

Auburn ends Flock Camera program after contractual defect

Editor's note: This is a follow-up to our August 28 edition of The YankeeXpress where we announced the start of the Flock Camera program in Auburn. Days after going to press, Auburn announced the town was terminating the agreement.

BY RILEY FRANKIAN

Auburn's automated license plate reader program, in a matter of weeks, went from being described by police as a valuable new investigative tool to being terminated due to a contractual defect, with no interest in any kind of contract renewal.



The Auburn Police Department began installing six Flock Safety license plate reader, or LPR, cameras in early July. Four cameras were installed and operational, while two additional cameras were awaiting installation when the town ended its agreement with the company.

According to the town manager's office, Auburn officials were

not considering the programs termination before the contractual issue was discovered.

"Due to a contractual defect, the Town of Auburn has terminated their agreement with Flock," Town Manager Dori A. Vecchio said in a statement provided by Staff Assistant and Communications Coordinator Kaitlyn Johnson.

Vecchio said the defect could have been resolved and a new contract executed with changes recommended by town counsel. However, after considering issues other municipalities had experienced, the town decided not to enter into a new agreement.

"The decision was that of the police chief in collaboration with the Auburn town manager," Johnson said when asked whether the police department consulted town officials before terminating the agreement.

The decision contrasts with the department's initial position on the technology.

Before the agreement was terminated, Police Chief Richard Mills described the cameras as an added investigative resource for Auburn, which sits near several major roadways and interstate highways. He said vehicles involved in crimes in Auburn, surrounding communities, and out of state often travel through town.

"The purpose of implementing the system was to provide officers

with an additional investigative tool," Mills said.

The cameras were installed to capture still images of passing vehicles and attempt to read their license plates. They could also identify vehicle characteristics such as make, model, color and other distinguishing features.

The department previously emphasized that the cameras were not traditional surveillance cameras, meaning they did not continuously record video, use facial recognition, identify drivers or passengers, track cell phones or issue automated traffic citations.

Mills also described several safeguards surrounding the system. Only Auburn officers and civilian dispatchers who were trained on the system could access the information. Data was scheduled to be automatically deleted after 30 days unless it was preserved for investigations or another legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Searches were logged and subject to auditing, and Mills said Auburn had subscribed to Flock's audit assistance program, which was used by the Auburn Police Department to monitor any system searches.

The department also said outside law enforcement agencies did

FLOCK CAMERAS
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Adrian Roman. Photo by Walter Bird

13-year-old athlete determined to score victory over cancer

BY WALTER BIRD

Last year, 13-year-old Adrian Roman's youth football team went undefeated and won the Super Bowl. As a two-way player, a running back on offense and a safety on defense, he enjoyed a pretty successful campaign. A pick-6 interception on defense and a couple of touchdowns on offense were among the personal highlights. He was certainly looking forward to one last year with the team this year before heading

into high school next year.

On a recent early Wednesday night, the sun shining its light down and temperatures comfortably in the low 70's, Adrian, a mask covering his mouth and nose, sat in a wheelchair in a grassy area underneath a large tree not far from the field adjacent to Oxford Middle School where his younger brother, 11-year-old Alex, was practicing football.

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Auburn Historical Society seeks help recording town's veterans

As our mission is preserving history related to Auburn, the Auburn Historical Society has embarked on a project to honor and remember those from town who served in the military. But we need the public's help.

There is only so much information we can find on a person from their obituary, or standardized records, so we are asking for your help. We created a Google Form where veterans or their families and friends can add their name, service history, and any biographical information to our veterans' database.

If you are a veteran or are related to a veteran who lived in town or who has a connection to Auburn, we ask that you take a couple minutes to help us with this project. Please

go to the society's website to find and fill out the form: auburnhistoricalmuseum.org/2026/08/01/veterans/

Thank you for your help. If you have any questions, please contact



the society by email: auburnmuseum@verizon.net or phone: 508-832-6856.

FLOCK CAMERAS

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not automatically have access to Auburn's data. Requests for access were to be reviewed by Auburn police on a case-by-case basis.

"The data is not freely shared," Mills said at the time. "We believe we are rather conservative in our sharing."

The program was said to have been acquired through grant funding. However, after the contract was terminated, the town manager's office clarified that Auburn had not actually paid for the system.

"The cameras were live for a very short time and payment was not made yet," Johnson said. "No funds from any source went to this system."

Mills was asked how much data had been collected, whether any remained, whether information unrelated to active investigations had been deleted, whether Flock retained any Auburn data, whether Auburn was considering another

LPR provider and whether the cameras had assisted with any investigations or arrests.

The department chose not to provide specific answers to those questions.

"The program has been terminated due to a procurement issue and mistake made by the Police Department," Mills said in response. "There was no appetite on the part of the Town to enter into a new contract."

Mills declined to provide more information about the program, saying, "we will not be issuing any further information about our Flock Camera program." Adding that the department was, "moving forward and continuing to fulfill our mission and best serve the Auburn community."

The brief lifespan of Auburn's Flock program leaves several aspects of its operation unclear, including how much information was collected while the cameras were active and whether any of the data was retained.

The town has not indicated

whether it plans to pursue another automated license plate reader provider. As a result of the recently terminated agreement, Auburn's previously decided upon six-camera network will not become part of the town's long-term law enforcement infrastructure.

For residents, this provides a different conclusion than the one initially envisioned when the cameras were first installed. What police had characterized as a potentially useful tool for finding stolen vehicles, missing people and vehicles connected to criminal investigations, quickly became of little interest to the police department as soon as a contractual defect was discovered.

The termination was not attributed to the effectiveness of the cameras themselves, but to procurement issue that led Auburn officials to decide against continuing the relationship with the company. Yankee Xpress North will continue to cover future updates on this matter.

World Smile Day, October 2, 2026

Do an act of kindness. Help one person smile.

Every year, the first Friday of October is celebrated around the globe as World Smile Day, a day that encourages people to do acts of kindness to spread good will.

First started in 1999 by Harvey Ball, the creator of the smiley, the holiday celebrates the intent behind the now universally recog-

nized icon - to bring a smile to the faces of people around the world. The purpose of the holiday was to move away from the commercialization of the smiley and to use it as a symbol of kindness.

surprise, worry and laughter. In texting, smileys are used to express emotions in online conversations. This practice had its origins in Japan, and the smileys and other icons are known as emoji.

MORALE BOOSTER

In 1963 as a freelance artist for State Mutual Life Assurance Company of America, now Hanover Insurance in Worcester, Harvey Ball was tasked to design something that would increase the morale of the employees. What began as a bright yellow circle with two dots to represent eyes and a black line to represent a smile has become a universal, visual way to convey joy, happiness and cheer.

