

Fall and Halloween fun in Grafton, Millbury and Sutton

BY BRITTANY AMALFI

The leaves are starting to change, Halloween is on the horizon, and fall events are filling the calendar. Families in Grafton, Millbury, and Sutton can look forward to so much seasonal fun in the weeks ahead.

In Millbury, the Millbury Federal Credit Union will host its ninth annual Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 24, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 50 Main St. Employees will decorate the trunks of their vehicles and hand out candy to local ghouls and goblins!

The free community event will also include refreshments. Families can stop by to check out the decorated vehicles and enjoy a morning of Halloween fun.

In Sutton, Whittier Farms on 90 Douglas Road will host its annual Tract-or-Treating event on October 30 from 4-7 p.m., offering a farm-themed twist on the Halloween tradition. Children can trick-or-treat around decorated farm tractors while enjoying the setting at the local farm.

Admission and parking are free, and the event is open to all ages. The event is presented by Stephen Benjamin Insurance Agency of Sutton.

Grafton Recreation will host its Fall Festival on October 18 from



11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Nelson Park in North Grafton. The festival is presented by Grafton Children's Daycare & Preschool Center, Inc. and Country Bank, with Jackie Crawford-Ross: Massachusetts Living also joining as a new event sponsor.

The festival will feature a variety of activities, including a scarecrow-building competition, pumpkin painting, music, food trucks, inflatables, and other family activities. Local businesses will also be on hand throughout the event.

The Blackstone Valley is never short of fun-filled Fall and Halloween events; it might be hard to pick just one! Luckily, these fantastic events are on different days, so families may not have to choose! Each town has something to offer everyone, and aside from these events, there are many more to look forward to!

Photo from the Whittier Farms Facebook Page



A freshly made blueberry crisp prepared by BVT's food services team. Photo submitted

Fueling students for success

BVT named one of America's Healthiest Schools for 2026

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) has been named one of America's Healthiest Schools for 2026 by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a national nonprofit dedicated to advancing equitable whole-child health by creating healthier school environments.

Supported by Del Monte Foods, Kaiser Permanente, and Kohl's Cares, this annual awards program recognizes schools for implement-

ing evidence-based policies and practices that support academic success and lifelong well-being. Schools are recognized in nine health-related areas.

BVT was recognized for its work to improve nutrition and food access, including conducting student taste tests in the cafeteria, collaborating with the food services team during the school's annual Multicultural Festival, and developing other partnerships and activities that promote healthy food choices and access.

A special lunch menu celebrating the Multicultural Festival featured coconut burfi brownie bites, a dessert infused with rich Indian flavors. These tasting activities and specialty items were well received by students and provided opportunities to introduce them to new foods and flavors.

"It is an honor to be recognized as one of America's Healthiest Schools," said BVT Superintendent-Director Anthony E. Steele II. "Our staff and students understand the importance of maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle, and I am proud of the policies and programs that have helped make health and wellness a priority at BVT."



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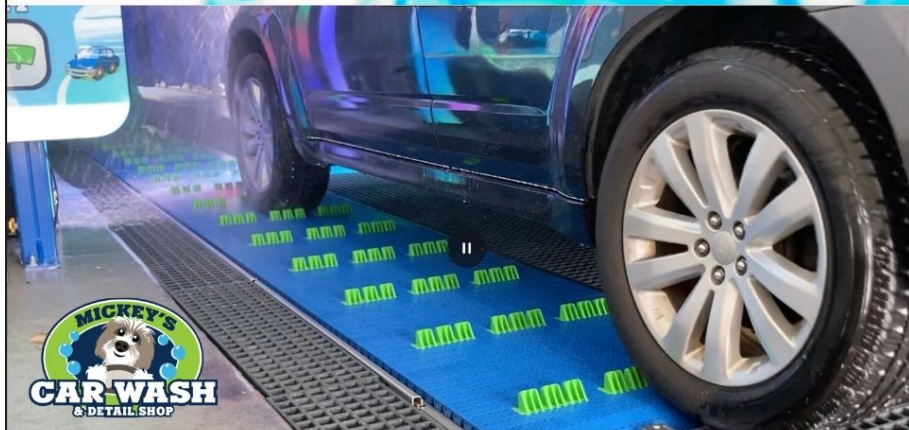
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BVAA looking for local artists for upcoming Community Art Show

The Blackstone Valley Art Association encourages all local artists to participate in our upcoming Community Art Show! The drop-off date for this FREE show is Saturday, October 17 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Each person can submit up to 2 pieces of art.

also have free art drop-in sessions every Saturday 10 a.m.--3 p.m. We have supplies or you can bring your own. Casual, relaxing, and fun.

