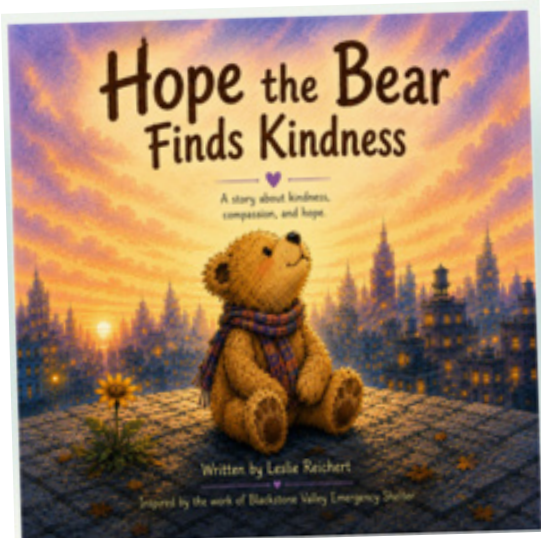


Local nonprofit leader publishes children's book to help families talk about homelessness with compassion

After nearly a decade of helping individuals and families experiencing homelessness throughout the Blackstone Valley, Leslie Reichert, Founder and CEO of the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter (BVES), has transformed those experiences into a children's picture book designed to teach empathy, kindness, and hope. Hope the Bear Finds Kindness tells the story of Hope, a gentle bear whose life unexpectedly changes when she loses her home. Through simple acts of kindness from strangers, Hope discovers that even during life's most difficult



moments, compassion can restore dignity, friendship, and hope. The book was inspired by the countless stories Reichert has

witnessed since founding BVES in 2017. During that time, the organization has grown into a regional leader in addressing homelessness through emergency shelter, homelessness navigation, police partnerships, volunteer engagement, and innovative housing initiatives serving communities across the Blackstone Valley. "Many children notice people experiencing homelessness but don't understand what they're seeing," said Reichert. "I wanted to create a story that helps parents and

BOOK

continued on page 2



The Yellow Tulip Project comes to Uxbridge

BY BRITTANY AMALFI

(Trigger Warning: This article mentions suicide)

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce Women's Success Network (WSN) is inviting the community to take part in a hands-on effort to promote mental health awareness by helping plant a Hope Garden in Uxbridge.

The event will take place on Saturday, September 26, beginning at 9 a.m. on the Uxbridge Town Common, located at 20 North Main St. Volunteers will work together to plant 500 yellow tulip bulbs as part of a partnership with The Yellow Tulip Project, a nonprofit organization focused on ending the stigma surrounding mental illness and encouraging conversations about mental health.

Community members of all ages are all welcome to participate. The Hope Garden is designed to serve as a visible reminder that support is available for those facing mental health challenges and that no one has to struggle alone. The yellow tulip, which represents happiness and hope, was chosen as the organization's symbol and reflects its mission to encourage conversations about mental health while reminding people that brighter days are possible.

The Yellow Tulip Project's mis-

TULIP

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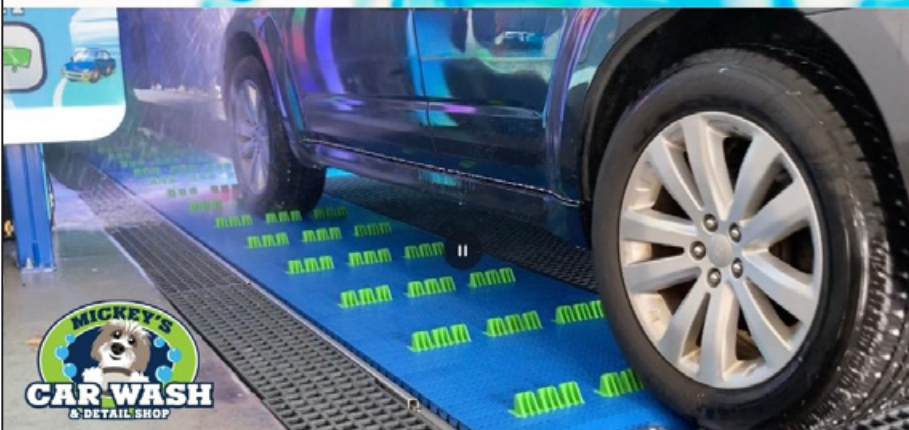


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BOOK
continued from page 1

teachers answer those difficult questions with honesty, while reminding children that every person deserves kindness and compassion.”

Unlike many books that focus primarily on homelessness, *Hope the Bear Finds Kindness* centers on the power of ordinary people to make a difference. The story encourages children to look beyond circumstances and recognize the humanity in every person they meet.

The book is intended for children ages 4 to 8 and is an ideal resource for families, elementary schools, libraries, churches, and community organizations seeking to foster conversations about empathy, inclusion, and caring for neighbors in need.

Reichert believes children’s literature has a unique ability to shape how future generations see the world.

“When we teach children kindness at an early age, we help build communities where people look out for one another. If this book inspires even one child to treat someone with greater compassion, then it has accomplished exactly what I hoped.”

Proceeds from *Hope the Bear Finds Kindness* support the mission of Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter, helping provide emergency shelter, crisis intervention, homelessness navigation, and housing stabilization services to individuals and families throughout the region.

Since opening its doors, BVES has mobilized hundreds of volunteers and built partnerships with local police departments, faith communities, healthcare providers, businesses, and civic

organizations to ensure that no one faces homelessness alone.

Reichert is available for interviews and is also scheduling author visits, school readings, library story hours, church presentations, and community events throughout Massachusetts. The book is a 5-star bestseller on Amazon: <https://a.co/d/01UyVDuD>

About Leslie Reichert

Leslie Reichert is the Founder and CEO of Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter, a Massachusetts nonprofit dedicated to helping individuals and families experiencing homelessness move from crisis to hope. Through innovative community partnerships and volunteer engagement, BVES has become a regional model for compassionate, collaborative homelessness response. *Hope the Bear Finds Kindness* is her first children’s book.

About Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter

Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter mobilizes the community to ensure no one faces homelessness alone. Through emergency shelter, the Police Partnership Program, homelessness navigation, volunteer engagement, and Hope Housing, BVES helps individuals and families transition from crisis to stability while restoring dignity, hope, and opportunity.

Media Contact
Leslie Reichert
Founder & CEO
Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter
Phone: 508-751-0799
Email: cleaningcoach@yahoo.com
Website: www.bvemercencyshelter.org

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TULIP

continued from page 1

sion is to “smash the stigma” associated with mental illness while building stronger, more connected communities. Through Hope Gardens, workshops, educational programs, and more, the organization encourages open conversations about mental health and reminds people that there is always hope and help available.

The organization was founded by Julia Hansen after her own experiences with depression during

middle school and high school. Hansen has shared that she often felt isolated because of the stigma surrounding mental illness, making it difficult to ask for help.

At the age of 15, Hansen lost two of her closest friends to suicide. The tragedy motivated her to speak openly about mental health and inspired her to create change for other young people who may be experiencing similar struggles.

