but finds herself much more confident than the past.

“I will be going up against the other team’s top players, but I believe that my skills are capable of competing with those good players,” she said. “I may struggle

at times, but you can’t win them all; I’ll be happy just to stay close to them and fight.”

This year DaSilva was once again named a captain, but she feels just because she has a title it doesn’t mean that she is above anyone else. According to the senior, everyone on the team is on the same level; she’s just there to support others as a captain.

“She is not a loud or over the top type of captain,” the Sutton coach said. “She teaches by example and the kids feed into her play and energy and she definitely works hard for the benefit of the team.”

As she and her Suzie teammates take part in her final high school

season, DaSilva is hoping that the team can once again make it into the State Tournament while going further than last year, when they were the 10th seed in the Division 4 Tournament.

Individually the senior is looking to put up winning numbers while improving her speed and accuracy with her serving. Having had lessons she feels that she doesn’t double fault as much since she first began playing.

Upon saying goodbye to Sutton High School DaSilva is looking to go to a big university where she plans on playing both tennis and field hockey on the club level.



Sutton Suzies tennis team captain Allison DaSilva. Courtesy photo.

The incoming freshman wanted to switch things up while still staying active and having a couple of older friends playing tennis, she decided to give it a shot.

“I had been involved in some tennis camps when I was in elementary school, but nothing serious,” she said. “I knew coming in as a freshman the numbers were low so there wouldn’t be any cuts, but I was still very nervous. I could hit the ball over the net, but I was not good by any means.”

As a freshman on the varsity squad she was there primarily to learn the game of tennis and improve upon her skills. She found out quickly that she was pretty much in the dark on the tennis court and needed to learn about the game if she were to ever play in a starting role for the Sutton Suzies.

“My first match was definitely a learning experience, it was tough and I didn’t even know how to score,” DaSilva said. “After that I went home and started viewing YouTube videos to learn about scoring and to pick up some pointers.”

Following her freshman campaign she worked on hitting the ball and building up her skills. That summer she would work with some friends on the team to get her ready for her sophomore season. As the tennis season began in the spring of her sophomore year she

things out on the court myself, while not hurting anyone else by playing doubles,” she said.

“She’s a natural athlete and plays field hockey as well,” Sutton girls tennis Coach Mike Zagame said. “Once on the team she began learning from the girls ahead of her and how to be part of a strong team. She consistently practiced to get better and became a backboard on the courts outlasting her opponents.”

As she and her game began to grow as a tennis player she started to realize that tennis could become something in her future, so she began taking tennis lessons. Her junior year she was moved up to second singles, something that originally terrified DaSilva as she felt that she wasn’t good enough and would get destroyed on the courts. Although the-then junior was scared about the season she managed to put her fears behind her and put forth a phenomenal year going 17-4 as a second singles player. DaSilva was also named the Dual Valley Conference Player of the Year.

In addition to being named DCV Player of the Year DaSilva has earned numerous awards while playing on the tennis courts for Sutton.

“As a freshman she was Rookie of the Year, won the sportsmanship award during her sophomore year

Our Family Caring For Yours

## MULHANE

*Home for Funerals*

*Honoring. Remembering. Celebrating*

For Over 150 Years

**Stuart & Matthew Mulhane**

45 N. Main Street, Millbury  
508.865.2560  
www.mulhane.com

Create a meaningful online memorial tribute to honor, remember and celebrate your beloved pet.

**MULHANE**  
*Pet Tributes*

For your free online pet tribute visit our website or contact us directly at [matthew@mulhane.com](mailto:matthew@mulhane.com)

**508-865-2560**  
[www.mulhanepettributes.com](http://www.mulhanepettributes.com)

Scan for info

## Spring Up Your Space

Seasonal style starts here!

Budget Blinds of Blackstone Valley  
*Now Under New Ownership!*

Blinds • Shades • Shutters • Drapes • Home Automation

Allison LeMay  
774.670.8161  
[alemay@budgetblinds.com](mailto:alemay@budgetblinds.com)  
[www.budgetblinds.com](http://www.budgetblinds.com)

Call 774.670.8161 for a Free Consultation

©2025 Budget Blinds, LLC. All Rights Reserved. Budget Blinds is a trademark of Budget Blinds, LLC and a Home Franchise Concepts Brand. Each franchise independently owned and operated.

Style and service for every budget.®



## LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

# Luke Does His Job

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

I don't like to leave Luke alone for more than three hours, let alone for almost a week. But vacations are a part of life. I needed some Florida sunshine. I'd like to say Luke understood - that he was happy for me, supportive even. But I'm a terrible liar.

The truth is, Luke did not understand.

Why would anyone walk out on a loved one?

"My Mom doesn't love me anymore." He sniffed the evidence - the overstuffed bag that meant Mom's annual mission to avoid checking-

in luggage. Then he turned and escaped to his bed, curling into a tight ball until his tail covered his mouth.

"I love you, Luke! Mummy's going for a ride. I'll be back in a few days. You're going to stay with Daddy." I cupped his bear cub face in my hands and kissed his nose.