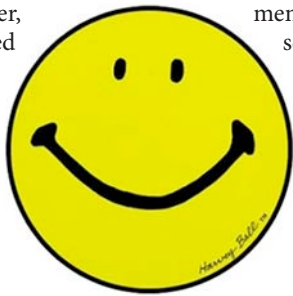
EMOJI

Today, there are different versions of the smiley that represent other emotions such as sadness,

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Harvey Ball, who never copyrighted or made money from the iterations of his original design, would be tickled to see his simple creation celebrated and the inspiration for kindness around the world.



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Auburn road construction continues into fall

Crews expect to finish before winter months

BY RILEY FRANKIAN

Auburn's 2026 construction season has brought road, sidewalk and drainage improvements to several areas of town, with additional projects scheduled to begin later this month and wrap up before the coming winter months.

JH Lynch has completed or continues work on multiple roadways, including portions of South Street, Church Street, Auburn Street, Lancaster Street and Old Millbury Road.

Approximately 2,600 feet of South Street, from Route 20 to Central Street, has received new sidewalks and drainage improvements; and approximately 2,300 feet of Church Street, from Central Street to Route 12, has also received new sidewalks, both with final paving expected Sept. 18.

JH Lynch has also completed paving on approximately 2,700 feet of Auburn Street, 1,300 feet of Lancaster Street, 700 feet of Old Millbury Road and approximately 600 feet of South Street near the intersection with Barnes Street.

According to Kaitlyn Johnson, staff assistant and communications coordinator for the town manager, JH Lynch's contract is valued at \$1.8 million.

Work by PJ Albert is also continuing on several projects. Approximately 5,000 feet of South Street, from Potter Farms Road to Cedar Street, has received drainage improvements, and new paving is expected before the end of September.

On Warren Road, approximately 2,900 feet from Route 12 to the Massachusetts Turnpike bridge, is scheduled to be repaved. The project, valued at \$960,000, includes a new 1,000-foot section of sidewalk and minor drainage improvements; and is expected to be completed by late October.

Additional PJ Albert projects are scheduled to begin in late September. Approximately 2,700 feet of Bancroft Street, from Pakachoag Street to the Interstate 90 bridge, is scheduled to be milled and paved. The project also includes a new 1,000-foot section of sidewalk between Overhill Drive and Pak-

choag Street.

PJ Albert's Road Reconstruction Contract is valued at \$1.6 million.

Approximately 5,800 feet of Leicester Street, from Bryn Mawr Avenue to the intersection with Rochdale Street, is also scheduled to be milled and paved.

"Funding is split between Municipal Capital Improvements, Municipal General Operating Budget and Auburn's Chapter 90 funds," Johnson said.

Chapter 90 funds are state transportation funds that are distributed to municipalities for eligible roadway and transportation-related improvements.

With multiple projects continuing into the fall, residents can expect some traffic impacts as construction moves toward completion.

"Minor impacts to traffic can be expected as the projects close up," Johnson said. "As the season winds down, schedules may be shifted due to weather."

The town manager's office expects all construction-related efforts to be completed by November 2026.

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Adrian's mother Katlynn and father Hector were with him. His younger sister, 7-year-old Bella, twirled around the tree, at times leaning against her mom.

If life had gone as planned, Adrian, an athlete with a burning passion for many sports, probably would have been at football practice for his team, the Oxford-Webster Pirates in the Oxford-Webster Football & Cheer organization. When football season was done, he'd be gearing up for basketball in the winter, followed by baseball and track and field in the spring.

But life hasn't gone as planned.

Earlier this year, around May, he complained to his parents about pain in his right leg. The family assumed it was a sports injury, given he is always playing one sport or the other on a team or with friends. Maybe, Katlynn suggested, it was a pulled muscle.

Then, one day in July, Adrian came into their house from playing outside with friends. The pain was unbearable.

"I ended up taking him to the hospital because he was crying," Katlynn said.

Initial tests led to news Adrian and his family never expected to

hear: Doctors believed he had osteosarcoma, an aggressive form of bone cancer most common in children, teens, and those between the ages of 10 and 30.

They were referred to UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester. There, Katlynn said, everything was a whirlwind.

"Everything happened so quick," she said. "Biopsies, scans, MRIs. He had them all."

The biopsy, she said, confirmed it: Just one year into his teens, going into his eighth grade at school. Adrian had osteosarcoma.

"It was devastating. It was awful," Katlynn said. "We never would have thought [he had cancer]. He's so athletic. This kid plays all these sports."

Asked what it was like learning he had cancer, Adrian said, "It was shocking. I didn't expect it. I was scared. I didn't know what it was."

He showed steely resolve in quickly answering the next questions.

"No," he said when asked if he was still scared. No hesitation. No doubt.

"He has an amazing support system," Katlynn said. "We have had a lot of people rally around

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ROMAN

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him. He's got a lot of support from the town, from sports in general."

Said Adrian: "A lot of people have been really supportive. It makes me keep going."

His family keeps going, too. Right now, Adrian is in the second of six rounds of chemo-

therapy, each round lasting five weeks.

In October, he will undergo limb-sparing surgery, the complex removal of bone to remove the cancer. There is the possibility of amputation if the initial surgery is unsuccessful. The goal is to prevent the cancer, which Katlynn said doctors believe is localized for now, as opposed to metastasized, from spreading to Adrian's lungs.

Asked what he felt upon learning he could lose his leg, Adrian's determination appeared again: "Then I'm just going to have to lose my leg. If that's the thing that's going to make me feel better, I'll just live with a prosthetic. I'll play sports with a prosthetic."

He maintains a positive attitude, even if he does wish he were able to be out on a football field and not just watching his brother. The family is trying to remain positive as well, Katlynn said. Hector is out of work through the Family Medical Leave Act, caring for the couple's two younger children while Katlynn accompanies her oldest son to the hospital multiple times a week (Adrian has an older sister, Beatriz).

"It's hard," Katlynn acknowledged of the larger toll the illness has taken on their lives. "We were already struggling and this was kind of, boom, here you go. We still have months of treatments, which are in-patient most of the time, so there's food, parking fees,



Adrian Roman with his father Hector, his mother Katlynn, and Bella, his younger sister.
Photo by Walter Bird

the gas going in and out, and our bills."

They're not alone in their fight to save Adrian.

Medically, Adrian is being treated by Dr. Stefanie Lowas, a specialist in pediatric hematology and oncology.

"She's amazing," Katlynn said. "She's very good at giving us information. Adrian wants to know everything. And she's always there. Day or night, she's always there. She's phenomenal."

There is also a fundraising effort to support the family.

Beatriz started a GoFundMe Page, Adrian's Fight Against Osteosarcoma, for her brother. The effort had raised north of \$27,000 as of Wednesday, Sept. 16. There is a stated goal of \$50,000.