Congratulations to the winners of our "Blue" art show, which is live through Saturday, October



We'd love to see your cell phone photos, watercolors, sketches, paintings, and anything else you create! The public reception is Friday, October 30, from 5-7 p.m. All are welcome! This party will also be a Halloween party. We'll have a pop-up art show just that Friday and Saturday featuring all things macabre and spooky. Come see the art! Dress up if you want! Enjoy two art shows at once!

We have monthly free art workshops at our Uxbridge Community Art Gallery. Our November workshop, on Tuesday, November 16, is all about art journaling for stress relief. It's free and open to everyone! We

17. They are: First: Christine Masse-Hainley colored pencil "His Favorite Belt". Second: Marilyn Rocks watercolor "From Mom's Garden". Third: Bonnie Frederico oil "My Gravy Boat". Honorable mentions: Vincent Ryan watercolor "Potted Succulents", Carol Frieswick oil "East-ham", Verne Thayer oil "Art of Water", Beverly Tinklenberg watercolor "Eric's Daughter", Steve Paulson watercolor "Twilight", and Sue Dion oil "Serenity".

Visit BVAA.org or stop by the Uxbridge Community Art Gallery at 5 South Main St, Uxbridge. We'd love to talk with you!

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Pumpkin Roll set for November 7

Grafton Recreation and the Sustainability Team will host a Pumpkin Roll on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 11 a.m. at Fairview Cemetery.



Residents looking to recycle their pumpkins after Halloween are invited to bring them to the event for a fun and environmentally friendly activity. Pre-registration is required for those who want to participate in the pumpkin roll, with prizes awarded for the fastest rolls.

Those who cannot participate in the roll can still drop off their pumpkins beginning at 11 a.m.

Raffles will also be held, with details to be announced.

This is a BYOP (Bring Your Own Pumpkin) event. Before bringing a pumpkin, all candles and other

plastic parts must be removed. Pumpkins must also be free of glitter and paint.

To register, check out their website at https://graftonma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29908&fbclid=IwY2xjawUWju5wZG9mB-WV4dG4DYWVtAjEwAGJyaWQRMXVGckQ0VG1LM1VjbE5oYn-pzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEelbY-313oC-mK7P1AWnPllgMdTXq6negPBI-PCXH79zP8FaP7tT2luJ2A41aN4_aem_E8u_C0-44eyaurKYIDLC5A.

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Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Main Street in Douglas, Massachusetts. This beloved community tradition returns with a full day of festivities for families, friends, and visitors — and admission is completely free.

This year's Oktoberfest will feature the always-popular beer garden, a community favorite serving locally crafted brews from Greater Good. Guests can enjoy live music throughout the day, adding energy and hometown spirit to the celebration.

The event will also host the ever-popular little dog races down Main Street—an exciting and adorable spectacle for attendees of all ages. With four stages of entertainment, visitors can enjoy a variety of performances throughout the day.

Families can look forward to an expanded lineup of games, attractions, and hands-on activi-



ties, including bounce houses, axe throwing, a thrilling cash cube, barrel train rides, a knocker ball obstacle course, tricycle races, and live demonstrations of traditional heritage crafts. Ed the Wizard will

return with street magic, balloon animals, and dazzling illusions that bring smiles to every corner of the festival.

With over 100 vendors, Oktoberfest offers endless opportunities

to shop, eat, and explore unique local products, handmade crafts, and delicious treats.

Volunteer Information:

We rely on community support to make this event possible. If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to us at volunteers.douglasoktoberfest@gmail.com. Volunteers help keep the event running smoothly and make a huge difference.

Come celebrate autumn with your community at the Douglas Oktoberfest. We look forward to seeing you there!

About Douglas Oktoberfest:

The Douglas, MA Oktoberfest is an annual event that 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.

BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

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by Tim Jones

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What does financial fulfillment actually feel like?



Jamie DeCaire

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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 fi-

nancially 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.