The whisker above his right eye lifted when I spoke his language: Stay with Daddy. He considered the phrase, one with multiple meanings—fun walks, snuggle time, shared silence during workdays, frisbee, and yard work. Daddy is a good person.

The problem was -  
He sighed long.  
Daddy isn't Mommy.

My early morning flight didn't help sanctify our lukewarm separation. I followed the airplane alphabet to a row of seats that re-

sembled a toddler's booster chair and popped open the overhead bin. No room for another bag. Worse, even my small one barely fit beneath the seat.

A watchful flight attendant noticed. "Please be sure your bag is tucked fully underneath the seat," she said.

Easier said than done. My belted midsection - seatbelt light on - couldn't bend enough to manage the bag. Under her eye, I wrestled with a stubborn metal bar until, finally, I shoved it into place. The stares of my cabin neighbors - an elderly couple far more organized than I was - beat down on me like a noon day sun.

"Hi there," I tried. "I'm Amy."

The wife adjusted her mask to blow her nose into a wad of tissues, then folded it neatly for reuse. Her husband gazed out the window. I leaned back and closed my eyes.

Luke filled my thoughts.  
"Hey Mom! Sit next to me! What's in that bag? Did you bring any frisbees? No problem - I'll give you my paw in case you're nervous about flying. Anxiety? Who am I to talk? I can't even handle the vibration of my groomer's nail buffer."

His imagined voice was bright, reassuring.

Which was ironic, considering he trembles at the hum of a nail buffer at the groomers. His back



legs shake, his eyes widen - every unfamiliar sensation a small betrayal. There is no version of this world where I could place him in a crate beneath a plane and call it care.

I've been told there's an easy workaround. "Just get him a service vest—you can bring him anywhere."

But I'm a terrible liar.  
Luke isn't a service dog.  
And yet -

"You have the best dog!" says the delivery driver, pausing for a game of frisbee.

"Can they pet him?" asks a tired mother, grateful for a moment's stillness while her children reach for his soft ears.

"Can I give him a command?" a teenager asks, lingering a little longer than necessary.

"Do you want to talk about it?" he seems to say without words, again and again, to the people who need it most.

Luke does not perform tasks on command. He doesn't wear a vest or carry credentials.

But he serves.  
In presence. In patience. In the steady offering of himself.

A few rows ahead, the flight attendant demonstrates the oxygen mask - how to secure it over your face, how to help others once you've helped yourself. Her gestures are

practiced, efficient, necessary.  
She is doing her job.

By the time I return home, the trip has blurred into sun and salt and easy conversation. The door opens. My bag drops. His name leaves my mouth before I see him.  
"Luke!"

The sound comes first - his nails striking the floor in a rapid, uneven rhythm - then his whole body, wiggling, folding, spilling toward me. He whimpers, yelps, sings something that resembles a trumpet played just slightly out of tune.

I sink to the floor, and he crowds into me, insistent, certain. The bags are forgotten, reduced to objects to sniff, proof that I left and - more importantly - returned.

His joy is immediate. Physical. Unfiltered.

There is no hesitation in it. No withholding.

Only presence.  
Luke doesn't question where I've been. He doesn't measure time in days or distance in miles. He knows only this: I am here.

And he is exactly where he needs to be.

Doing his job.

Write to Amy - amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Visit Luke on IG livingwithluke-valentino

### SCHULTZY'S PLACE

**Winner of Worcester's Hot Dog Safari's Golden Hot Dog!**

**Now featuring Homemade Portuguese Chourico Hash and Corned Beef Hash**

3 Boston Road (Heritage Plaza) Sutton, MA • (508) 865-6777  
Hrs.: Mon.-Sat. 5:30am-2pm; Sundays 6:30am to 2pm

~ Spring Special ~

\$300 OFF

a \$20 purchase Mon.-Fri. ONLY

\$

One per table, not to be combined. Exp. 4/30/26

# Gibson's Natural Pet Resort

Lodging ~ Daycare  
Grooming  
Training  
Pet Supplies

139 Upton St. (Rt. 140),  
Grafton, Ma 01519  
Phone: 508-839-1757  
Fax: 508-839-1736

Grafton@GibsonsNaturalPet.com  
www.GibsonsNaturalPet.com

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 6:30am to 6pm  
Fri. 9:30am-4pm Closed for lunch 12-1pm  
Sat. 8am to noon Sun. 5pm to 6pm only

Licensed & Insured Free Estimates

## LYNCH FENCE CO.

- Serving RI & MA Since 2001 -

401-356-4699 - LYNCHFENCECO.COM

# Summit Campus and QCC Announce 3-Week Summer College Readiness Program

Summit Campus and Quinsigamond Community College's Student Accessibility Services today announced the *Summer College Prep Program*, a new collaborative summer program designed to help rising high school juniors and seniors develop self-advocacy, strengthen academic skills and prepare for meaningful post-secondary options.

The three-week summer self-

exploration and college readiness program will provide diverse learners with an immersive college experience on QCC's campus that includes writing workshops and personal development sessions. The program also offers an optional dormitory living experience at Summit Campus, called Summit Summer Launch.