In addition, the family was set to receive a donation through the organization Cops for Kids With Cancer, thanks in part to the efforts of three of Adrian's coaches, who are police officers: Lt. Travis Gould and Officer D'Vonte Peters with the Douglas Police Department and Webster Police Officer Robert Rockwood. The three of them sponsored Adrian's application, filed by a hospital social worker. The foundation, along with members of Adrian's football team, was expected to present the check during a small ceremony at the Oxford Police Department on Thursday, Sept. 17, as Yankee Xpress North was going to press.

As fundraising efforts continue and Adrian and his family wage their battle against the cancer that has robbed him of precious time as a teenager, Adrian's resolve remains unbroken.

"Watching [my brother] practice and watching my friends practice and play, I sometimes sit and think that could be me," he said. "But I'm trying to stay positive. I'm not giving up. I'm not giving up at all."

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The hidden danger of investing too cautiously



Catherine Harrington
Financial Advisor

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One of the most significant risks investors face isn't losing money in a market dip; it's failing to reach their long-term financial goals.

Many people focus heavily on short-term losses in the stock market and try to protect their savings by investing conservatively or avoiding stocks altogether. But that runs the risk

that their savings won't grow enough to keep up with inflation or support future needs.

Understanding what investment risk really means helps you make smarter financial decisions, considering these three key aspects.

- **Risk tolerance** describes your emotional comfort with risk. If you'd want to pull your money out of the market during a downturn, that reveals something about your tolerance. Many financial advisors use questionnaires to help clients understand how they might react in different market conditions.

- **Risk capacity** refers to how much risk you can afford to take. Your timeline matters. A 35-year-old saving for retirement has decades to ride out market swings. A retiree drawing income from their portfolio doesn't have that same cushion.

- **Required risk** describes how

much risk you may need to take to reach your financial goals. Higher returns generally come with higher risk, though higher risk does not guarantee higher returns. If you need strong growth to retire comfortably, you may need to accept more short-term volatility.

Sometimes these elements don't line up. You might be uncomfortable with risk but need strong growth to meet your goals.

Balance and diversification matter: Finding the right balance matters more than you might think. A small difference in your annual rate of return, from 5% to 7% for instance, doesn't just add up a little. It multiplies. That's the power of compounding — returns earning their own returns, year after year, building on an ever-growing base. Over 30 or 35 years, that can become significant.

You needn't choose between playing it so safe your money

barely keeps up with inflation and taking on more risk than you're comfortable with. Instead, a balanced mix can fit your comfort level and still help grow your money over time.

The age factor: You'll want to adjust your approach to risk as you get older. If retirement is years away, your portfolio may lean toward growth investments like stocks and stock mutual funds; you have time to absorb short-term losses and benefit from long-term gains. Lower risk investments like bonds still play a role because they can help smooth out changes in your portfolio's value.

As you near retirement, your portfolio may shift toward a more even mix of stocks and bonds to limit exposure to large market swings. The goal is to protect what you've built while still generating enough growth to fund a retirement that could last decades.

Investing well isn't about eliminating risk; it's about taking the right amount of it. Too

little risk can be just as damaging as too much. A financial advisor can help you find the balance that matches your comfort level, your financial situation and your long-term goals.

Investors should understand the risks involved with owning investments, including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. The value of investments fluctuates and investors can lose some or all of their principal.

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

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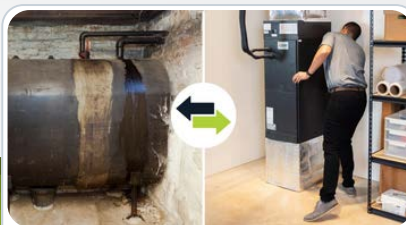
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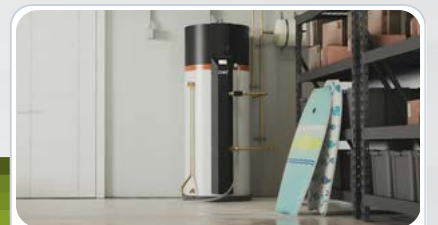
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A carousel, a doll and a peacock: Auburn ice cream shops

BY HELEN POIRIER

When you think of a carousel, watching or riding wooden horses that bounce up and down might come to mind. But in Auburn's history, the word carousel also means ice cream and good food.

The Carousel Dairy Bar was a popular place in town to get some delicious ice cream. It was located at 750 Oxford Street at the corner of Washington Street. It was originally owned by Michael Deliso and his

wife, Frances, who bought land in Auburn in 1949. They originally had a house and garage, but by 1951 a store was listed on the property. In 1956 there was a restaurant located on Washington Street next to their house, but no garage was listed on the property tax rolls. The Delisos lived in a house next door to the Carousel Dairy Bar until they sold the house and it was moved to Goulding Drive.

In 1957 a boat store appeared along with the restaurant, so you

could buy a boat then celebrate the purchase with an ice cream cone. The 1961 tax records show that the Delisos bought a house on Bryn Mawr Avenue and still owned the restaurant but no store. The restaurant finally disappeared in 1966 when Interstate 290 was built in Auburn. The location is where the ramps are, off Route 20.

The Carousel touted the best in ice cream, fountain service of ice cream sodas, jumbo frankfurters and hamburgers, sandwiches, fried clams and French fries. A long-time resident remembers it was also a school bus stop. Some Auburnites who worked at the Carousel Dairy Bar included George Lamb, Betty Gaines, and George and Louise Jewell Sr. in the early 1950s. In the mid-50s he said it was run by a very large man called "Tiny."

There was another unique place to get ice cream that eventually wound up in a museum. According to a 1999 article, it was manufactured by the Worcester Lunch Car Company in about 1940 and was in operation in Medford for ten years. It was then moved to Worcester where it could be found at the corner of Commercial and Foster streets. When the Centrum (now the DCU Center) was being constructed, the diner was moved to a salvage yard. That's where John P. Tighe bought the Sherwood's Diner in the 1970s for a whopping \$500. He renamed it the Dairy Doll, and it was placed between Colony Package Store and Cantwell Hardware Store. Tighe said he bought it because he was a bricklayer and ate



many meals in diners so owning one brought back fond memories. The diner served hamburgers and other diner fare. The Dairy Doll was donated to The American Diner Museum of Providence in 1999 by Tighe. It cost more to move it to Rhode Island than it cost for him to buy it.

The 1948 Auburn High School yearbook had an ad that said Harlow's Dairy Bar at Drury Square was the place to sit down with books and French fries. A person could get a 5-cent vanilla Coke to go with the ice cream and fries. This place was owned and run by Leslie Harlow and his wife Clarice. Leslie spent most of his early life working with candy and snacks. The 1900 census has him as a wrapper in a popcorn factory at the age of 18. His World War I draft card stated he was employed at the Harlow Quality Kiss Company, 269 Main Street in Worcester and so it was stated in the 1920-1950 census.