Together with her mother, Suzanne Fox, Hansen founded The Yellow Tulip Project to create opportunities for young people to challenge misconceptions about

mental illness, build supportive communities, and encourage honest conversations about mental health. Since its founding, the organization has expanded its reach through community events, educational initiatives, and Hope Gardens planted in cities and towns across the country.

The upcoming Uxbridge planting is one of those efforts, bringing together local residents, volunteers, and organizations to create a permanent symbol of hope in the heart of the community. While the bulbs will bloom in the spring, the message behind the garden extends well beyond the flowers themselves.

This fantastic event will encourage people to connect with one another while supporting an important cause. By planting the bulbs together, participants will help create a space that serves as a reminder that conversations about mental health matter and that seeking help is a sign of strength.

Organizers encourage anyone interested to attend, whether they have personal experience with mental health challenges, want to support a loved one, or simply wish to be part of a community project with a meaningful purpose. Just remember those gardening tools and gloves!

Those attending are asked to arrive at the Uxbridge Town Common by 9 a.m. on September 26

to help plant the 500 yellow tulip bulbs. When the flowers bloom next spring, they will stand as a lasting reminder of hope, community, and the ongoing effort to reduce the stigma surrounding

mental illness.

For more information on the Yellow Tulip Project, please visit <https://theyellowtulipproject.org/>

Photo: Courtesy of <https://theyellowtulipproject.org/>

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Uxbridge and Northbridge Police Departments congratulate Youth Academy graduates

The Uxbridge Police Department recently congratulated the graduates of its annual Youth Academy, a collaborative program held in partnership with the Northbridge Police Department. The department also recognized Officer DeJordy and Officer Deveau for their dedication and commitment to making the program a success.

Photos: Courtesy of the Uxbridge Police Department Facebook Page



BVT's School Lunch and Breakfast Programs Policy

The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District (BVT) is pleased to continue offering students one free breakfast and one free lunch each school day, thanks to permanent funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. While meals are provided at no cost, families are still encouraged to complete the Free and Reduced-Price Meal Application on the school website. Doing so helps expand other educational and nutrition initiatives across the district and supports funding for these programs in future years.

You do not need to complete an application to receive free meal benefits if you receive a letter stating that your child is eligible through the direct certification process. Families who qualify for free or reduced-price meals may

also become eligible for SUN Bucks, a program that provides grocery assistance during the summer months when school is not in session. Eligible families may also qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides monthly financial assistance for groceries. If you are not currently receiving SNAP benefits but think you may be eligible, contact Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333 or apply online through DTA Connect.

To determine whether your household qualifies for free or reduced-price meal benefits, visit the school website to view the current federal income eligibility chart, find answers to frequently asked questions, and complete an online application at www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/freereducedmealsfaq.

BLACKSTONE VALLEY*Xpress*

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4th Friday: Blackstone Valley North: Grafton, Millbury & Sutton

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SOUR GRAPES by Tim Jones

Douglas promotes new Fire and Ambulance Chief

The Town of Douglas has promoted Kelly Manning to Chief of the Douglas Fire and Ambulance Department. She will be the third person to serve as Chief since the Department began delivering full-time service in 2017, and the first woman to

EMT-Paramedic status as a university student in 2006, the year she joined the call department in Douglas under then Chief Don Gonynor. She worked for the Amherst Fire Department for 3 years, over 9 years as a career firefighter in Southbridge, and 2 more in Westborough while she climbed the ranks of the Douglas call department. Chief Kent Vinson hired her as Assistant Chief in Douglas in November 2020 after the town meeting created the position. Manning was promoted to Deputy Chief in 2024 by Chief John Furno.

Douglas Town Administrator Matt Wojcik noted, "Kelly is highly qualified to serve as Chief. In addition to her experience, she has a master's degree in public administration,

earn the top spot. The Department provides 24/7 fire coverage and Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance services with a full-time trained staff of 10 supported by over 30 active call members.

Manning started as a call firefighter in Wellfleet, Massachusetts in 2004. She earned her

numerous certifications including hazardous materials response, SCUBA, fire training and instruction, fire prevention, and emergency management, and she is a registered nurse. She has had the last three years to work with retiring Chief Furno, whose more than forty years of public service

and experience as a manager provided a perfect example of leadership from which to draw."

Chief Furno noted, "In her role as Deputy Chief, Kelly has been a tireless advocate for health and safety, professional development, and operational readiness. She embodies the definition of public service—selfless, dedicated, and

deeply committed to helping others. This is truly the best job in the world, and I will miss working full-time with a team who will overcome any obstacle to fulfill their calling."

Manning commented, "It is both an honor and a privilege to serve alongside and support the dedicated men and women

who provide fire, EMS, and all-hazards response to the Town of Douglas as your Fire Chief. I look forward to continuing to build strong community partnerships, embracing innovation, and ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of our personnel as we move into the future."



More Families, Fewer Resources:

A New Reality for Our Local Food Pantries

Before leaving for summer break, a local first-grader was asked what she would miss most about school. Her answer was simple: "I will miss the blue bags."

Each Friday, those blue bags are filled with food donations and sent home with students in need, ensuring they have something to eat over the weekend.

Hunger continues to be a crisis throughout our state. According to the 2026 *Massachusetts Food Access Report: Hunger on the Rise* from The Greater Boston Food Bank and Mass General Brigham, a record 40 percent of households experienced food insecurity in 2025. Furthermore, child-level food insecurity rose from 33 percent to 37 percent within the last year.

For thousands in our communities, local food pantries are a lifeline providing essential food assistance to those affected by job loss, seniors on fixed incomes, veterans and people with disabilities. Working families also rely on food programs to make ends meet.

The high cost of groceries, skyrocketing rents and cuts to federal programs are driving more residents to seek food support, placing unprecedented strains on local food pantries already working to meet a growing demand.

This was underscored during a summit on food insecurity hosted by UMass Memorial Health — Milford Regional Medical Center's Community Benefits Committee, where

local food pantry leaders shared firsthand insights into the challenges facing their organizations.

Pantry leaders noted significant cyclical declines in donations following the holidays, with challenges becoming heightened after January and particularly during the summer months, because school-based food drives come to a halt.

Another key takeaway from the summit was the profound impact of community contributions. Food donations are always needed and critically important. However, financial contributions provide pantries the flexibility to meet their community's most pressing needs, including offering healthy options.

Food assistance programs not only put meals on the table but help ensure that children have access to the same support they rely on during the school year. Every child deserves to spend their summer feeling carefree and having fun and not worrying if there will be enough to eat tomorrow.

A record 40% of households experienced food insecurity in 2025.



Learn more about your local food pantry's needs by visiting "About Us" at ummhealth.org/milford-regional and viewing "Community Benefits" or scan the QR code.

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Representative Soter supports \$63.4B FY27 state budget

Spending plan includes local aid increases and assistance for municipalities

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BOSTON – State Representative Michael Soter (R-Bellingham) recently supported a \$63.4 billion state budget that calls for increased state aid to cities and towns, lays the groundwork for future local aid reform, and holds the line on new taxes and fees.