"I have always believed that students with learning differences

need an experience to show them what they may not be able to envision on their own. This program can impact a student's vision of their future immeasurably and create a pathway to higher education that may not have seemed possible," said Nikki Koppel, director of Summit Campus. "This partnership creates a supportive environment where students can

grow academically and personally while gaining real insight into college life."

"Quinsigamond Community College is proud to partner with Summit Campus to support students in our community as they prepare for their educational futures," said Kristen Proctor, director of Student Accessibility Services & Assistive Technology.

"This program reflects our commitment to expanding access to college readiness opportunities and helping students see themselves as future college scholars."

All accepted students will attend sessions on study strategies, time management, college expectations, self-care and stress management. The program will also offer a variety of social events and excursions.

## Millbury Senior Center

The Millbury Senior Center offers services for seniors including: SHINE clinic, podiatry clinic, 3rd Friday of each month; Memory Café, 4th Tuesday of each month. All three require appointments, call 508-865-9154. Other drop-in activities include: Monday, light exercise, Mahjong, Zumba, Tuesday, blood pressure clinic, Tai Chi, Cribbage; Wednesday, craft class, line dancing, social bingo; Thursday, yoga, coloring class, Pitch; Friday, shopping, light exercise. Lunch is offered every day. For more information about Senior Center activities, visit <https://www.millburyma.gov/senior-center/pages/classes-clinics>. Coffee and Cribbage is looking for players: Join them every morning at 8:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic: Every Tuesday at 9 a.m. Walking with Julie: Every Wednesday, 2 to 3 p.m. Adult Coloring Club: Every Thursday, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Shopping trip, every Friday, 9 a.m. pick up, return 11 a.m. Trip alternates between Market Basket in Shrewsbury and Market 32 in Sutton.

## Grafton Community Garden

With March going out like a lamb, it won't be long before Grafton residents can plant tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers. The Lee Knowlton Community Garden, under the auspices of the Grafton Garden Club, is accepting applications now from Grafton residents who would like to reserve their own 20' by 20' garden plot. The yearly rental for one plot is \$20. Located off Estabrook Road, each plot is large enough for a substantial garden. The entire garden is fenced to keep out garden predators, like deer. On April 25 the Community Garden will open for a general cleaning and preparation for the planting season.

In May, after the threat of frost has past, you can plant vegetables, herbs, flowers, and/or berries at the Community Garden. Your tender plants will need to be watered and weeded, once or twice each week depending upon the weather. You will need to supply your own tools and water.

To sign up and get a plot, go to the Grafton Garden Club website at [www.graftongardenclub.org](http://www.graftongardenclub.org). Click the Community Garden link and then on Apply. Read the rules, fill out the forms, and mail the signed forms and your check to the Grafton Garden Club, PO Box 453, Grafton, MA 01519-0453. If

you have any questions, you can call Dick Kirejczyk, Manager of the Community Garden, at 508-839-4867, or send an email to [rjk185@yahoo.com](mailto:rjk185@yahoo.com).

The Community Garden was established to promote and support local horticulture for the residents of Grafton. The Grafton Garden Club encourages the local production of food and promotes the educational benefits of agriculture.

The Grafton Garden Club, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization which welcomes new members to any of our meetings and events. The Grafton Garden Club, where gardeners grow...since 1931.



## Landscape & Masonry Materials

*Homeowners & Contractors Welcome!*

- Bulk Loam • Mulch • Stone
- Concrete & Mason Sand
- Compost • Grass Seed • Fire Pits
- Bluestone • PA Fieldstone • Granite
- Flagstone • Cobblestone
- Palletized Stone • Chimney Supplies
- Concrete & Mortar Products
- UniLock Pavers and Walls

**2677 Broncos Highway, Nasonville, RI**  
(Former Roots & Shoots)  
**401-766-7333**

Monday - Friday 7am - 4pm • Delivery Available



- Grooming
- Daycare
- Boarding

## Bark - N - Bubbles<sup>sm</sup>



154 Riverlin St.  
Millbury, MA 01527  
[BarkNBubblesMillbury.com](http://BarkNBubblesMillbury.com)  
**508-865-8155**



# 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!**



*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](mailto:jpaul@aanortheast.com)

# Cutting an Electronic Key Fob

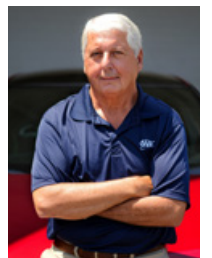
**Q.** I am purchasing a 2014 BMW GT xDrive, and it comes with just one key

fob. I have read that Home Depot sells a DIY kit for matching a key fob to my vehicle. The Home

Depot key machine can physically cut the key, but I need it linked to my car electronically as well. Any suggestions on the best and most economical method of accomplishing this?

to check that it comes with more than one key.

**Q.** I own a 2013 Volvo S60 with 101,000 miles. I recently took the car to my mechanic for routine service. Everything is fine, but he mentioned that at 120,000 miles Volvo recommends



BY JOHN PAUL

changing the timing belt, belt tensioner, and related parts. He stated that the engine is a direct-interference engine and would be ruined if the timing belt failed. He said that time is as much a concern as mileage because of belt age. I was planning to wait until 120,000 miles, which could be another three or four years. I have owned the car for 10 years and plan to keep it. Would it be prudent to do this service sooner?