He married Clarice Farwell in 1906 and she was by his side helping

at Harlow's and carried on after he died in 1963. There were many name changes through the years with the last one being the Peacock Club. It was eventually owned by Mark Sarkisian and provided many years of entertainment on Fridays and Saturdays, so say the many ads. This aspect of the Peacock Club will be explored at a later date.

If you have any stories about these or other places in Auburn that had ice cream when you were younger, the Auburn Historical Society and Museum would enjoy having them to put in its Holstrom Archives. Email: auburnmuseum@verizon.net or call 508-832-6856. Learn more at .auburnhistoricalmuseum.org or follow them on Facebook at Auburn Historical.

This article is the second in the "Ice Cream Shops of Auburn" series. Helen Poirier is a director at the Auburn Historical Society & Museum, 41 South Street. The museum is open Tuesday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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Auburn Plant Stand is a little multi-tiered stand in front of 175 Prospect St. that offers free, potted native plants. While donations are gratefully accepted,

you can also exchange one of your native plants for one of hers. Or just take one of hers – but who would do that? Yankee Xpress staff picked up two hardy cardinal flow-

ers several weeks ago and can attest that they are healthy and pest-free. As Becky delaGo-

rgendiere, the woman behind the plant stand, says on the Facebook page, "The Auburn Plant Stand was created to share plants and encourage pollinator-friendly gardening. I'm transforming my yard with more native plants while sharing healthy, non-invasive perennials and natives with neighbors and fellow gardeners." Some of her original plants are from her mother's and grandmother's gardens. Stop by. Make a donation. Support the use and distribution of native plants.



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Local Cultural Councils accepting grant applications

BY MARTHA AKSTIN

The cultural councils in Auburn and Oxford are accepting proposals from individuals, schools, and organizations for community-based arts, humanities, and science programs for 2027. The deadline to apply for a grant is 11:59 p.m. on October 15.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) is a state agency that allocates funds to all 351 municipalities in the Commonwealth through 329 local and regional councils. The MCC determines the annual funding to each Local Cultural Council (LCC) based on a formula that uses the community population and equalized property values: "The state property valuation helps balance allocations relative to local wealth and resources," writes the MCC on its website.

This year, the Auburn Cultural Council has a budget of \$11,900 and Oxford's budget is \$13,300. Most awards given by an LCC average in the \$500 to \$750 range, while there are exceptions. Grants from most LLCs are reimbursement-based: the applicant expends their own money and then submits paperwork for reimbursement.

Projects that have been funded include live music, art exhibits, fes-

tivals, school field trips, short-term artist residencies, performances, craft workshops, and lectures.

"We strongly encourage artists and creative people to submit a grant," said Gillian Kies, chair of the Auburn Cultural Council. "We would love to give out money to art, education and cultural events that benefit the Town of Auburn."

Kies explained that the council is also interested in funding scientific or technology-focused projects. "2026 was the 100th anniversary of Robert Goddard launching his liquid-fueled rocket in Auburn," said Kies. "If anybody has a Goddard-specific project they would like to bring to our attention, we would love to continue to support this 100th anniversary."

While funding in both towns has supported performances at the towns' senior centers and public schools, Danielle Chamberland Roberts, chair of the Oxford Cultural Council, sees a demographic that might be under-served.

"We have had a number of re-applicants and that's great because it's programs that people want," explained Roberts. "But the Mass Cultural Council encourages us to diversify what we do. And one of the things we [the Oxford Cultural Council] have discussed is there is

a large age group in between the younger school-aged children we serve and the seniors at the Senior Center that perhaps is not being served, the 20- to 50-year-olds. So, we're also looking for applications to serve this middle group."

A description of the statewide program, FAQs, and what each town funded in 2026 can be found at massculturalcouncil.org.

"We funded 13 projects last year," said Kies. "We were excited to see the Auburn High School Theater Department application to support the fall show of the Adams Family."

"We absolutely encourage middle and elementary school teachers to apply," continued Kies. "We set our own priorities, and we give priority to artists who live or work in Auburn, or artists who already have a committed venue in town."

"We'd love to see more applications this year," said Oxford's Roberts. "We're trying to find out what makers and artists in the community can offer the greater community."

To that end, the Oxford Cultural Council will have a table at the annual Scarecrows on the Common fest on October 24. She said this outreach will help identify what

town residents are interested in. In addition, Roberts said the committee's numbers have decreased due to restrictions set on how long members can serve. They are currently down to five members, and they are seeking new blood to energize the council. She said the committee usually meets once a month October through December and then again in July. However, she would like the committee to meet monthly so that members can attend events that the council has supported. If you have questions

about serving on the Oxford Cultural Council, contact Roberts by phone at 508-987-4333 or by email at occ@oxfordma.us

All applications must be submitted online through the MCC portal: massculturalcouncil.org/communities/local-cultural-council-program/application-process

Proposals are reviewed by the LCC in November, and decisions are announced by the end of the year.

GRANTS

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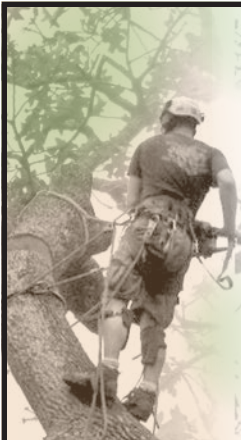
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TALES FROM BEYOND

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The ghost pirates of Goat Island

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

An incident that took place on Goat Island in Newport, Rhode Island in the early 18th century is mostly untold, save for those who are passionate about the sea or local history buffs. Even the history books about Goat Island and Gravelly Point in Newport give it but a scant few sentences. This alone may be the reason 26 restless spirits roam

the area and waters around Goat Island.

At one time, Newport was the pirate haven of New England. So many pirates made Newport their base of operations in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, that the London Board of Trade petitioned for help from the English Government to eradicate them from the island. Just about every famous pirate knew the wharves of Newport well and were well welcomed there

for a portion of gold and silver.

The people knew the buccaneers and received them with friendly, open arms. They spent freely and often paid a fine token for their anonymity. They were, do not forget, outlaws after all. Because of this constant unlawful activity, Newport became known as the scourge of the colonies. Privateers and pirates alike were sometimes greeted with processions from the whole town.

That was until the colonial leaders were given no choice by the throne of England but to arrest the corsairs or face charges of piracy themselves. Things changed rather quickly along the docks of degradation and in 1723, 26 pirates were arrested for crimes on the high seas. It all began on June 10 when Captain Solgard, commander of the man-of-war The Greyhound, engaged two Caribbean pirate ships off Block Island. One of the vessels, manned by the notorious Ned Low, managed to evade capture but the sloop, Ranger, manned

by young Captain Charles Harris, was captured after an epic day-long sea battle.