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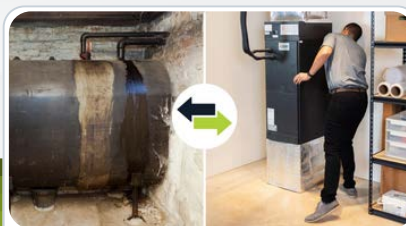
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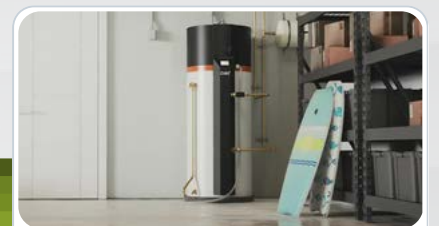
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Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential 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 responsible 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



Business spotlight

shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers reinvested into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around



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

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 lifting, 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 Sutton, Millbury and Grafton 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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Blackstone Valley Chamber announces new date and location for Yellow Tulip Project Hope Garden at Uxbridge High School

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's Women's Success Network (WSN) is proud to announce a new date and location for its upcoming Yellow Tulip Project Hope Garden planting, bringing an important message of hope, connection, and mental health awareness to the Uxbridge community. The event will now take place on Friday, October 16, 2026, at 9 a.m. at Uxbridge High School, 300 Quaker Highway, Uxbridge, Massachusetts. The rain date is set for Saturday, October 17, 2026, at 9 a.m.

As part of the Yellow Tulip Project, the WSN, Chamber members, community volunteers, and supporters will come together to plant 500 yellow tulip bulbs and create a Hope Garden at Uxbridge High School. The project is designed to help raise awareness around mental health, encourage open conversations, and help break the stigma associated with mental illness. Yellow tulips are a symbol of hope and happiness, making the garden much more than a collection of flowers. Once in bloom, the tulips will provide a lasting and meaningful reminder throughout the community that hope can grow, even during difficult seasons. Also joining us for this year's planting will be the UHS Mental Health Awareness student organization!

"Sometimes the simplest things can carry the most powerful message," said Kristen Kearnan, BVCC Programs & Events Director. "Planting 500 tulips may seem like a small act, but together, those flowers will create something beautiful that reminds our community, and especially our young people, that there is always hope, that they are not alone, and that it is okay to ask for help. We are so excited to bring this project to Uxbridge High School and watch this garden grow."

The Blackstone Valley Chamber's Women's Success Network is encouraging community members, businesses, families, and individuals to join them for this special morning of service and connection. Volunteers are needed to help plant the tulip bulbs, and participants are encouraged to bring their own gardening gloves and tools.

The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is proud to partner with the Yellow Tulip Project and the Uxbridge High School on this meaningful initiative. A special thank you to, Country Bank as the presenting sponsor of this event.

To register as a volunteer and to help smash the stigma, please visit our website at www.blackstonevalley.org/events. This event is FREE and open to the public. You can also

learn more about the Yellow Tulip Project at theyellowtulipproject.org.

For more information, please contact Kristen Kearnan at 508.234.9090 ext.

100 or email Kristen at kkearnan@blackstonevalley.org.



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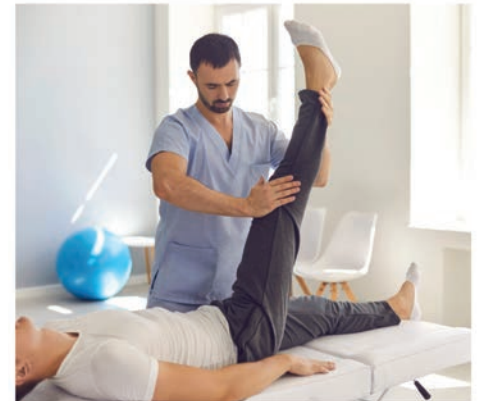
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All programs are free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear. Bathrooms and water are not available unless otherwise stated. Bringing bug spray is encouraged. Programming is subject to change or cancellation. For the most up-to-date programming information, call (508) 278-7604 or visit bit.ly/blstupdates.

Reasonable accommodations available upon advance notice. To make a request, please contact Moneesha Dasgupta at (617) 645-0358 or moneesha.dasgupta2@mass.gov.

Chamberlain Pond Loop
Douglas State Forest

Sunday, September 27, 2 – 4 p.m.
Meet at the Chamberlain Pond Trail parking area (bit.ly/chamberlainpond). This hike is ~4.5 miles over rocky, wet, and rugged forest surfaces with moderate inclines.

Goat Hill Loop
Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park
Sunday, October 4, 2 – 4 p.m.
Meet at the River Bend Farm Visitor Center parking area (287 Oak Street, Uxbridge). This hike is ~2 miles over rocky and rugged forest surfaces with steep inclines. Bathrooms and water available.

Grand Trunk Trail Loop
Douglas State Forest
Sunday, October 11, 1 – 4 p.m.
Meet at the Streeter Trail gate

(bit.ly/dougstreeter). This hike is ~5 miles over rocky and compacted gravel surfaces with mild inclines.