After several weeks of negotiations, House and Senate conferees agreed to a compromise spending plan to fund state government in Fiscal Year 2027. The final conference committee report was filed on June 30 and approved by the House and Senate on July 1, the first day of the new fiscal year.

During the initial House budget debate in April, Representative Soter advocated for a series of reforms to assist municipalities struggling with rising costs and increasing budget constraints, factors which have forced many communities to pursue Proposition 2 ½ overrides just to maintain basic core services. While more work needs to be done to make communities whole, he noted that the latest budget continues to move in the right direction by providing additional state funding assistance to cities and towns.

Representative Soter said the budget contains significant increases in local aid funding, including Chapter 70 education assistance and Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA), which supports a wide range of municipal programs and services, including public safety. Chapter 70 is funded at \$7.66 billion statewide, which represents an increase of about \$297 million over Fiscal Year 2026. UGGA is funded at \$1.363 billion, which is a \$40 million increase over the previous fiscal year, with the additional funding set to be dis-

tributed on a per capita basis.

The Fiscal Year 2027 budget increases per pupil aid to \$160 per pupil while fully funding the sixth and final year of the 2019 Student Opportunity Act. Representative Soter noted that the new budget will provide the 8th Worcester District with \$45,598,457 in Chapter 70 aid and another \$7,895,120 in unrestricted municipal aid.

Advocating for the communities in his district, Representative Soter was also able to secure funding for several critical local projects in the budget, including:

- \$20,000 for Bellingham Senior Center Parking Lot
- \$20,000 for Blackstone-Millville Regional Schools Security and Safety Upgrades
- \$20,000 for Millville Elementary School Generator Replacement
- \$25,000 for Medway Food Pantry
- \$25,000 for Medway Community Farm
- \$20,000 for Uxbridge's 300th Anniversary

With members of the House Republican Caucus continuing to push for expanded financial relief for cities and towns, Representative Soter said he was encouraged by the inclusion of language reviving the Foundation Budget Review Commission, which will evaluate how foundation budgets are calculated and recommend potential changes to the Chapter 70 formula to ensure a more equitable distribution of school funding. The commission will also look at spending on other education-related programs to see where improvements can be made, such as rural school aid, charter school costs, out-of-district special education costs,

and school district transportation costs, including road mileage and geographic area.

Representative Soter said the commission will hold at least four public hearings in geographically diverse regions of the Commonwealth to gather input. The commission is required to file its initial recommendations by October 31, 2028.

According to Representative Soter, the Fiscal Year 2027 budget provides cities and towns with \$57.1 million in regional school transportation, \$35.2 million in homeless student transportation under the McKinney-Vento Act, \$654.6 million in Special Education Circuit Breaker funding, and \$200.4 million in charter school reimbursements. It also provides \$16 million in rural school aid, along with \$5.3 million for the school food services program and \$4.4 million for the school breakfast program.

In addition to not imposing any new taxes or fee increases, the Fiscal Year 2027 budget continues to build the state's Stabilization Fund reserves, more commonly known as the Rainy Day Fund, which is used during times of extreme economic downturns to help preserve critical state programs for Massachusetts residents. With a planned \$51 million deposit, the fund is expected to grow to \$8.2 billion this year.

Governor Maura Healey has until July 11 to review and act on the budget. In the meantime, the state will continue to operate under a \$7.7 billion interim budget that was approved on June 29.



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Saving for retirement: Are you guessing or planning?



Mark Freeman, CEPA

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Let's say you dream of spending your retirement mornings on a warm beach, coffee in hand, waves rolling in. To get there, you had a simple plan: save \$1 million and buy the beach house you always wanted.

But when retirement arrives, reality hits. After accounting for keeping your current home, everyday expenses and health care, \$1 million doesn't stretch as far as you thought, and the beach

house remains a dream. The problem wasn't your discipline – it was that your number was never really your number. It was arbitrary, not anchored to what your ideal retirement would actually cost.

How can you make sure your retirement number is right for you?

A solid savings goal starts with a clear picture of the retirement you want. Think through where you plan to live, whether you'll keep your current home or downsize, how much you plan to travel, if you'll help children and grandchildren financially and what health care might cost you later in life. Build a realistic monthly budget, then multiply by 12 months to find your annual need. Adjust this amount for inflation until the first year of retirement.

Then, multiply that figure by 25 to get a sense of how much may be needed to save. It's a formula based on the idea of withdrawing 4% annually from your savings, assuming you retire in your mid-60s. If you need \$60,000 a year, your target is

around \$1.5 million. You may need more or less depending on your lifestyle, health, unexpected expenses, Social Security benefits and other income. No single rate or strategy will work for everyone. A financial advisor can help you determine your number and strategy.

Once you know your target, the path forward becomes clearer. Here are a few tips for next steps:

Start early. The sooner you begin saving, the more time compound interest has to work in your favor. Small amounts set aside automatically each paycheck have the opportunity to grow significantly over decades.

Live below your means. Spending less than you earn is one of the most powerful wealth-building habits. When your income rises, save and invest the difference instead of upgrading your lifestyle.

Keep your debt under control. Since credit cards and other high-interest debt can slow your progress, pay off balances

monthly when possible.

Invest consistently. If your employer offers a 401(k), aim to contribute at least 10%-15% of your salary, and increase your contributions after every raise. If you max out your 401(k), a traditional IRA or Roth IRA may offer additional tax-advantaged growth (eligibility and contribution limits apply).

Boost your income when you can. Develop new skills, ask for a raise or explore a side income. Every extra dollar saved moves you closer to your goal.

The difference between a retirement you love and one full of compromises often comes down

to the planning you do today. Know your real number, build a solid plan and get the right help along the way.

Contact Mark today to discuss this topic or any of your financial goals.

Mark Freeman, CEPA
Edward Jones Financial Advisor
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Grand Prize Winner enjoys a day at Southwick's Zoo



Grand Prize winner Chelsea T. recently redeemed her four-pack of tickets to Southwick's Zoo, enjoying a memorable day with her extended family. Pictured above, Chelsea is the second from the right.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRAND PRIZE & RUNNER UP WINNERS

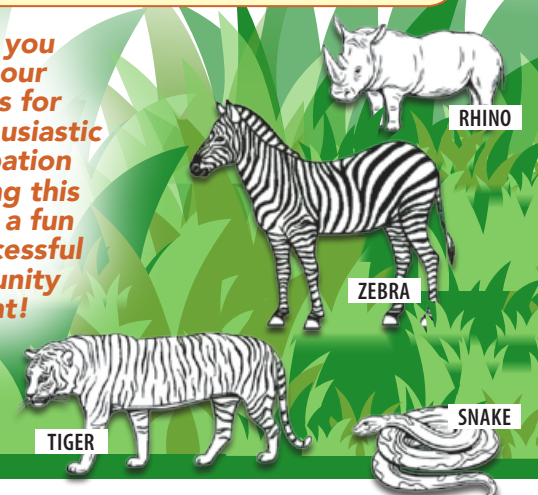
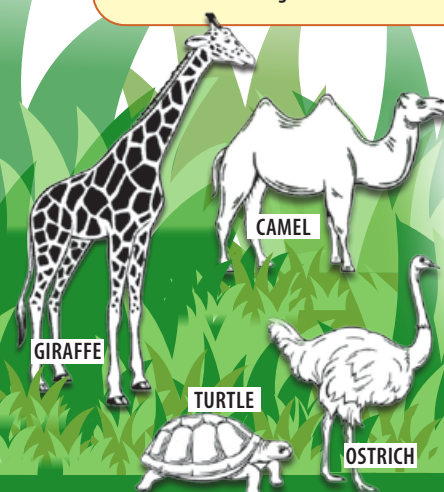
who correctly identified all 10 HIDDEN ANIMALS in our May newspapers to win general admission tickets to Southwick's Zoo



GRAND PRIZE WINNER - Wachusett Free Press Chelsea T.