**A.** The short answer is yes, you should change the timing belt. Your shop is correct that this engine is an interference engine. If the timing belt were to fail, the pistons and valves would collide and could cause major engine damage. Volvo's service information specifies timing belt replacement at 120,000 miles or 10 years, whichever comes first. If this were my car and I planned to keep it, I would replace the timing belt and associated components now rather than risk failure based on age alone.

**Q.** What are your thoughts on Harbor Freight hand tools? My nephew, who works

**U-KNIGHTED**  
AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR

*We are the "Give me a BRAKE... I'm EXHAUSTED Repair Shop"*

45 East Hartford Ave., Uxbridge  
**508-526-3169**

**FREE Brake Inspection**  
with every Oil Change

Senior Discount Available

**Custom Exhaust & Brake Experts**  
• Engines • Transmissions • Tires • Oil Changes  
• Brakes • Converters • Welding & Fabrication Services

Same day service on most repairs

**KEARNS**

**COLLISION Repair**

**FREE ESTIMATES • QUALITY SERVICE**  
1734 Providence Rd., Northbridge, MA • 508-234-5211  
Thomas F. Colonair Jr.  
[www.kearnscollision.com](http://www.kearnscollision.com)

**WE BUY CARS!**  
**DEAD OR ALIVE!**

Call Rob  
at (508) 958-7138

**Evergreen Auto, Inc.**

*Proudly Serving Worcester County for 4 Generations!*

**Whitinsville, MA**

**110 Linwood Ave**  
**Whitinsville, MA**  
**(508) 234-9442**

**HOURS**  
Mon.-Fri. 7am to 5pm;  
Sat. 7am-Noon;  
Closed Sundays

**NEW EXPANSION OF 7 SERVICE BAYS!!!**

- ⊗ All Major Tire Brands
- ⊗ Diagnostics
- ⊗ AC Recharge
- ⊗ Scheduled Maintenance Programs

- ⊗ Full Automotive Repairs
- ⊗ 4-Wheel Alignment
- ⊗ Timing Belts
- ⊗ Diesel Repair

**WWW.CROTHERSTIRE.COM**

**VALLEY GASOLINE / ZEUS GARAGE**

*Complete Auto, Truck & Motorcycle Repair*

- **Tire Special -**  
Call for quote and we will beat any written repair facility quote by 15%
- **Repair Work Special -**  
We will beat any written repair facility quote by 10%

194 CHURCH STREET, WHITINSVILLE, MA  
**508-266-7220**

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**

**INSPECTIONS AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
MON.-FRI. 7AM-6:30PM  
SAT. 7AM-5PM  
SUN. 8:30AM-4PM

**Foreign & Domestic Car Sales**

**U-Haul Rentals**

**Vehicle & Motorcycle Inspections**

**ROY'S**  
GLASS

**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
- Vehicles equipped with convertible or vinyl roof
- Customer safety and satisfaction is our first priority
- 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](http://roysautoglass.net)**

REAL ESTATE

# The Best Week To List Your House Is Just Around the Corner

While the Spring season consistently offers up some of the best conditions for home sellers, there's one window where the stars really seem to align year after year and it's coming up fast. Based on an analysis of



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

historical trends, the ideal week to put your house on the market this year is April 12-18. Here's why this window stands out as being particularly seller-friendly:

Buyers are more active. According to the research coming out of Realtor.com, homes listed during this week typically get about 16.7 percent more views than in a normal week and in a market where buyers have options, getting that

extra attention can set the tone for your entire sale.

Sales happen faster. The added demand from buyers sets you up for a faster process. While homes have been taking longer to sell lately, homes up for sale this week were on the market for 17 percent less time than usual and that's a difference you'll be able to feel.

A better price for your house. Since the number of homes for sale has grown, it's normal for buyers to ask for credits, repairs, and price adjustments today. But, during this early Spring window, about 18.9 percent fewer homes do a price cut. That gives you a better chance of getting your full asking price.

More profit in your pocket. According to the study, well-prepped homes listed this week can command a price that's about \$5,300 more than the average week and \$26,000 more than homes at the start of the year. What seller doesn't want more eyes on their house, getting an offer in hand sooner (rather than later), and their best shot at selling for top dollar?

What you need to do to get ready? If you're already thinking about selling and you want to take advantage of this sweet spot, your next step is shockingly simple. Just talk to a member of The Marzeotti Group or your trusted real estate professional. Our expertise on your area is going to be key over the next few weeks because these trends are going to vary by state, city, and even neighborhood. We will use that insider knowledge to help you figure out what you need to do now to get your house ready. Including: What you'll want to spruce up before listing, how to prioritize any repairs (and contractors that can help), quick wins that'll have a big impact.

What buyers care most about today: For some sellers, that's a few easy fixes they can knock out in the next couple of weeks. A fresh coat of paint, some new mulch, or some light Spring cleaning. For others, it's worth taking another month or so to make some minor updates before listing and that's okay. Because while this mid-April window

may give sellers an advantage, it's not your only opportunity to sell. Other experts say a great time to list is in May too and that means the golden window for sellers isn't closing after this one week.