Harris, along with 35 crew members, became the largest capture of pirates in the colonies at the time. Admiralty judges, including Rhode Island's Governor Samuel Cranston, assembled in Newport to be part of the trial. In the end, 26 were found guilty of piracy, two were reprieved and eight were acquitted.

The guilty were sentenced to death by hanging and later taken to Gravelly Point, an area across from Goat Island and hanged there on July 19, 1723. The whole event took about two hours. From there, the executed buccaneers were taken to Goat Island (named after the fact that the colonists let their goats graze there away from the bustling ports) and buried between the high and low water marks on the north end of the island. This was done as further punishment to make sure they would never be buried on land or at sea. Their eternal souls

would never find rest in a consecrated grave.

This may have worked, for on dark misty nights, their ghosts rise from the water and ascend upon the shores of the island, perhaps in search of those who brought an end to their illustrious careers. Their misty forms wander the area where they were hanged as well. Some claim they are in search of their ship in hopes of finally boarding the vessel and sailing from their makeshift graves. There is a claim that a clam digger once saw a ghostly ship sail past him at Bonnet Shores, then float over the land toward Gravelly Point. Maybe the ghost ship was the Ranger, returning for its crew.

The Basin and Gravelly Point were eventually filled in during the 19th century. Today, Long Wharf leads past the Newport Yacht Club and the Wyndham Inn. Gravelly Point is buried beneath both of them, but the ghosts of the 26 pirates hanged so long ago refuse to remain buried.



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The Boat America Course: Safe Boating Certificate to be offered at Bay Path

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts, will be instructing The Boat America Course (BA) that meets current state-mandated educational requirements.

The program was developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased or are planning to purchase any type of boat, as well as for the boater who wants to keep informed of changes to boating regulations and laws.

The class is scheduled to begin on October 13, 2026. The two-session course will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School with a fee of \$65.

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, signed into Mass. law, now requires all Mass. motorboat operators over 12 years of age to complete an approved Safe Boating Certificate course before April 1, 2026, for anyone born after

1/1/1998, and by April 1, 2028, for boaters born before 1/1/1998. Enforcement of the new law will begin on September 1, 2026. Personal watercraft and Jet Ski operators are required to be at least 16 years of age are also included. A certificate, required to be carried onboard, will be issued by the state to resident motorboaters.

Successful completion of this BA course meets this requirement and inclusion into the Mass. Environmental Police Boating Safety Database. Approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) it will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states where boating safety education is mandatory including New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

You will receive the additional USCG Auxiliary certification and a possible discount on premiums for most boating insurance companies for successful completion of this course. Some basic marlinespike seamanship (knots etc.)

BOATING

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NO JOB TOO SMALL

Ken Gamache on the history and evolution of Cranston Print Works

The Samuel Slater Experience will host a special presentation by Ken Gamache, president and CEO of Cranston Print Works (CPW), doing business today as QT Fabrics, on Sunday, October 25, at 1 p.m.

Gamache will share the history of CPW, reflect on his decades in the textile industry, and discuss how the company has evolved since the 2009 closure of its Webster plant. The program offers former CPW employees and members of the community an opportunity to reconnect, reminisce, and learn about the company's transformation.

The face of CPW today is vastly different from the bustling manufacturing operation that once ran three shifts a day. Under Gamache's leadership, QT Fabrics operates with employees working remotely across the country, focusing pri-



Ken Gamache. Photo submitted

marily on high-end quilting fabrics sold through independent specialty fabric stores throughout the United States.

A graduate of Bartlett High School, Gamache earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Admin-

istration from Nichols College and an MBA from Anna Maria College. He began his career with CPW in 1978, working third shift in the print room. Over the years, he held a variety of positions, gaining firsthand knowledge of the textile industry before ultimately becoming president and CEO.

CPW operated manufacturing facilities in Cranston, RI; Fletcher, NC; and Webster, with the Webster mill being the last to close.

Ken and his wife Carol (Trepanier) Gamache have been married for 42 years and now reside in their circa 1773 home in Durham.

The presentation is free, but advance registration is required. To register, visit samuelslaterexperience.org, call 508-461-2955 or email admin@samuelslaterexperience.org. The Samuel Slater Experience is located at 31 Ray St. in Webster and free parking is

available. Join Gamache to hear the remarkable story of Cranston Print Works and discover what has

become of one of New England's historic textile companies.

BOATING

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will also be included as part of the course. Participants 16 years old and under must be accompanied, in person, by a registered parent/guardian. Space is limited so register soon.

Register online at www.baypath.augusoft.net - Sports & Leisure - Class ID 43489. Or call Sheri Dreitlein 508-248-5971 or email

her at sdreitlein@baypath.net

You can also contact the Flotilla Commander Kyle Cimochofski 860-227-7274 or Marc French at 508-318-7152 for additional information.

To locate these and other USCG Auxiliary courses go to: cgaux.org/boating/class_finder/index.php

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly

all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org

GRANTS

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"We would love to fund as many programs as possible," said Roberts. "When in doubt, please apply."

"We strongly encourage artists

and creative people to submit a grant," said Kies. "We would love to give out money to art, education and cultural events in the Town of Auburn. Please submit an application."

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LIVING WITH LUKE

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Big attitude, little dog

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

I've noticed a trend when it comes to little dogs: they have big mouths.

Don't get me wrong. No dog is perfect, and Luke is certainly no angel. But the irony of being so small yet so bossy has not been lost on me after years of dog experience. Little dogs seem to overcompensate for the fact that size isn't on their side.

"My voice matters! My voice matters! I'm going to get you! Whoa! I didn't mean literally! Back off! I was kidding!"

Their mixed signals can be exhausting, if not confusing, especially to the Big Dog Person accustomed to a more refined point of view. Nevertheless, Luke has developed a sense of humor about his little friends, along with a gentle acceptance of their eccentricities.

"Mom, we need to go see Pebbles!"

As one might expect, Pebbles happens to be one of Luke's smaller dog friends. A Cavachon with shaggy white hair, Pebbles moves and announces herself with the frenzy of a small motor.

"Love you, Luke! Love you, Luke! Love you, Luke! Let's play!"

We can barely make it past her house without Luke tugging on his leash.

"I know she lives right here! Let's stop!"

Should Pebbles be open to an impromptu playdate, Luke will perch regally at her driveway, beaming, his leonine mane puffed out while Pebbles bounces around his calmer stature. The scene resembles a page from a Winnie-the-Pooh storybook. Luke plays the part of Pooh Bear; Pebbles, the buzzing bee.

Of course, Luke knows that little

dogs aren't typically a threat—even those with the vicious snarl of Maui, the bossy Frenchie in the neighborhood.

"Tough morning, Maui? I hear you. Try to look on the bright side."