Dean Pond Loop
Upton State Forest
Sunday, October 18, 2 – 4 p.m.
Meet at the CCC Camp parking area (bit.ly/uptnccc). This hike is ~3.5 miles over a loose gravel surface with steep inclines. Bathrooms available.

Bad Luck Pond Loop
Douglas State Forest
Sunday, October 25, 2 – 4 p.m.
Meet at the Route 16 parking area (bit.ly/dougroute16). This hike is ~3.5 miles over a loose gravel surface with moderate inclines.



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The Millbury Historical Society Museum will be open during Fall Fun Day at the Mansion on Sunday, October 18.

Be on the lookout for some of the other activities:
Fall Fun Day at the Mansion will feature live music, a chili cook-off, a vendor fair, raffles, yard games, food, adult beverages, and more!
Vendor Fair from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 pm
Chili Cook-off from 12-4 p.m.
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JAMEY YAYLAIAN

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 primarily 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 Administration 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.

Sing with the BVCC!

The Blackstone Valley Community Chorus welcomes new and returning singers to Open Call for our 2026 holiday concert season! Open Call will take place on Sunday, October 4th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Douglas Municipal Center Resource Room located at 29 Depot Street in

Douglas, MA. 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 \$2.00 service fee). Rehearsals take place on Sundays at 6:00 pm begin-

ning on October 11th. This season, the BVCC is preparing a holiday program to be performed with a full orchestra on December 13th at Valley Chapel in Uxbridge.

For more information on the BVCC, visit us on Facebook or at www.bvcchorus.org.



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SPORTS

Sutton golf team wins Fall Classic

The Sutton High School golf team won the 2026 Filly Family Fall Classic on Sept. 3. Sutton golfers placed five players among the top seven finishers, including Shepleigh Ohrt, first with a score of 87; Isabella Trejo, second with 93; Breckyn Peterson, third with 101; Aniston Jasnoch, fourth with 102; and Molly McCroden, seventh with 110.



Sutton Mustangs landed a big win over Cross County on Sept. 5, scoring 36-12!

Courtesy Photos



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SPORTS

The Suzies set their sights on the soccer season



BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Over the past five seasons, the Sutton girls soccer team has managed to go an impressive 68-19-3 during the regular season and then added another 25 wins en route to five straight State Championships (2- Division 5 and 3- Division 4). The first came in 2021, when the Suzies were the four seed in the Division 5 Tournament, and to reach the Finals they had to beat the number one seed. The next two seasons found Sutton as the No. 2 seed, with the last two seasons as the No. 1 seed entering the tournament. As the No. 2 seed during the 2022 and 2023 seasons, Sutton had to take down the number one seed in the Finals to capture the State Titles.

While the Suzies are coming into the 2026 season riding a high five-year wave in order to grab their sixth straight championship, they are going to have to do some work. Sutton not only graduated five seniors from last year's 14-4 regular-season record, but also lost two underclassmen who have decided to pursue other endeavors. Needless to say, this upcoming campaign is going to be a lot tougher than it has been in the past.

As the team gets ready to take to the pitch, Coach Alex Ferguson will be fielding 6 freshmen, 3 sophomores, 1 junior, and 7 seniors, making up his 17-man roster.

"Coming into the season, we have realized that we are going to have to work a lot harder this year than we have in the past," the coach said. "The girls have always worked hard during the off-season, with most of them playing cub or in summer leagues. They'll be in soccer mode when the season opens up, but it is definitely going to be a different year and that's what I try-

ing to figure out before our home opener against Medway."

Senior captains Courtney Clemens and Lea Lamoreaux will take the reins in bringing the Suzies back into the tournament; both athletes will be taking their games to the collegiate level next fall. Clemens will be attending Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, and Lamoreaux will play for Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The two midfielders will be tasked not only with providing leadership and keeping the team's chemistry intact throughout the

season, but also with patrolling the midfield. Ferguson calls the duo two of the best to have played the game at this level.

Jersey Jeffries will also return to lead the Suzies' defense. As the leader in the back field, Jeffries is a quick defender as well as a talker who will be in charge of keeping things organized on the field. Offensively, Ferguson will have junior Delainey Walsh and senior Lucy Scarborough playing the striker position, and Quinn Jacobsen, Ashley Briggs, Hannah Jenkins, and Ella Pitts will hold down the outside midfield.