Getting your house on the market in mid-April may give you an extra edge, but the bigger opportunity is the Spring season as a

whole. The real question is: Do you know what you need to do before you can list, because it's officially go-time for any seller planning a Spring move. If you want your house to hit the market this week (or even this season), talk to a member of The Marzeotti Group today to about what it'll take to get it ready.

**Mark Marzeotti**  
REALTOR®

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

945 W. Boylston Street  
Worcester, MA 01606

## CAR DOCTOR

continued from page 16

on my car, has started working at a local repair shop and I want to help him build his tool collection.

Harbor Freight sells a wide range of hand tools with varying levels of quality. When I started in the trade, Snap-On and MAC tool trucks came to the shop weekly, and it was very easy to overspend. I also worked near a Sears store, and in many cases the Craftsman line of hand tools met my needs, and I still have many of them today. More recently, I needed triple-square drivers for Volkswagen repairs and purchased a set at Harbor Freight, which worked just fine. I am somewhat particular about torque accuracy and purchased their digital torque adapter, which effectively turns any ratchet or breaker bar into a torque wrench. I found it to be quite accurate and very compact. Bottom line, in my opinion, the Pittsburgh line is better suited for DIY use, while Doyle and Icon tools can, in some cases, approach tool-truck quality at a much more affordable price.

I have a 2022 Chevy Camaro, which I find both fun and stylish. During its

last service visit for a check engine light, the technician found a misfire. He said there was coolant in the spark plug tube, not inside the cylinder itself, causing the misfire. He cleaned it up and the car is running fine. He pressure-tested the cooling system and did not find any leaks. What is going on?

On some GM engines, the cylinder heads can be porous due to manufac-

turing defects. These porous areas can allow coolant to seep into the spark plug tubes. Unfortunately, the spark plug tubes are cast and permanently sealed into the cylinder head and are not serviceable. In these cases, the only proper repair is replacement of the affected cylinder head.

**Professional Car Cleaning  
Motorcycles & Boats  
Wash Away Winter!**  
Let Us Do It For You!

Over 41 years in business • Hand Wax • Ceramic Coating

218 Worcester St., N. Grafton  
774-272-0815  
www.catacchioautodetail.com

**catacchio**  
AUTO  
DETAIL

**MAIN STREET  
Auto  
& TOWING**

- Mass. Inspections (Up To 26,000 GVW)
- Tires & Tire Repairs
- General Repairs
- Front Ends
- Brakes • Exhaust

2040 Providence Rd., Northbridge  
(508) 372-9595

**Diane Luong**  
CBR, SRES, MBA  
774-239-2937

**JoAnn Szymczak**  
GRI, SRES, CBR  
774-230-5044

**Diane is the #1 MA real estate affiliate with the Homes for Heroes Program**

**We've rewarded a total of \$224,623 in rewards to our hero home buyers and sellers**

Are you a hero? Or Do you know a hero?  
Law Enforcement, Firefighter/EMS, Healthcare, Military and Teachers—GET REWARDED!

**Local Mortgage Lending. Trusted Guidance.**

Whether you're buying your next home, building your dream house, or refinancing, UniBank's local mortgage lenders are here to help.

We'll put our expertise to work for you – offering personalized guidance and making the mortgage process feel a little less overwhelming and a lot more approachable. From your first home to your forever home – we're here to help.

**Let's Connect!**  
Visit [unibank.mymortgage-online.com](http://unibank.mymortgage-online.com) or scan the QR code to connect with one of our trusted lenders today.

**UNIBANK**  
Connecting all offices: 1.800.578.4270  
[www.unibank.com](http://www.unibank.com)

Member FDIC • NMLS #583135 • Homeowners insurance required. Subject to credit approval. Other terms, fees, and conditions may apply.



**MILLBURY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
PRESENTS THE  
**9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**  
**MILLBURY FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL & CRAFT FAIR**  
MILLBURY HIGH SCHOOL,  
12 MARTIN STREET MILLBURY  
MAY 17, 2026 • 11AM TO 5PM

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!**

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT STREET FOOD**

**Vote for Peoples Choice BEST Food Truck**

**Harvest Moon Motorsports**  
Come meet owner/driver Brian Tagg #9 Winner of Thompson Speedway track championship 2015  
**Admission \$5.00 - Under 12 FREE**  
School Board Policy: Only Service Dogs on Property

Email: [millburyfoodtruckfestival@gmail.com](mailto:millburyfoodtruckfestival@gmail.com)  
Facebook: Millbury Food Truck Festival



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

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25**

• The museum of the Millbury Historical Society in the Asa Waters Mansion will be open from 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Some of the museum’s holdings are: 100 years of Aftermath year books; photos of churches, schools, downtown and sports. Also, scrap-books, research books, and the histories of Millbury and Sutton going back to colonial times. President Taft photo memorabilia, military uniforms, guns and flags.

**SATURDAY, MAY 2**

• Friends of the Auburn Library Annual Book Sale from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Auburn Public Library, 369 Southbridge Street, Auburn. Cash, check, credit card or PayPal. All proceeds of the book sale will be used to fund and enhance services, expand programs and purchase other extraordinary items not included in the municipal budget.