He'll bury his nose in the sweet scent of a grass patch and ignore the behavior. Ditto for the rattling pug who rushes to the edge of his driveway to harass us during our walks. His stout body reminds me of the chunky gold bulldog perched atop the hood of my father's pickup truck named Red. Like the boss of that truck, the pug claims his territory.

"Go away! Get out! Get out!"

His flattened face and red-hot attitude make us smile, though I manage to stick to my training script.

"Leave it, Luke."

Little dogs with big attitudes are part of life, Luke has learned. Usually, they are harmless.

But what happens when they become a threat—not to his size, but to his wellness?

Read on.

Luke recently attended a summer barbecue, a lakeside gathering at a home where several little dogs had arrived first and apparently decided they owned the place. Beagles and spaniels, poodles and doodles, and—most foreboding of all—Pearl, a Chihuahua wearing a miniature pink vest.

They greeted Luke's arrival with an orchestra of untamed melody.

"You don't belong! We were here first! We don't like you!"

Luke, oblivious, had only one thing on his mind: THE LAKE!

He beelined through the chaos, found the water and created his own swimming oasis. Ahhh. Sweet peace.

He swam for a few quiet minutes before climbing out to dry off. After a vigorous shake, he set off to explore the boat dock.

Big issue.

Pearl stood upright at the edge, snarling and guarding with bulging, blood-shot eyes.

"You don't belong."



Frustrated, Luke tried to work his way around Pearl's wrath to reach the exquisite treasures scattered across the dock: fishing lures and one magnificent patriotic float. He sniffed with hyper-focus and poked at the float with trepidation.

"Do you move like a person?"

He investigated while an encore of barking resumed. Pearl had apparently called in the troops, creating the latest surround-sound track of We Don't Like Luke.

It was time for Luke to chill out and rest.

I leashed him, and we made our way to the deck, where a pair of King Cavaliers protested our arrival.

"This is our space."

We sat on a bench opposite them, and eventually they quieted. The savory scents of barbecue wafted through the air. Luke lifted his head and smiled.

Life was good.

We ate, shared easy conversation with the guests and talked about our dogs. Luke remained patient.

Until he was not.

"Summer is flying, Mom. We need to enjoy the lake because we'll practically blink and it will be covered in ice."

He had a point.

"Okay, Luke. You can swim again."

I unhitched his leash, and he

made his way toward the back of the house.

Pearl and her cronies stood barking like trolls.

GRRARGOUGH.

Luke had had it.

In a matter of three seconds, he became a lion leading his pride, growling and moving toward every reckless yapper. The little dogs scattered like ants beneath the rush of a garden hose. They fled with their ears peeled back, leaping into the arms of Dog Moms who cuddled and cooed over them.

Of course, I intervened. I scolded Luke and restrained him.

Thankfully, no one lost an eye.

Still, the incident got me thinking about something more serious: the importance of training every dog, regardless of size. Somehow, little dogs are often given a pass.

Their lunging, barking and aggressive behavior can be dismissed as cute, funny or harmless—just because they are small. Certainly, a tiny dog cannot inflict the same physical damage as a large one.

But that doesn't mean the behavior is without consequences.

A small dog that repeatedly lunges at or provokes a larger dog may eventually trigger a defensive reaction. And when that happens, it is often the big dog who gets blamed—even if the little dog started the confrontation.



Training isn't about turning a small dog into a military recruit or expecting every Chihuahua to become a Zen master. It is about giving dogs the tools to navigate a world that can be overwhelming from their perspective. Training builds confidence, establishes boundaries and helps dogs—and their people—understand one another.

Luke has learned that little dogs come in many varieties. Some are Pebbles, all bouncing affection and buzzing energy. Some are Maui, all snarl and attitude. And some are Pearl, ready to defend the entire lake from an innocent visitor.

Luke, for his part, has learned that sometimes the best response is to walk away.

Apparently, he's still working on that one.

And maybe that's the real lesson: every dog deserves the chance to learn how to be confident without being confrontational—and every big dog deserves the chance to enjoy the lake without having to become the lion of the neighborhood.

Visit Luke on Instagram @living-withlukevalention

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BY MARK MARZEOTTI

multi-generational home buying is on the rise. Millions of families are living multi-generationally – that's when

three or more generations live under one roof - and that number is only climbing. Data shows those households grew from 3.2 million to almost 4 million between 2014 and 2024 according to Realtor.com.

Each year, more people are shopping for a larger home that fits their combined needs. While the appetite for this type of house is rising across the board, data shows multi-generational living is more common in some states than in

others. Where does your state fall? California, Texas and Hawaii are leading the pack. Massachusetts is at four percent while Connecticut is just under four percent.

Depending on where you are, the pool of buyers looking for a house like yours could be even bigger than you'd think. But the overall bottom line is this: There's a real market out there for larger homes with room for multiple generations under one roof, especially since affordability is still so tight. If you own a house like that, it's in demand.

Multi-generational houses sell at a premium and that extra room carries real value with the right buyer. According to Realtor.com, in 2025 the median asking price for a multi-generational house was \$709,000, roughly 65 percent higher than the \$429,900 median for a standard house. Some of that is simply size. But compare multi-generational homes to regular homes with the same amount of square footage, and they still come out on top – \$262 per square foot versus \$215. That's a 22 percent premium you could command for special features like in-law suites, second kitchens, and separate entries.

When you sell, this could help you walk away with more money in your pocket, especially when your agent highlights your home's multi-generational features in your listing. And even with slightly higher price tags, buyers aren't getting sticker shock. Multi-generational houses drew 13.5 percent more on-line views than standard ones, and they still sold just as fast – in about 59 days – per the same Realtor.com report.

Basically, when buyers want something that's very specific, the house that checks the boxes tends to stand out. Your multi-generational-friendly, or simply larger-

than-average, house might meet criteria a lot of buyers can't find in a standard one. That's what gets attention and offers. So, talk to a

member of The Marzeotti Group or your trusted real estate professional about what it could get you in your market right now.



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Sing with the Blackstone Valley Community Chorus

The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus welcomes new and returning singers to Open Call for their 2026 holiday concert season. Open Call will take place at 6 p.m. on Sunday, October 4, at the Douglas Municipal Center Resource Room located at 29 Depot St. in Douglas.

New members do not need to prepare an audition song, but should come ready to sing. There is a \$40 membership fee to join, payable by cash, check or credit card (credit card payments are subject to a \$2 service fee). Rehearsals take place on Sundays at 6 p.m. beginning October 11. This season the BVCC is preparing a holiday program that will be performed with a full orchestra on December 13 at Valley Chapel in Uxbridge.

The BVCC is a non-audition, multi-generational chorus with people of varied musical abilities brought together by a shared love of music and a commitment

to provide our community with exceptional musical experiences. The BVCC has been singing throughout Central Massachusetts for more than 20 years at concerts, community events, and holiday festivals. They have also performed at the Hanover Theater and Worcester Art Museum, the Massachusetts State House and Fenway Park.