McKenna Perry will take over the team's last line of defense as goalie. She will have big shoes to fill to keep Sutton rolling throughout the season. The three-year varsity athlete will be a first-year starting keeper for the Suzies. Last fall, Perry, who is also a club soccer player, was able to get into four games as the starter, where she recorded three shutouts and only allowed one goal in the other contest. At this time, she is the only keeper on the team's varsity roster.

Freshman Caroline Heldenbergh should be poised to see a lot of

SOCCER

continued on page 12

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fitness program that utilizes light weights and some Tai Chi moves to help with balance. This program focuses on light cardio, strength, and

fun activities to train the body for real-life movements and activities. The program will begin Monday, September 28th from 11:45

a.m.-12:45 p.m. at the Uxbridge Senior Center Satellite Site, McCloskey School at 62 Capron St. This program is free for Uxbridge residents. There is a requested donation of \$25.00 for out-of-town residents. signed for seniors.

Interested individuals should call or stop by the Uxbridge Senior Center at 508-278-8622 to receive their enrollment form, the schedule, and waiver forms prior to the start of the program.



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SOCCER

continued from page 11

action this fall in the middle of the field. The freshman is a very athletic individual who plays at a high level on the club soccer scene, sees the field well, and can defend on both sides of the ball. Another freshman to grace the Suzies roster is striker Peyton Walsh, a strong one with a decent shot, according to her coach.

Scoring will come back to the elder Walsh, who was third on the team last fall, netting 10 goals and 10 assists. Scarborough, who is returning to Sutton for her senior season, will also be asked to find the back of the net. According to Ferguson, the senior has improved her skills considerably and has a very accurate shot.

While the team would love nothing more than capturing its sixth straight State Title, the coach knows that while nothing is impossible, it's going to be an uphill battle.

"We basically have to go out and play competitively while building our team chemistry," Ferguson said. "As the girls get acclimated and closer to one another, the chemistry and comfort levels should rise, and we should be able to play some good soccer."

Having lost some quality athletes, the newer girls moving up to the varsity level are going to have to pick up their game. Coming up from the JV team, the girls will not only find that the game is much faster than they are used to, but they will also be playing against some of the top-tier teams and their players.

If Sutton can get the influx of newer varsity players up to speed quickly, they will once again have the opportunity to field a top-10 team. However, playing in the tough CMAC will be another challenge on its own, and the Suzies will need to develop and all come together as a team.

Photos courtesy of the Suzies' Facebook Page

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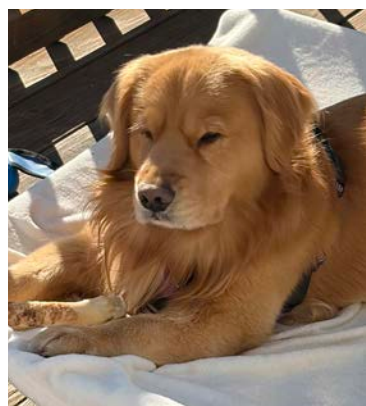
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As one might expect, Pebbles happens to be one of Luke's smaller dog friends. A Cavachon with shaggy white hair, Pebbles moves and announces herself with the frenzy of a small motor.

"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.

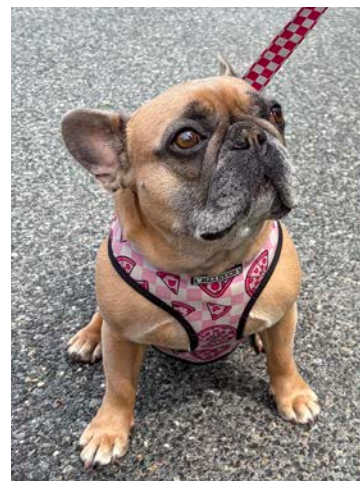
"Leave it, Luke."

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

LUKE

continued on page 15

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DA Early announces Grant to establish Comfort Dog Program across Worcester County

The Worcester County District Attorney's Office has been awarded a Department of Justice Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) grant to establish a county-wide comfort dog mutual aid response program in partnership with municipal police departments. The grant will also support youth substance use prevention programming across Worcester County.

This initiative will expand the use of comfort dogs to support students, families, and community members during critical incidents and community

outreach efforts. Funding will help formalize a coordinated mutual aid response system while strengthening existing programs and supporting the development of new comfort dog teams within local police departments.

Comfort dogs are an effective tool in helping reduce anxiety, support recovery from trauma, and promote emotional well-being. Through this program, trained teams will be available to respond across Worcester County when communities need them most.