Wachusett Free Press.....	Stacy J.	Medway & Millis Local Town Pages.....	Lydia T.
Upton & Mendon Free Press.....	David C.	Hopedale Local Town Pages.....	Lisa B.
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The Yankee Express - South.....	Emily C.	Franklin Local Town Pages.....	Amanda G.
The Yankee Express - North.....	Hale S.	Blackstone Valley Express - South.....	April H.
Norwood Local Town Pages.....	Kelly A.	Blackstone Valley Express - North.....	Emilia S.
Norfolk & Wrentham Local Town Pages.....	Joseph C.	Bellingham Bulletin.....	Scott R.
Natick Local Town Pages.....	Meg W.	Ashland Local Town Pages.....	Suzanne M.

Thank you to all our readers for your enthusiastic participation in making this contest a fun and successful community event!



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localtownpages

FREE PRESS

Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste manage-

ment. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential



Business spotlight

and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company takes an environmentally re-



Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

sponsible approach to disposal, recycling whenever possible and properly handling non-recyclable materials. "With four kids, sustainability is especially important to us," he says.

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers re-invested into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the back end while I did the heavy lift-

ing, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 21 years, and we both work full time, managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to include a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and be involved in their activities. We're also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Uxbridge, Northbridge and Douglas in particular, Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the Central and MetroWest area," he says.

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Northbridge Senior Center celebrates summer with Elvis-themed party and community spirit

The Northbridge Senior Center welcomed a full house of guests for its annual Summer

Elvis Party, bringing together friends, neighbors, volunteers, and community supporters for an afternoon filled with music, laughter, delicious food, and lasting memories.

The event celebrated not only the timeless music of Elvis Presley but also the vibrant community that makes the Northbridge Senior Center such a special place.

“Nothing makes us happier than seeing a full dining room of people supporting our programs and activities,” said Senior Center Director Kelly Bol. “We are incredibly grateful to everyone who joined

us for our Elvis Summer Party and helped make this event such a wonderful success!”

community! His energetic performance had attendees singing along, dancing, and reminiscing to classic

Elvis hits throughout the afternoon.

The Senior Center extends its sincere appreciation to the many organizations and individuals whose generosity made the event possible, including The Friends of Northbridge Elders, UniBank, and Brenda and Ted Cugini.

Events like the Summer Elvis Party reflect the Northbridge Senior Center’s ongoing commitment to

providing engaging programs that foster friendship, wellness, and community connections for older adults. For more information about programs and upcoming events at the Northbridge Senior Center, please call (508) 234-2002.

Guests enjoyed a festive buffet lunch courtesy of Crendon and Company, followed by a live performance from the award-winning New England Elvis Dan Fontaine, affectionately known as “Our Elvis” by the Northbridge Senior Center



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SPORTS

Cody Veneziano's next step: Assumption University

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Cody Veneziano of Uxbridge has been slowly moving up the baseball ladder since he was young and first introduced to the game of baseball. After playing baseball locally, it was in the seventh grade when the Uxbridge resident decided to take his game to the next level, so he joined the Jr. WooSox, an AAU team that would allow him to play against better competitors.

As a four-year football and baseball player at Uxbridge High School, Veneziano made a name for himself. According to the Spartans baseball Coach, Peter Rice, Veneziano was not only the team's number one pitcher, but when he wasn't slated to take the mound, he was the starting catcher, giving Uxbridge the best option behind the plate.

Last season as a junior he stepped up big for the Spartans and threw one -hitter against Clinton in the second round of the Division 4 State Tournament, This past spring the Uxbridge senior would bat .359 with a .473 on base percentage; have 23 hits, 18 RBI, 19 runs scored and was hit by a pitch nine times all while batting in the number three spot for Rice.

On the mound, he unfortunately was saddled with some tough-luck losses and ended the season 3-3 with 35 strikeouts over 49 innings pitched. He was the team's workhorse and always wanted to take the ball against the big-time opponents. Against Millbury, the defending Division 4 State Champions, the team allowed 4 unearned runs behind him in the first inning, but Veneziano stayed calm, cool, and collected while shutting the Woolies down after that inning. Veneziano would eventually hit the game-winning grand slam to give Uxbridge a come-from-behind 5-4 win.

With his senior season in the books and getting ready to take his pitching skills to Assumption University next year, Veneziano decided to play for the Northbridge American Legion team this summer.

"Having aged out of playing for the WooSox, I decided to play for Northbridge this summer to prepare myself for college," he said. "I am hoping that I can improve my game against the likes of other kids headed to college or those who have already begun their college careers."

Northbridge American Legion

SPORTS
continued on page 11





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Supporting our veterans and military families

Recently, Thanks To Yanks delivered a large supply of food and personal hygiene items to the Veterans Association of Bristol County. Pictures L-R facing: Mike Shain, President and Founder of Thanks To Yanks, and Leo, a volunteer for the organization. Thanks To Yanks is thrilled to continue its mission of serving those who have served in the military. For more information on the local charity, please like them on Facebook.

Picture and press release submitted by Mike Shain of the organization.



SPORTS

continued from page 10

Coach Dan Briand wanted the Uxbridge stud last year, but Veneziano was already committed to the WooSox, so he had to wait an extra year.

"He was locked into his AAU team last summer," Briand said. "This year he is here, and I am looking for him to pitch lights out for us. Eventually I'd like to line him up to start for us in the tournament."

Thus far, playing for Northbridge, Veneziano is hitting .314 and has been Post 343's best pitcher, going 15.1 innings with a 1-2 record where he took a couple of tough losses (2-1 and 3-0). When Veneziano is not taking the ball from Briand, he is suited up and playing centerfield for Northbridge. Although Veneziano isn't having the success he would like,

the team is still in contention for a spot in the tournament.

"Playing for Northbridge, I am hoping that I cannot only help Northbridge advance into the playoffs but also help myself prepare for next year playing at Assumption," he said.

By playing for Post 343 this summer, the Uxbridge native is hoping that when he arrives at Assumption, he will be able to earn himself a role on the team and help the Greyhounds win. The last time he spoke with the baseball coach, he was assured that it was a good possibility that he would be able to take the mound for the Greyhounds.