• Northbridge Fire Dept Annual Spaghetti Supper from 4-8 p.m. Join us for dine-in or takeout featuring spaghetti with home-

made meatballs, salad, bread and dessert. All proceeds support our annual fireworks display.

**THURSDAY, MAY 7**

• Valley Chapel invites the community to join in a special time of prayer on from 6-7 p.m. in the church café, as part of the National Day of Prayer. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the National Day of Prayer, an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, when people across the United States are encouraged to come together in prayer for the nation. Established by Congress in 1952, this day has become a meaningful tradition, uniting individuals, families, churches, and communities in seeking God’s guidance, wisdom, and blessing. The National Day of Prayer has deep roots in American history, dating back to 1775, when the Continental Congress first called for a day of prayer as the nation sought direction and unity. Today, it continues to serve as a reminder of the importance of turning to God in times of both challenge and gratitude. Valley Chapel’s gathering will be a simple and meaningful time set aside to seek God together, lift up our nation, and glorify Him. All are welcome to attend—whether coming individually, with family, or as part of a group. This local observance is part of a nationwide movement, with prayer events taking place from coast to coast, bringing people from all backgrounds together in a spirit of humility, hope, and faith. We warmly invite anyone who would like to join us in prayer as we seek God for renewal, guidance, and blessing for our community and our country.

**SATURDAY, MAY 16**

• The 11th Annual Family Fun Fishing Day at River Ben Farm, 287 Oak Street, Uxbridge will be held from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. with a rain date on Sunday. Fishing will take place until 1 p.m. with awards at 1:30 p.m. There will be activities for the whole family with food and ice cream available for purchase. All ages and ability levels are welcome. Fishing poles, bail and instruction will be available with pre-registration and participants are welcome to bring their own. Pre-registration will open on April 15 at [openskycys.org/fishingday2026](http://openskycys.org/fishingday2026). This is a free event, but pre-registration is hosted by Open Sky Community Services and Blackstone River Watershed Association.

• Calling all Gardeners, Growers & Farmers to the 5th Annual Dudley Grows Together Plant Hop The Dudley Agricultural Advisory Commission is excited to announce the 5th Annual Dudley Grows Together Plant Hop, taking place on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM — rain or shine. The Plant Hop is a community event that gives local Dudley farmers and gardeners the opportunity to sell vegetable and flower seedlings directly from their homes or growing locations throughout Dudley. A map of participating locations will be created and distributed by the Commission so visitors from Dudley and surrounding com-

munities can easily travel from stop to stop to shop for locally grown plants. New this year, the Agricultural Advisory Commission seeks Dudley residents who are interested in participating as plant sellers. Gardeners are welcome to sell vegetable or flower seedlings and plants (please note cannabis and hemp plants are not permitted). Residents who would like to participate should sign up by emailing [ameradaholsteins@charter.net](mailto:ameradaholsteins@charter.net) or [LLorkiewicz@dudleyma.gov](mailto:LLorkiewicz@dudleyma.gov) so their location can be included on the official event map. The deadline to sign up as a seller is Monday, April 20, 2026.

• Saint Peter’s Parish in Northbridge is having an Italian Chicken Dinner on Saturday, May 16th starting at 5:30 pm in the parish hall. Bring you family and friends for a wonderful meal and meet some new friends. Tickets are \$17 per dinner and include salad and dessert. To go meals will be available for pick up at 5:00pm. All orders must be purchased in advance by Tuesday, May 12th. Please call 508-234-2156 or email the parish office: [parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org](mailto:parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org) for tickets.

**THURSDAY, MAY 21**

• The Metacomet Land Trust will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2026 starting at 6:30 pm with a business meeting and the presentation of Community Spirit awards at the Sutton High School auditorium at 383 Boston Road in Sutton. This will be followed at 7 pm by our guest speaker, Stefanie Covino. Covino is the Executive Director of the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative and she will discuss the importance of our land and water nexus. She will describe how the work of the Collaborative and Metacomet Land Trust is critical to the overall health of the communities where Metacomet works including Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Franklin, Hopedale, Mendon, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge and Wrentham in south Central Massachusetts. We will also play a quick round of watershed trivia! Please join us as we all strive to know our watershed better. For more information, go to [Metacomet-LandTrust.org](http://Metacomet-LandTrust.org).

• The Douglas Open Space Committee invites Douglas landowners to attend an informational session on how to protect their fields and forests. The event will be held on Thursday, May 21 at 6 pm at the Douglas Municipal Center at 29 Depot Street in the Resource Room. A MassWoods land preservation webinar will be shown and Lisa Mosczynski, President of the area’s regional Metacomet Land Trust, will provide additional information and answer questions. Excellent permanent protection is available to landowners and can offer property tax reduction or elimination, be tailored to specific needs such as including a building envelope for future generations and offer peace of mind for estate planning. Permanent protection also has