They welcome anyone who would like to join them. They only ask that you can carry a tune and are committed to coming to rehearsals prepared. Whether you enjoy singing at your school, with a church choir, or in your car or shower, they hope you will consider joining their friendly musical family. For more information on the BVCC, visit them on Facebook or at www.bvccchorus.org.



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Electric vehicles, windshield cracks, Durango remote start, video mechanic estimates and catalytic converter swaps

Q. Why is the U.S. not adopting electric vehicles like other countries? It is my understanding that half of the new cars sold in China are electric and almost 40 percent in Finland. Why is that?

A. The fully battery-electric numbers are actually lower. Your numbers are closer to plug-in hybrid sales. Fully battery-electric cars are about 33 percent of sales in China. In the United States, those numbers are in the 8-10 percent range. Finland and China, from what I have read,

have a much more robust charging network. Also, in China, there are some electric cars that sell for less than \$12,000. In the United States, the average electric car price is approximately \$56,000. Although the charging network is getting better and more standardized, once you get to more rural areas, commercial charging stations are pretty sparse.

Q. I recently took my car to an automatic car wash, and when it emerged there was a large crack in the windshield. No crack had been there before. We

have to replace the windshield now. Is this a common occurrence? It seems like the car wash should be responsible. Do you know of any track record of whether car washes pay for damage done?

A. Generally, unless the car wash equipment was broken or defective, it is very unlikely the car wash would be responsible. I have seen this happen before and even had it happen to me while hand-washing a car. If the A/C or heat is on and then cold wash water hits the windshield, the glass can crack if there is a minor defect or chip. There can also be microscopic chips that spread when the brushes hit the windshield. Again, some car washes voluntarily pay for damage when there is clear evidence their equipment caused it. If there is no evidence of defective equipment, payment or reimbursement is very unlikely.

Q. We bought a 2011 Dodge Durango new with the remote starter already

installed. It worked perfectly until last year when it suddenly stopped working. We brought it to a business that installs remote starters, and they couldn't find the problem and couldn't get it to work. Any ideas?

A. You may find it cheaper and more efficient to remove the remote starter (if it was aftermarket- or dealer-installed) and have a new one installed. If the remotes are transmitting and the technician did not see an obvious wiring issue, the control module for the unit has likely failed. Trying to replace that part on a 15-year-old vehicle is not practical. Also, the newer units have better overall performance and security. If you really miss your vehicle's remote starter, I would replace it with a new unit.

Q. How much to repair a cracked side window on a 1998 four-door Toyota Camry?

A. The price will vary depending on where the replacement glass comes from. Aftermarket glass could run \$100-\$150, original Toyota glass could be double that price, and a used window could run about \$50. I would estimate the time to replace the window at about two hours. We see labor rates vary greatly. I made a few phone calls in my area, and labor rates at glass shops seem to run in the \$75-\$150 per hour range.

Q. How do you feel about shops that send videos of work needed on a car?

A. I have a bit of a mixed feeling on the subject. I was talking with a technician at a dealership, and they require video inspections of customers' cars, but the technician doesn't get paid for their camera work. To me, that does not seem fair. Although I do like it when a reader sends me a video for my opinion of possible work needed. In the past, I have seen some cars that needed serious work and others that I found very questionable, and I suggested a second opinion.

Q. We had a new catalytic converter and new oxygen sensor put on our Honda Accord. The mechanic was trying to save us some money by getting the catalytic converter from the local parts store. I had the car for about a week, and the check engine light went on again afterward. Now the mechanic is ordering an actual Honda catalytic converter. Your thoughts on this?

A. There are times when after-market parts can save serious money, but other times the parts are simply not of original-equipment quality and can cause fault codes even though the car runs fine. Recently, a reader with a Hyundai had a charging system problem, and his local shop put two different brands of alternators on the car and still had issues. The shop suggested it might be a computer problem and told him to take it to a dealer. The dealer removed the aftermarket alternator and replaced it with a Hyundai alternator, and the problem was solved.



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TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING

dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com

What does financial fulfillment actually feel like?

Feeling financially fulfilled means so much more than just the number in your bank account. It's about being able to take your family out to dinner without calculating whether you can afford it. It means sleeping soundly on a Sunday night, knowing that if the water heater gives out tomorrow, you can handle it. And it's saying yes to a vacation because you planned ahead and the money is there.

In short, financial fulfillment is the feeling that your money is supporting the life you want.

Yet true fulfillment is surprisingly rare. Only 16% of Americans are financially fulfilled, according to a 2026 study by Edward Jones and Gallup, "Money and Meaning: Understanding Financial Fulfillment." Those at the other end of the spectrum, the financially stressed (32%), often say that money regularly controls their daily decisions. Most Americans (51%), however, fall in the middle — the financially conflicted. They manage to get by but often carry a persistent undercurrent of worry.

Notably, where you land on this spectrum has less to do with your income than you might expect. More than half of households

earning \$175,000 or more are still financially conflicted.

Building the foundation

So, the question becomes, "What do financially fulfilled people do differently?" Simply put, they tend to have foundational planning structures in place. Five behaviors show up consistently among the financially fulfilled, and they're simple steps you can take, too.

- Build an emergency fund (98% of fulfilled have this). Aim for saving three to six months of living expenses in a liquid, easily accessible account. When you know you can handle the unexpected, you stop bracing for it, and lower stress gives you a higher quality of life.

- Create a financial plan for retirement (91% of financially fulfilled have one). It's hard to feel in control if you don't know where you're going. A retirement plan puts a real number on what you'll need and lays out a clear path to get there, with built-in protection against life's unexpected curveballs.

- Save intentionally for major milestones (87% of financially fulfilled do). A home renovation, a new vehicle or a child's education don't have to feel disruptive. Setting money aside deliberately for the milestones you anticipate means you can say yes without scrambling.

- Put an estate plan in place (66% of financially fulfilled have). Estate plans are not just

for the wealthy. A will and basic estate plan help ensure what you've worked for still reflects your wishes after you're gone.

- Work with a financial advisor (60% of financially fulfilled who sought any guidance have used an advisor in the past year). The internet is great, but real guidance comes from a credentialed person who knows you and your family and what you want your money to do for you.

Knowing that your money is working toward the life you want doesn't happen by accident. Feeling financially fulfilled is worth the effort and may be more achievable than you realize.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert Street, Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.



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*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 09/17/26. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

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TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 22 - OCTOBER 27

• 11 am-1 pm: Creative Writing: Memoirs at the Auburn Senior Center. Your memories are a gift that can be treasured for generations. If you've ever wanted to preserve your experiences, reflect on

meaningful moments, or if you simply enjoy putting your memories into words, this 6-week workshop offers inspiration. No writing experience necessary: just bring your memories. RSVP 508-832-7799.