With college baseball the next rung on the ladder, Veneziano is unsure if his talent will take him further than Assumption, but there is time to figure things out.

"Honestly, I haven't really thought about playing professional baseball," Veneziano said. "If it

happens and gets in the way, then I will definitely take it, but for now I am just preparing to play for Assumption over the next few years."

Photos supplied by Cody Veneziano

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BVTi Graduates Celebrated, Marking Inaugural Milestone

UPTON – The Blackstone Valley Vocational Regional School District celebrated the graduation of 62 students from its adult education programs, recognizing the inaugural graduating class of the Blackstone Valley Technical Institute (BVTi). The ceremony marked an important milestone.

The graduates completed training in Advanced Manufacturing, Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, and Welding through BVTi. Designed to prepare adult learners for high-demand careers, BVTi's credential-based programs provide industry-recognized credentials, hands-on training, and the technical knowledge needed to enter or advance in the skilled trades.

In 2025, the Healey-Driscoll Administration, in partnership with Commonwealth Corporation, awarded the district a \$1.04 million Career Technical Initiative (CTI) grant. With support from the grant, BVTi launched adult education programs for learners seeking new skills, certifications, and pathways to career advancement.

"We are incredibly proud of our inaugural graduating class and our partnership with the Commonwealth through the CTI program to expand access to career and technical education," said BVTi's Superintendent-Director Anthony E. Steele II. "This grant has allowed us to deliver

high-quality career and technical education to adults seeking to upskill or retrain, provide skilled labor to the local workforce, and generate nontaxpayer revenue that helps support the school."

"We continually look ahead and plan for the future," said BVTi's Assistant Superintendent and Curriculum Director Dr. Matthew Connors. "Working collaboratively with our Director of Workforce & Economic Development, Mary May, BVTi is focused on expanding its catalog of adult education programs and introducing additional offerings this fall."

To learn more about BVTi, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/bvti.

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.

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TALES FROM BEYOND

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The Old Harbor boys

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

Slowly and stealthily, oars silently dipped into the water quietly pushing their vessel toward its destination at the Old Harbor of Block island. Its nine inhabitants, shrouded in secrecy, dared not make any unnecessary noise that might signal their impending arrival to the island. They had set out in the dark of night in a light boat called a "shaving mill" to exact revenge upon those who were responsible for taking their land and possessions in the name of Liberty. It was the closing years of the American Revolution and anyone in the colonies who did not support the cause for liberty from England was considered a Tory, or sympathizer to the English throne. The small assemblage in the boat had been labeled Tories by their peers and for that, suffered the consequence of being traitors to the cause of freedom from the rule of England. Some reports say they were mere pirates using a small boat as cover, for they knew well of the islander's famous signal fire that was often lit on Beacon Hill to warn of approaching vessels, especially during the times of the

revolution and age of piracy.

The nine rogue's mission was to wreak havoc on the islanders by raiding and pillaging what they could. While some Tories denounced the king and were sworn to loyalty to America, other fled the colonies in haste to Canada or the motherland in order to avoid severe punishment. They left everything behind to be ransacked and sold by the Sons of Liberty to help fund the war effort. Some hid, living in secrecy until the struggle ended and some, like the group in the shaving mill, decided to take a stand for themselves and their king. The Old Harbor was now in sight and the men aboard began to finalize their plan. But, alas, it was not to be. A sudden surging rogue wave crashed into the boat.

At the same time, a signal flame was lit on Beacon Hill that gave the islanders who saw it ample warning of the impending intruders. Those who saw the signal convened along the shore to greet the intruders, but what they saw was not a boat docking. The islanders were witness to an event that would echo along Old Harbor for centuries to come. The nine men struggled in vain to land the boat at the harbor as the people

looked on, but could offer no help due to the surging waves. Before the boat was upset, one loud voice could be heard over the crashing waves shouting, "Pull Boys! Pull For Your Lives!" The rough seas instantly capsized the vessel as it neared Old Harbor Point Landing, sending all its inhabitants into the ice cold unforgiving sea. The men tried desperately to right the boat or swim for shore, but their efforts were futile in the freezing surf. All that were aboard perished within minutes. Their cries to each other and for help from the people on shore went unaided in the pounding of the waves on the beach and docks.

Folks living near the harbor soon heard the same cries night after night, even when there were no boats or boatmen in the area. The supernatural cries came about the same time the tragic event took place and to this day, are still heard. On chilly Autumn nights, when the surf runs high, pounding the docks and crashing on the beach, the sound of ethereal voices can still be heard off the shore of the neighborhood still known as Old Harbor. Ghostly voices screaming "Pull Boys! Pull For Your Lives!"

permeate the night air and then are gone, fading into the night leaving

only the sound of seagulls and the ebb and flow of the tide.

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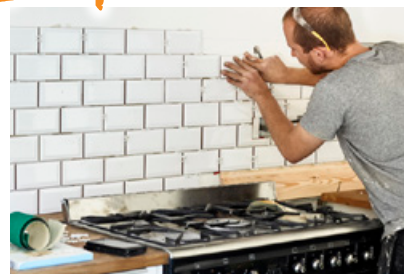
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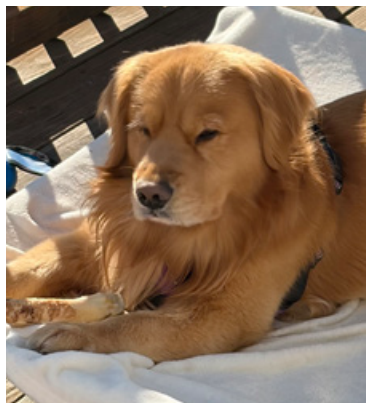
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Paws for thought

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

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The Morning Wail
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The more I reinforce his gratitude, the more dramatic he becomes.

"Is that your chili pepper, Luke? I like that toy. Do you want to playyyyy?"

He rubs his whole body against my lap in enthusiastic agreement while also reminding me of something important: I am part of Luke's territory. I'm his person, and his dog hair says so. A pattern of loose fur scattered across my clothing has become my eccentric tattoo.

But how can I complain? Luke's morning attitude is contagious—in all the right ways. He reminds me that a good attitude leads to a good day. He reminds

me that happiness is a choice. Circumstances are irrelevant. What happens to you or around you doesn't define you. When life gets hairy, shake it off onto your person and remember that GOD—dog spelled backwards—doesn't make mistakes.

"Today is going to be soooo fabulous!"

Luke dances happily around me while I squeeze his chili pepper at the middle, making it squeak.

Beedoo.

Beedoo.

Beedoo.

The playful rhythm mirrors our joy, and before long we're both moving foolishly to the beat. Sharing mornings together has certainly brought me closer to Luke. Thankfully, there are many more examples of our deepening bond.

Maturity

The bark-back-harder spats of Luke's younger years have been replaced by a quiet confidence.

Often, while we stroll through the neighborhood and encounter more aggressive dogs, he'll simply gaze up at me and smile, as though



to say, "He doesn't know any better." Or "She's still learning."