**SAMUEL SLATER’S RESTAURANT**

**LAKESIDE DINING**  
200 GORE ROAD, WEBSTER, MA  
[WWW.SAMUELSLATERS.COM](http://WWW.SAMUELSLATERS.COM)



**UPCOMING EVENTS AT SAMUEL SLATER’S HALL**

**THE PEACHEATERS:**  
AN ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND EXPERIENCE • APRIL 25  
WHISKEY BOULEVARD • MAY 1  
ABRAXAS: SANTANA TRIBUTE BAND • MAY 16  
FIDDLE FIRE:  
A CHARLIE DANIELS TRIBUTE BAND • MAY 22  
PAPER IN FIRE:  
JOHN MELLENCAMP ANTHOLOGY • MAY 23  
AQUANETT • MAY 24  
COMEDY NIGHT WITH KEVIN FLYNN & GUESTS • MAY 30

---

**Mother's Day Brunch**  
SUNDAY, MAY 10 | 10AM - 3PM  
Email [specialevents@samuelslaters.com](mailto:specialevents@samuelslaters.com) or call 508-943-1639 to reserve your spot!

**~ BRUNCH MENU ~**  
Breakfast Pastries | Pancakes | French Toast | Scrambled Eggs  
Home Fries | Bacon | Sausage | Corned Beef Hash | Fresh Fruits  
Avocado Toast Bar | Mac & Cheese | Tortellini alla Vodka  
Shrimp Cocktail | Baked Cod | Chicken Marsala | Roasted Potatoes  
Vegetable Antipasti | Rice Pilaf | Roasted Asparagus  
Garlicky Green Beans | Caesar Salad | Garden Salad  
Kids Chicken Fingers and Mac & Cheese  
Dessert (Chef's Assorted Selection)

BUILD YOUR OWN OMELETTE STATION AND HAM & ROAST BEEF CARVING STATION!

---

**WEEKLY SPECIALS**

**PRIME RIB WEDNESDAY**  
12oz Prime Rib + Two Sides for \$25 Starting at 4PM

**HAPPY HOUR**  
Every Wednesday & Thursday 4PM to 6PM

**AL DENTE THURSDAY PASTA NIGHT**  
3 Courses for \$25 or Pasta Alla Ruota for \$30 • 4PM to 9PM

**SUNDAY BRUNCH**  
10AM to 3PM

For reservations, event tickets, and more information, visit [www.samuelslaters.com](http://www.samuelslaters.com).  
RESTAURANT HOURS: Wed-Fri, 4PM-9PM | Sat, 12PM-9PM | Sun, 10AM-3PM

  MASSACHUSETTS VISITMA.COM

# BVCC Golf Tournament

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC) is thrilled to announce the return of our Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Mark your calendars for Monday, May 11 as we gather at the splendid Pleasant Valley Country Club, at 95 Armsby Rd., Sutton, MA. Known for its rich heritage and beautifully designed course, Pleasant Valley Country Club promises a memorable day of golfing. Registration begins at 10 a.m., and tee off is at 11 a.m., followed

by an afternoon of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a delicious buffet dinner. A special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, UniBank!

Golfers can enjoy a full day of activities including a putting contest on the practice tee with the opportunity to win a cash prize. The event concludes with an action-packed raffle, live auction and silent auction. Single player registration is priced at \$300, and teams of four can register for \$1,200. This includes the 18-hole round, lunch,

buffet dinner, swag bag included for all players and a chance at the raffle and auction items. For those wishing to join us just for the evening and program, tickets are \$125 per person.

Be sure to register today by visiting [www.blackstonevalley.org/](http://www.blackstonevalley.org/) events to be a part of this exceptional golfers' experience. Your support makes a difference in the Blackstone Valley community.

## Waters Farm Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 9 – Volunteer Work Session, 53 Waters Road, West Sutton

Sunday, May 10 – Antique Tractor Pull Competition. Registration for tractor owners starts at 9 a.m. The pull competition starts at 10 a.m. and ends when the last tractor pulls the heaviest load over the finish line. Free.



## HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 18

great public benefits including watershed protection, habitat preservation for flora and fauna and permanent protection for our farmland through agricultural preservation restrictions. Come find out more! For more information email [openspace@douglas-ma.gov](mailto:openspace@douglas-ma.gov).

### SATURDAY, MAY 23

• FREE Kids Clothing Giveaway + Family Fun Day! 2nd Annual Event! Looking for kids' clothing and a fun day out for the family? Come join us—you won't want to miss it! Valley Chapel is hosting a FREE Kids Clothing Giveaway on Saturday, May 23 from 11:00 AM–2:00 PM at our Youth Center (130 Douglas Rd, Uxbridge).

### TUESDAY, JUNE 2

• BVT Band & Choir host concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Competition Center at BVT, 5 Pleasant Street, Upton. The music program at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) Conducted by Dr. Colton Cox, students will showcase their musical talents in a dynamic performance.