District Attorney Early applauded the several police

departments that have already been coordinating comfort dog responses. "The impact that these dogs have on people experiencing traumatic situations is unbelievable," said District Attorney Early. "Their presence brings an immediate sense of calm and reduction in anxiety and stress when it's needed most, helping people feel more at ease during moments of crisis and trauma."

Funding will support the training, coordination, and deployment of comfort dog teams, ensuring departments across Worcester County have the resources needed to respond

effectively when called upon. By expanding access to these services, the program aims to ensure more individuals and communi-

ties receive timely support during difficult moments.

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LUKE

continued from page 14

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 les-

son: 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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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?

BY JOHN PAUL

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

CAR DOCTOR
continued on page 17

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REAL ESTATE

The kind of house buyers are willing to pay more for

That spare room on the main floor. The finished basement with a kitchenette and its own entrance. The bonus room you've been using for storage. To you, it's extra space, but to a growing pool of buyers, it's the reason they would pick your house. Here's why: multi-generational home buying is on the rise.



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

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 online 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.

CAR DOCTOR

continued from page 16

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.

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?

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 differ-

ent 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.

Do you have a car question?
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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, SEPTEMBER 26

• Manchaug's 200th Birthday hosted by Sutton Historical Society, Inc. Manchaug Mills, 6 Whitins Road, Manchaug Village, Sutton

Suite 2B-1—Handicapped accessible 3 p.m. — 6 p.m.; Light snacks will be served Celebrate and Share with us! Bring your memories, your photos, or other memorabilia.

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.

STARTING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

• The Uxbridge Senior Center is proud to present a live 8-week session of Chair Yoga Exercise classes for Seniors. This class is a safe, gentle form of exercise that builds strength, improves balance, and enhances flexibility using a stable chair for support. The benefits of chair yoga include better balance, pain relief, and flexibility. The program will begin Monday, September 28 from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the Uxbridge Senior Center Satellite Site which is located at the McCloskey School at 62 Capron Street. The class will run for one hour, one day a week, on Mondays, for an 8-week time frame. The schedule will vary and is not consecutive Mondays, due to the availability of the gym. This program is free for Uxbridge residents. There is a requested donation of \$25.00 for out-of-town residents. Interested individuals should call or stop by the Uxbridge Senior Center at 508-278-8622 for more information and receive their enrollment form, the schedule, and waiver forms prior to the start of the program. The Center is located at 36 South Main Street in Uxbridge and is open Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• The Uxbridge Senior Center is proud to

present a live 8-week session of Low Impact Exercise classes for Seniors. This class is a fitness program that utilizes light weights, and some Tai Chi moves to help with balance. The benefits of this program include improved balance, range of motion and coordination. This exercise is a lightweight strength circuit with gentle movements to improve flexibility. Most exercises will be seated with a focus on improving muscle strength especially around the knee area which is crucial for balance and walking and hopefully avoiding falls. This program focuses on light cardio, strength, and fun activities to train the body for real life movements and activities. Some poses can also be done standing using a chair for support. The program will begin Monday, September 28 from 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. at the Uxbridge Senior Center Satellite Site which is located at the McCloskey School at 62 Capron Street. The class will run for one hour, one day a week, on Mondays, for an 8-week time frame. The schedule will vary and is not consecutive Mondays, due to the availability of the gym. This program is free for Uxbridge residents. There is a requested donation of \$25.00 for out-of-town residents. The class would be open to all in the community, including those outside the Town of Uxbridge. Interested individuals should call or stop by the Uxbridge Senior Center at 508-278-8622 for more information and receive their enrollment form, the schedule, and waiver forms prior to the start of the program. The Center is located at 36 South Main Street in Uxbridge and is open Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

• Grafton Recreation Presents: Fall Festival Music, food, and games, Pumpkin painting, Scarecrow building and more Come decorate a pumpkin while supplies

HAPPENINGS!

continued on page 19

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HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 18

last and build a scarecrow (bring your own supplies) Nelson Park, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Presented by: Grafton's Children's Daycare and Preschool, Country Bank Sponsored by: Jackie Crawford Ross, Realtor

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Grafton Recreation Presents: Friendly Trick or Treat, 3-4 p.m. at the Grafton Municipal Center. Designed for ages 5 and under. All are welcome. Costumes encouraged. Start at the Senior Center Gym for a bag and a map! Sponsored by the Town of Grafton

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Home Baked Ham & Bean Supper, October 24th, 2026 at 5:00 pm in the Community House, 8 Court St, Uxbridge lo-

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