Likewise, he's become much more subtle when begging for table scraps.

"I was thinking, since you're probably full by now, you could toss me a little piece of that egg."

He stares at me with the stillness and authority of a presidential profile carved into New Hampshire's White Mountains until I finally surrender.

"Do you want some egg yolk, Luke?"

As though a genie has suddenly brought Luke's statue to life, he softens and breaks into a warm smile.

"I would be honored to try some."

Snuggle Time

Luke is, by far, the most affec-

tionate dog I've ever owned—and the first to earn on-the-couch privileges.

"Do you want to snuggle, Luke?"

He'll wait patiently at the edge of the couch before sauntering away, as though he'd rather have his own space. I play along.

"Okay, Luke. I'll be right here if you change your mind."

Before long, he returns to the nook by my feet and looks up at me.

"I'm ready to join you now."

I pat the cushion, inviting him up. He prepares for snuggle time with the careful precision of an airline passenger rearranging luggage in an overhead bin. He shifts. He maneuvers. He turns one completely unnecessary circle. Finally, he settles, resting his head in my lap.

Together, we share an unspeakable moment of quiet understanding.

Every season with Luke reminds me that God's greatest lessons don't always come wrapped in words. Sometimes they arrive with four paws, a squeaky chili pepper, and a heart that loves without condition. And every month, our bond grows just a little deeper.

Until next time. Stay tuned for more wagging tales.

Write to Amy. amyleclaire@hotmail.com

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Douglas Public Library Schedule

Please note that some events do require registration. If you have any questions regarding any events, please do not hesitate to contact the library at (508) 476-2695 or email at us at douglas@cwmar.org.

Address: 290 Main Street, Douglas, MA 01516, Phone: 508-476-2695

Hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Please note that we will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.

CHILDREN'S HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, August 19 at 5:45 p.m. - Reading to Bryce (Registration Required)

GENERAL HAPPENINGS

Tuesday, August 18, 25, September 1, September 8 at 4:00 p.m. -

SFPL Game Night
Saturday, August 15 - Picnic at the Park

ADULT BOOK CLUBS

Tuesday, August 18 at 6:30 p.m. - SciFi Book Club, What Move the Dead by T. Kingfisher

Monday, August 24 at 6:30 p.m. - Plot Twisters, All the Little Raindrops by Mia Sheridan

Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m. - Intrepid Readers, Book TBD

Thursday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. - Greatest Book Club Ever, Lonesome Dove by Larry McCurry

ADULT HAPPENINGS

Monday August 17, 24, 31 at 6:30 p.m. - Writer's Accountability Group

Wednesday, August 26, September 9, at 5:45 p.m. - Fiber Arts

Friends
Saturday, August 15 at 10:30 am

- SFPL Gardeners
Saturday, August 29 at 9:30 am -

SFPL Sleuths

41st Valley Friendship Tour Raises Nearly \$110,000 for Open Sky Community Services

The 41st annual Valley Friendship Tour drew more than 250 participants who walked, ran, and rolled through the Blackstone Valley on June 6 and raised nearly \$110,000 to benefit Open Sky Community Services, a nonprofit behavioral health and human services organization.

The Valley Friendship Tour, which starts and ends at Alternatives' Whitin Mill, is Open Sky's signature fundraising event for the agency's nearly 150 programs serving children, adults, and families with mental health challenges, intellectual and developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other complex challenges. Since it began just over four decades ago, the tour has raised millions in support of individuals and families in Central Massachusetts.

"The Valley Friendship Tour is a visual representation of Open Sky's mission - individuals of all abilities coming together in the community with purpose," said

Ken Bates, President & CEO of Open Sky Community Services. "We are grateful to this community that has been created over the past four decades and for its unwavering support of our neighbors throughout Central Massachusetts facing complex challenges. Thank you to our participants, attendees, sponsors, and staff for making this year's Tour another one to remember."

Teresa Pitaro, a resident of Norwood who has a family member served by Open Sky, was the top fundraiser for the fifth year in a row. She raised nearly \$7,000 for the 2026 Valley Friendship Tour.

The individual and team participants of all ages and abilities had the option of a 1-mile walk, 5K run or walk, or a 30-mile bike ride through the Blackstone Valley. The all-day event featured lunch, live music, raffles, and entertainment on the Dennis H. Rice Community Plaza at Alternatives' Whitin Mill.

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THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

Brake fluid change, rear hatches, selling classic cars, and more

Q. I am getting older and starting to question everyone's honesty. Recently, I was at a quick lube, and they

told me I needed both cabin and engine air filters. I said no—just an oil change. When I got home, I remembered the filters were

changed nine months ago. Why is it that seemingly everyone is dishonest?

A. I don't think everyone is dishonest. At a quick lube—and in fact at some other shops—recommendations are often based on the service history in their system. Chances are the advisor looked in the computer, didn't see any record of filter changes, and made the recommendation based on that rather than an actual inspection of the filters. As an example, a neighbor of mine went to a dentist in Florida, and while there, they recommended two crowns. When he got back up north, his local dentist said everything looked fine. The bottom line: whenever you're in doubt, it's always a good idea to get a second opinion.

Q. I have a 2023 Mercedes C300 convertible with 26,500 miles. I am getting the Service B alert on the instrument cluster. When I look it up, it calls for an oil change and a brake

fluid change. I'm OK with the oil change, but why a brake fluid change on a three-year-old car with 26,000 miles? It seems a bit excessive.

A. Many car manufacturers—especially European brands like Mercedes—now recommend brake fluid changes about every three years, regardless of mileage. Brake fluid is hygroscopic, which means it absorbs moisture over time. That moisture can lead to internal corrosion and affect braking performance. It's not just moisture, though. As brake fluid ages, its protective additives break down, which can lead to copper contamination inside the brake lines. That contamination can accelerate wear and affect the performance of the anti-lock braking system (ABS). For that reason, regular brake fluid replacement is considered preventive maintenance—even if the mileage is low.

Q. I have a 2020 Subaru Forester and have a recurring issue with the rear hatch. It opens intermittently. Twice in the last few months, I've gone into the garage in the morning and found the rear hatch open—and the battery dead. I've had AAA come twice already to jump the battery. A couple of times during the day, when the car is parked outside, I've noticed the rear hatch open as well—but I catch it before the battery dies. Is it the key fob or the rear latch? Is this a known issue with this car?

A. Since the rear hatch is opening on its own, I'm assuming the vehicle is equipped with a power liftgate. If so, there have been some cases where switches or controls can stick, including the dash or hatch release button. If you have more than one key fob, try using the one that gets the least use. If the problem goes away, the remote may be the cause. If it still happens, the issue could be in the latch or one of the release switches. One other thing to keep in mind: Subaru electrical systems, like many modern vehicles, can behave unpredictably when the battery is getting weak. Given the dead battery incidents, it would be worth having the battery tested as part of the diagnosis.