• 1 pm: Floral arranging class with Sam's Stems at the Auburn Senior Center. \$15 p/p. Bring your own vase and enjoy this fun DIY workshop. RSVP 508-832-7799.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

• 9 am-4 pm: Oxford Lions Club Annual Fall Festival at the Oxford Bandstand on the Common. Craft and retail vendors, food trucks and food vendors, live entertainment, free activities for the kids – this is the annual festival that everyone looks forward to. Come on down and enjoy the day.



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10/24	A WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ MURDER MYSTERY DINNER
10/31	HALLOWEEN PARTY WITH XS DANCE BAND
11/7	BEST OF TIMES: THE MUSIC OF STYX, FOREIGNER & REO SPEEDWAGON
11/13	COMEDY NIGHT WITH COREY RODRIGUES, STEVE BJORK, AND BRIAN WAYNE
11/14	PETTY LARCENY: A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF TOM PETTY
11/21	LITTLE LIES: A TRIBUTE TO FLEETWOOD MAC
11/27	AFFINITY: A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF JOURNEY
12/5	THE FOOLS
12/11	COMEDY NIGHT WITH KELLY MACFARLAND, KENDRA CUNNINGHAM, AND GARRETT FINN

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

• 1 pm: Big Crimes 2 with the Auburn Police Department at the Senior Center. Ever wonder what goes on behind the yellow crime scene tape? Join Sgt. Greg Wildman and a detective from the Auburn PD as they share stories about some of the town's biggest crimes and the investigations that solved them. It's an afternoon of mystery and stories you won't want to miss. RSVP 508-832-7799.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

• 1 pm: Singing Trooper Daniel M. Clark entertains at the Auburn Senior Center. You know him from his appearance at sporting and national events. Performing patriotic and military songs, plus upbeat musical selections that will leave you feeling great. All are welcome, light refreshments will be served. RSVP 508-832-7799.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

• 1 pm: Create and paint a moonlit owl scene with instructor Delores Palmer at the Auburn Senior Center. All skill levels are welcome at this acrylic paint workshop that is limited to 10 people. \$5 p/p. RSVP 508-832-7799.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

• 9 am-4 pm: Douglas Oktoberfest: This annual event brings the community together for a day of fun, entertainment, and celebration. From music and games to local vendors and magical performances, it is a highlight of the fall season in Douglas. Free admission, Main Street, Douglas. For more info, email info.douglasoktoberfest@gmail.com or visit douglasoktoberfest.com.

• 10 am-2 pm: Book Sale at the Auburn

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

• 5:45 p.m. Health care & your retirement. Join us for our free presentation where Dennis Antonopoulos (Financial Advisor for Edward Jones) + Lynne Mus-sulli (Medicare Specialist) will discuss: Medicare coverage and traditional medical expenses, Long-term medical care expenses, and strategies for addressing out-of-pocket expenses
Brookdale Eddy Pond West, 669 Washington St., Auburn. Please call Karen Rieser at 508-832-5385 or email karen.rieser@edwardjones.com by 10/2/2026.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

• 7 pm: Oxford holds its Special Town Meeting at the Oxford High School, 100 Carbundle Drive. Call the Town Clerk's Office for more information at 508-987-6032, Ext.1.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

• 8 am-noon: St. Roch's Annual Yard Sale. Come shop and find great treasures. Want to donate items? Drop off donations at the St. Ann Center in the church on the following Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon: Sept. 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 10. 374 Main Street, Oxford. Sat

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

6 pm: Auburn holds its Special Town Meeting at the Auburn High School, 99 Auburn Street. Warrant opens on September 28. Call the Town Clerk's Office for more information at 508-832-7701.

SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 31 AND NOVEMBER 7

8 a.m.-3 pm: Oxford Bulk Item Drop-off for Oxford residents only, no businesses. Oct 31 for Oxford Center - North and Nov. 7 for Oxford Center - South. Location: Casella Transfer Station, 200 Leicester St., North Oxford. Must have proof of residency. Maximum vehicle size: one-ton truck. Households are limited to two loads. Loads will be checked and recorded at the gate. Questions on what is accepted, call Casella at 508-892-1219. For more info call the Dept. of Public Works at 508-987-6006.

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Remembering September 11, 2001, twenty-five years later: Never forget.

1. For four nights, from 8 p.m. to midnight, “two pillars of light rose from the highest peak in the Northeast as a powerful symbol of resilience, gratitude, and unity. Inspired by the dual beams that honor September 11, The Honor Summit paid tribute to the lives lost, the first responders who answered the call, and the veterans whose courage continues to protect our communities.” *Photo from the Mount Washington Auto Road Facebook page.*

2. The Oxford Fire Department held a memorial ceremony that was also attended by the Oxford Police Department and the Oxford Department of Public Works. After words from OFD Chief Kenneth Sellers, Father Andrew Giorlis, Oxford Fire Chaplain, offered

a prayer, which was followed by tolling of the bell and the flag lowered to half-staff. As Chief Sellers said, “I will always remember exactly where I was when I first heard the news about the attack.” From OFD’s morning program:

8:46 a.m.: Hijackers deliberately crashed American Airlines Flight 11 into floors 93-99 of the North Tower.

9:03 a.m.: Hijackers deliberately crashed United Airlines Flight 175 into floors 77 through 85 of the South Tower.

9:37 a.m.: Hijackers deliberately crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon, just outside Washington, D.C.

9:59 a.m.: The South Tower collapsed.

10:03 a.m.: After learning of

the other attacks, passengers on United Airlines Flight 93 launched a counterattack on hijackers aboard their plane to try and seize control of the aircraft. In response, the hijackers crashed the plane into an empty field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

10:28 a.m.: The North Tower collapsed, leaving the 16-acre World Trade Center site in ruins and collateral damage affecting all adjacent properties and streets. The rescue effort commenced immediately.

3. On- and off-duty members of the Auburn Fire Department took on their annual stair climb at the department’s training facility – climbing the tower up and down 31 time, the equivalent of the 110 stories that FDNY members climbed to attempt rescues - to remember and pay tribute to those who perished on 9/11, including the 343 firefighters. Wearing the full turnout gear adds another 75 pounds. “Their bravery and sacrifice inspire us every day to serve our community with courage and compassion,” wrote Chief Stephen Coleman.

We hope you enjoy Photo Finish, Yankee Xpress’ newest feature. But we can’t do it alone! Are you a member of a community group - Lions, scouts, Rotary, public school, garden club - and have a photograph that you think would be of interest to readers? Yankee Xpress welcomes your submission to Photo Finish. Please email your photograph to martha@localtown-pages.com and include your name, address, and phone number (for verification). We hope Photo Finish will reflect the community but we can’t do it without your participation and help. Thank you.

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