The ensembles will perform a diverse selection of music spanning genres from folk and classical to pop and movie soundtracks and incorporate singing in multiple languages. This program is funded in part by grants from the Grafton, Northbridge and Upton Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. Students, families and community members are invited to attend the free performance, which is open to the public.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 20

• Dudley's Town-wide Yard Sale! What better time for a yard sale than the end of spring-cleaning season? Office: 508-949-8030 Mobile: 508-847-2206 The Dudley Recreation Commission has set its annual town-wide yard sale for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 20, with a rain date of June 27. Residents are invited to set up and sell at their home or at the Dudley Town Hall where free 10x10-foot spaces are available in the parking lot on a first-come, first served basis. A site map, prepared by the Recreation Commission, will guide bargain hunters to the sale locations. Participants are encouraged to register for free by June

6 to be included in a map. The maps will be available for a \$3 donation at the Dudley Town Hall from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. To register, email [recreation@dudleyma.gov](mailto:recreation@dudleyma.gov) with your name, address, phone and description of the items for sale, or stop by the Recreation Office at Town hall.

### SATURDAY, JULY 18

• Northbridge Annual Fireworks Show. (Rain date July 19) Gates open at 5 p.m. Celebrate our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday with an evening of music, activities, food and a spectacular fireworks display at Northbridge Middle School in Whitinsville.



**Town Line Dairy Farm**  
Upton, MA  
508-529-6039

Home Grown Beef & Chicken  
Honey  
Maple Syrup  
Local Milk  
EGGS

**WINTER DEALS From The Farm**

- Fresh Home Grown Pork, Lamb and Beef Available
- Seasonal Produce
- Local Products
- Fresh Eggs

64 Williams Street, Upton, MA



**45 RIVER ST., MILLBURY, MA**  
Mon.–Sat. 11:00 am–12:00 pm • Sun. 11:00 am–9:00 pm  
508-581-4088 • 508-581-4085 • 508-581-4078

Order for pickup or delivery at [RAVIOLISMILLBURY.COM](http://RAVIOLISMILLBURY.COM)

**SPECIALTY Pizzas & Calzones**

- PASTA
- BURGERS
- PANINIS • WRAPS
- SEAFOOD • SOUP
- APPETIZERS
- SALADS

Gift Cards always available

**Grafton FLEA MARKET**

Looking to go into business for yourself OR Looking to expand your current business?

**Reach 1000s of people a week**

Open Every Sat. & Sun. Starting April 4.

The Grafton Flea Market is an indoor/outdoor market with hundreds of dealers and has been in operation for over 50 years. Conveniently located at

**296 Upton St., Rte. 140**  
on the Upton-Grafton Town Line

For more information call 508-839-2217 or visit [www.graftonflea.com](http://www.graftonflea.com)





**SHREWSBURY Marble & Granite, Inc.**

Biggest selection of marble, granite and quartz.

ALL MARBLE & GRANITE SLABS ON SITE

37 Years In Business

620 Boston Turnpike (Rt. 9), Shrewsbury  
1/4 Miles East of Home Depot. (BIG BLUE BUILDING)

**508-842-9800**

Mon.-Thurs. 8-5  
Fri. & Sat. 9-4



**American Legion**  
Chester P. Tuttle Post 279

88 Bancroft St., Auburn, MA 01501



**THURSDAY IS...**

By **Wise Guy Trivia**

**TRIVIA NIGHT** 7-9 PM!

**Every Friday**

**Karaoke** 7:30pm-11pm

**Live Bands Every Friday 7-10**

April 10 - The Ed Sullivans \$10 cover charge for all bands  
April 17 - Uncle Dean Band  
April 24 - Fender Road

**ALL Are Welcome!**  
Membership Not Required!

Monday - Saturday: 11:00-1:00 • Sunday: 11:30-close

Car shows will start back on June 9th



**Tiny Tim's at the Tuttle**

Open for Breakfast & Lunch 7 days a week

Sun. & Mon. 7am-2pm, Tues. to Thurs. 7am-8pm, Fri. & Sat. 7am-9pm

Phone: (508) 832-2701  
For Hall Reservations: (508)-721-5142 or email [TinyTimsCatering@gmail.com](mailto:TinyTimsCatering@gmail.com)

Featuring... **K & M** 8-11:00 pm

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
Karaoke every Saturday



# 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

# Ray's

## AUTO BODY

### Quality Workmanship

Over 35 Years in Business • I-Car Gold Certified

On All Insurance Company Lists

Every Vehicle Must Pass a 25 Point Safety Inspection



## FREE RENTAL NEVER PAY FULL DEDUCTIBLE!

188 Worcester St., (Rte. 122) Grafton, MA

### 508-839-9508

RS 974

restrictions apply

# Al's

## RUBBISH & CONTAINER

556 Central Turnpike, Sutton, MA 01590

Phone: (508) 865-4193

Website: [www.alsrubbish.com](http://www.alsrubbish.com)

E-Mail: [alsrubbish@gmail.com](mailto: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

## DUMPSTER RENTAL SPECIAL!

Sutton, Millbury  
15 yard dumpster  
For 2 tons **\$450**

Grafton, Auburn, Oxford, Webster,  
Whitinsville and Northbridge

15 yard dumpster  
For 2 tons **\$475**

All Other Towns **\$525**

Additional charges for tvs/monitors, mattresses & box springs

WELCOME  
Spring

Serving the Blackstone Valley  
and the Surrounding Towns in Worcester County



FREE DROP  
OFF AND  
PICK UP!

508-865-4193 • WWW.ALSRUBBISH.COM

Support  
Local Small  
Business