Q. My neighbor knows I go to car shows and that I'm a fan of classics. She is asking my advice on how to sell her dad's collection, as he has gotten ill. The cars include a 1979 Mustang Pace Car, a 1972 Cutlass convertible, a Mercury Capri convertible, an "old MG," a BMW 3 Series, and a 2000 Indian

CAR DOCTOR
continued on page 17



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REAL ESTATE

The house that started it all could kick-start what's next



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

Remember how exciting it was to buy your first place? It felt like crossing a long-awaited finish line. It gave you a place to build your life. Maybe it's where you lived when you got married or where you welcomed a child or a pet into the family. But that was just the beginning. For most people, your first house was never meant to be your forever home. It's a stepping stone for what comes next, and if your life looks different today than it did when you got the keys, you're not stuck. Moving may be more realistic than you think.

Starter home inventory is still relatively low. If you've been wondering whether now is the right time to move up, here's what you need to know. Starter homes remain one of the hardest types of homes to find, and that's good news if you're thinking about selling your first place.

Historically, we haven't been building enough homes for first-time buyers, and even though homebuilders have shifted more at-

tention toward smaller, entry-level homes lately, the Census shows there's a long way to go to rebuild. That means your current house is in demand – and that's a dream scenario for sellers. But that's only half the story. You also need somewhere to go, and there are more move-up homes on the market; this is where this gets interesting. While the supply of starter homes remains tight, data from Redfin shows that the number of homes for sale has been climbing overall.

Too much of the inventory available today remains concentrated at higher price points, leaving a shortage of options for entry-level and middle-income buyers. That means you may have more choices for your move up than you'd expect. Whether you're hoping for another bedroom, a home office, a bigger backyard, or simply more room for this next stage of life, today's market may finally be giving you the chance to find it. At the same time, your current house may be exactly what someone else has been looking for because homes like yours are still in short supply. That's a unique advantage for move-up buyers, and it could help you sell for a stronger price. Starter home value appreciation has outpaced other types of homes nationally, mostly because they're so in demand.

Your biggest advantage may be your equity. There's one more thing

your first home has been doing behind the scenes, and that's building equity. Every mortgage payment you've made and every year your home's value has grown has quietly increased your ownership stake in your house. The average homeowner with a mortgage has \$295k in equity built up. While your number may be different, once you sell, it could become the down payment on your next home or help reduce the amount you need to borrow at today's rates. Put it all together, and your move up becomes a lot more realistic than you think:

1. The house you're selling is in demand.
2. The house you're buying may be easier to find, and the equity you've built can help bridge the gap between the two.
3. Your first home did exactly what it was supposed to do. It gave you a place to start. Now, it may be the thing that helps you take the next step.

So, your first home was never meant to be your forever home. It was meant to help you build a life and build the financial foundation for whatever came next. If your current home no longer fits the life you're living today, connect with a member of The Marzeotti Group or a trusted Real Estate Professional. You may be closer to your next chapter than you realize.

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CAR DOCTOR

continued from page 16

motorcycle. She wants to find a broker or collector rather than try to sell each one on her own. I remember the Chasing Classic Cars TV show. Is there anyone in real life who does that? Can we offer her some advice?

That sounds like a great collection. There are brokers who specialize in buying and selling classic cars, and that may be the easiest route for her. Before doing anything, though, it would make sense to have the collection appraised so she has a good understanding of its value. As for Chasing Classic Cars, the host, Wayne Carini, is very much active in the hobby and still buys, sells, and brokers classic cars. His shop is F40 Motorsports (www.f40.com)

in Portland, Connecticut, (860) 342-5705.

Q. I purchased a 2019 Genesis G80 with 20,000 miles from a friend. It hasn't been driven much in the last year—about 500 miles—and was kept outside in a driveway. I would start it every couple of weeks and drive it around the block occasionally. The annual inspection showed it to be in great shape. I changed the oil and all filters. Is there anything else I should do to keep it running well and help it last longer? It will be driven about 6,000 miles a year.

A. At about six to seven years old, the key is to keep an eye on the car's overall condition and stay ahead of age-related wear. If they haven't already been replaced, I would plan on tires and a battery. Batteries typically last around five years, and tires, once they

reach about six years old, can begin to deteriorate—even if the tread looks fine. Because the car sat for a while, take a close look at the brakes, as rust can build up on the rotors. Even with low mileage, plan on annual oil changes going forward. At upcoming services, check the cabin and engine air filters again. And while not urgent, changing the engine coolant and doing a transmission fluid drain-and-refill within the next year or so would be good preventive maintenance.

John Paul is AAA Northeast's Car Doctor. He has over forty years' experience and is an ASE-certified master technician. He will answer readers' questions each week. Email your questions to jppaul@aaanortheast.com. Follow John on X @johnfpaul and Facebook at mrjohnfpaul.

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

• The Whitin Community Center (WCC) is excited to invite all automotive enthusiasts and families alike to celebrate the 12th Anniversary of our highly anticipated "Cars In The Park" event. Join us for a day of automotive excellence and community fun from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the picturesque 7.5 acre Whitin Park, located at 60 Main St., Whitinsville. This year's Cars In The Park promises an unforgettable showcase of classic and contemporary cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Participants can vie for the prestigious Best In Show title and 25 other trophy categories, People's Choice Award, with the first 100 registered

vehicles again this year receiving exclusive Show Dash Plaques and Goodie Bags. The event will also feature a selection of food trucks, exhibit vendors, a 50/50 raffle, and live entertainment, ensuring a fun-filled day for the entire family. Entry is complimentary for all spectators, making it the perfect summer outing. Last year's event had a turnout of over 300 cars! Vehicle owners are encouraged to register early and take advantage of a special \$10 donation fee before July 15th, after which the registration donation will increase to \$20. Pre-registration closes on August 12, 2026. Registration for vehicles is available online at www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com, in-person at our Member Services

Desk, or on the day of the event. Additionally, we are now welcoming applications from exhibit and food vendors looking to be part of this exciting event. Funds raised during Cars In The Park will directly support the Whitin Community Center's mission as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to enhancing the health, well-being, and community spirit of the Blackstone Valley. For more information on vehicle and vendor registration, volunteering, or any other inquiries, please visit our website or contact Tammy Bodwell, Director of Operations, at Tammy.Bodwell@OurGym.org or call 508-234-8184 ext 118.

• The beloved 4th Annual Sensory Friendly Community Event by Picnic at the Park Douglas Inc celebration returns on August 15 2026 from 10am to 3pm, bringing expanded activities, new attractions, and a larger venue to accommodate its rapid growth. The 2026 event will take place at Soldiers Field, 2 Manchaug Street, Douglas Ma 01516, a fully fenced location that offers increased space, improved safety, and greater accessibility for families. This year's Picnic at the Park introduces exciting new features, including an inflatable bounce house, an obstacle course, and additional family-friendly entertainment. Fan favorites such as the barrel train ride will return, continuing to delight younger attendees. Guests can also enjoy lawn games, children's activities, local vendors, and open space for picnicking and relaxation. Food trucks will be available throughout the day, serving snacks, drinks, and picnic-style meals.

Inc. "Soldiers Field gives us the space to expand our offerings while staying true to our mission of accessibility, inclusion, and family-centered fun."

The event is free to the public, and families are encouraged to bring blankets, chairs, and their own picnic setups. No alcohol is permitted, ensuring a safe and family-friendly atmosphere.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

• Grab a teammate and join Open Sky Community Services for an afternoon of friendly competition, live music, great food, and community spirit at the 12th Annual Valley Bag Toss, Saturday, September 19, 2026, at the historic Alternatives' Whitin Mill in Whitinsville. This inclusive cornhole tournament welcomes players of all abilities, ages 14 and older, and has become a favorite annual tradition in the Blackstone Valley. Whether you're competing for the championship or cheering from the sidelines, the Valley Bag Toss offers a fun way to connect with friends, family, and neighbors while supporting a meaningful cause. The tournament will take place from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. at 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, MA. Team registration is limited, and advance registration is required. To register a team, become a sponsor, or learn more, visit www.openskycs.org/valleybagtoss.

SEPT. 28-OCT. 3

• The Silver Club of the Uxbridge Senior Center will be taking a trip to Virginia Beach from Sept. 28 to Oct. 3. For \$819, it includes the bus, the hotel, 5 breakfasts, 3 dinners, a guided tour of Williamsburg, a narrated Norfolk Naval Base Harbor Cruise, admission to the Nauticus and Battleship Wisconsin, the boardwalk, Virginia Beach Aquarium, and the Mariner's Museum and Park. Everyone is invited to join the group on this tour. Please call Sue at 508-341-0797 for more information.



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Tee up for the twentieth anniversary

Uxbridge Elderly Connection annual golf outing planned

A good idea became a great idea when, twenty years ago, the Uxbridge Elderly Connection planned its 1st Annual Golf Outing in 2006. This year they will be celebrating with a 20th Anniversary event on Monday, September 21, at the Whitinsville Golf Club in Whitinsville, MA. The very special golf outing fundraiser, which benefits the Uxbridge Senior Center, will begin at Noon with a Shotgun Start for golfers at one of the top-ranked, nine-hole golf courses in the world.

Teams of four may sign up to play for \$125 per golfer for nine holes, including golf cart and buffet supper. Only eighteen teams may play, so early registration is essential. Special events will include two closest-to-the-pin prizes, longest drive, team prizes, and more. The team of Mark Wickstrom, Mary Pat Wickstrom, Dan Moors, and Michael Horan, last year's first place winners, are the team to beat in 2026.

Sponsorships offer a way to show support for our senior community. A Platinum Sponsor of \$2500 includes a tee sign, sponsorship display board, four golfers with a golf cart, and dinner with the highest recognition on all materials, website, and social media.

The Gold Tee-Shirt Sponsor of \$2000 will provide your company name on all golf shirts, the sponsorship display board, and recognition on the website and social media. The Silver Golf Ball Sponsor for \$1500 provides your company name on tournament golf balls distributed to every player, recognition on the sponsorship display board, website,

and social media. A mainstay of the Uxbridge Elderly Connection Golf Outing has always been the community business support in the form of tee signs. The Bronze Tee Sign Sponsor for \$150 provides a tee sign prominently displayed at the practice green at the start of the golf outing. To respond to any of these offers, email uxbridgeelderlyconnection@gmail.com or call the Uxbridge Senior Center at 508-278-8622 for more information.

Golfers and sponsors may locate a registration form on the Uxbridge Senior Center Facebook Page or at the senior center and pay online with the QR code provided or make a check payable to the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, P.O. Box 215, Uxbridge, MA 01569.

Local businesses and community members have been consistently supportive over the twenty years of the golf outing by purchasing tee signs, making donations, or providing gift baskets. Silent and live auction items donated have proved a fun and profitable addition. Make your contribution by contacting the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, P.O. Box 215, Uxbridge, MA 01569, or call 508-278-8622.

The Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc., is a non-profit organization and donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law. The Board of Directors includes Russ Rosborough, President; Phyllis Dunn, Vice President; Marianne Shanley, Treasurer; Cathy Thornton, Secretary; Donna Oncay, Karen Sherlock, Sharon Emerick, Karen Beane and Harriet Platt. Its mission is to support the

Uxbridge Senior Center and help meet some of its needs and the needs of seniors, such as facility improvement, education, nutrition, medical transportation, and socialization not provided by its municipal budget.

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AUGUST 27 • INTERSTELLAR
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SEPTEMBER 17 • MISSY MAXFIELD
SEPTEMBER 24 • STEFAN COUTURE
OCTOBER 1 • TONY GARCIA

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with Chuck Perks
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PARTY**
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5:30PM TO 7:30PM
Great music, fun games, giveaways and prizes

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SAMUEL SLATER'S HALL

COMEDY NIGHT AT SLATERS
FEATURING PAUL NARDIZZI
SPECIAL GUEST: CAROLYN FLEMING
HOSTED BY MIC SUGARTE
SEPTEMBER 18

COMEDY NIGHT AT SLATERS
FEATURING PAUL D'ANGELO
SPECIAL GUEST: MAYA RAMON
HOSTED BY DAN MILLER
OCTOBER 16

COMEDY NIGHT AT SLATERS
FEATURING COREY RODRIGUES
SPECIAL GUEST: STEVE BLOOM
HOSTED BY BRIAN WAYNE
NOVEMBER 13

COMEDY NIGHT AT SLATERS
FEATURING KELLY MACFARLAND
SPECIAL GUEST: KENDRA GREENSHAW
HOSTED BY GABRIEL FARR
DECEMBER 11



FOR RESERVATIONS, EVENT TICKETS, AND MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SAMUELSLATERS.COM
Samuel Slater's Restaurant is open Wednesday-Saturday (12-9pm) and Sunday (12-8pm) for lunch and dinner.



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UNIBANK PRESENTS
BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT
To Benefit The WCC Capital Campaign Projects

Monday, August 31, 2026
Pleasant Valley Country Club
95 Armsby Road, Sutton, MA 01590
Tee Off 9:00am, Lunch Immediately Following

Hole-In-One Contest,
Putting Contest & Shootout Contest!

\$250 per Golfer | \$1,000 Foursomes

Register online or at the WCC's Member Services Desk!

60 Main St. Whitinsville, MA 01588 | 508.234.8184
www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com

CONTESTS PRIZES RAFFLES

The Golf Tournament is an event of the Whitin Community Center, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

Share your Talent

in an inclusive community that welcomes all abilities!

Take Down the Wall Presents:

OPEN MIC NIGHTS

Learn and collaborate with other musicians!

6:00-8:30pm

Saturday, August 8, 2026
August's theme:
S'more Acts, Please!

Saturday, September 12, 2026
September's theme:
Art & Soul
Featured artist:
Jamie Guyette



Sign ups begin @ 5:30pm
Singh Performance Center, 60 Douglas Rd., Whitinsville, MA
Hosted by Open Sky's Community Membership Dept.
Questions? Michelle.Benjamin@openskycs.org or visit openskycs.org/openmic



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