

Light at the end of the tunnel: Excitement builds around Auburn's new fire headquarters

BY WALTER BIRD

It has been a long time coming. When the town finally cuts the ribbon and opens the door to a brand-new fire headquarters at 10 Prospect Street, it will mark the culmination of several years of planning; unforeseen delays because of COVID; and most of all, the combined efforts and support of town officials and residents to build just the third fire station in 100-plus years.

"I mean, it's going to be amazing," longtime Fire Chief Stephen Coleman said during a recent walkthrough at the construction site.

The new station, expected to be completed in December 2027, will become the headquarters, which is currently situated at 47 Auburn Street, near the Auburn Mall. That building will stay in play as Station 2.

The new, \$31-million, two-story, 27,000 square-foot headquarters will replace the current Station 2 on West Street, although the fire training facility will remain.

Among the features at the town's new crown jewel fire station will be a fitness center; training classroom that will accommodate 75 people; new Emergency Operations Center (EOC); EOC conference room;



From left: Auburn Fire Chief Stephen Coleman, Deputy Chief Glenn Johnson, and Firefighter and President of IAFF Local 4157 Nick Fairbanks at the construction site. Photo by Walter Bird

administrative offices; five, double-deep bays for fire apparatus; a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) compressor room, storage mezzanine; double-deep mechanics shop for the department's two full-time mechanics; and a carport for fire administrators and staff.

Oh, and given that the new

building is being built on the site of a former town staple, Chuck's Steakhouse, Coleman said they are looking at how to feature one of the 4-feet-by-8-feet signs from the old restaurant as "a nod within the

AUBURN

continued on page 2



Adrian Roman is greeted by opposing players and the referee.

Adrian's Army stands with young athlete as he battles cancer

BY WALTER BIRD

Webster's Adrian Roman's battle against cancer, as reported previously by *The YankeeXpress*, continues, taking a turn his family had hoped to avoid.

But he is not going it alone. On Wednesday, October 7, 13-year-old Adrian, a talented young athlete who was diagnosed

in July with osteosarcoma, underwent surgery to remove part of his right leg above the knee. It was, doctors had determined, the best chance to help remove the cancer.

The surgery, his mom Katlynn Roman told *The YankeeXpress*, went

ADRIAN

continued on page 3

OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

\$39.99 REGULAR
\$59.99 SYNTHETIC
INCLUDES UP TO 5QTS. OIL, MOST CARS.

ATRA
Auburn's Transmission & Repair Association

WE'RE NOT JUST TRANSMISSIONS... WE DO IT ALL!

BRAKES
Two WHEELS: \$50 OFF
Four WHEELS: \$100 OFF
Includes installation of brake pads and rotors. Most Cars. See shop for complete details. Must present ad before your service.

Brakes
Batteries
Axles
Differential
Starters
Front End
Shocks
Struts
Tie Rods
Oil Changes
Radiators
...and Much More!

SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!

GLOBE TRANSMISSIONS AND AUTO REPAIR

405 E. Main St., (Rt.131)
Southbridge, MA
508-764-9400
globetransmissionma.com

Summer Special

A/C RECHARGE
Only **\$139.95**

WE SELL TIRES
CALL US FIRST!
508-764-9400

BEST OF 2026
BusinessRate
Most cars - inform your technician of make and model when you book!

TAKE 10% OFF

YOUR NEXT SERVICE VISIT OF \$50 OR MORE.
Must present coupon at write-up.
Valid until 10.31.2026

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

PRSRF STD
ECRWS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 142
SPRINGFIELD, MA
Postal
Customer
Local

The YankeeXpress

Scan this QR CODE
to visit our Website



Cozy Up. Fix Up. Freshen Up.

FALL HOME IMPROVEMENT

Special Guide

LOOK INSIDE!

AUBURN

continued from page 1

station.”

Health and safety were a major focus during planning, Coleman said, noting cross-contamination is a big concern at the West Street Station, which, to be fair, isn’t so much a fire station as it is a converted elementary school. The only renovations to that building, in fact, were three garage doors installed in front of the old cafeteria.

“It was never designed to be a fire station in the first place,” Coleman said.

At West Street, when crews re-

turn from a call, they walk through the kitchen to get to laundry facilities, meaning the risk of contamination is high.

He recounted a call to a property infested with bed bugs.

“Crews left with bed bugs all over them,” the chief said. “Members had to basically strip down to their underwear on the apparatus floor, bag everything up, and walk through the kitchen. There was no proper place to bring contaminated and hazardous material back to the building.”

The new building will, of course, feature separate cold (clean/living area), warm (transition/decontamination area) and hot (high



Aerial views of construction of the Auburn Fire Department's new headquarters at the site of the former Chuck's Steakhouse, 10 Prospect St. Courtesy of the Town of Auburn

contamination area) zones.

“It’s huge,” said Nick Fairbanks, a full-time firefighter who first joined AFD as a call firefighter in 2015. Now president of the local union that represents the Auburn firefighters, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Auburn MA Permanent Firefighters Local 4157, Fairbanks said, “We can all breathe easier. The chief always had our backs on that.”

Coleman, Fairbanks, and Deputy Chief Glenn Johnson all referenced the department’s efforts in dealing with so-called “forever chemicals” such as per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS.

“I think we’re one of the only departments where, early on, we had two sets of gear,” Fairbanks said.

Coleman said all new equipment the department purchases is PFAS-rated.

The new headquarters, he said, was designed with an emphasis on the health and safety of firefighters.

It will also be prepared to embrace current and future technologies.

For example, Johnson said, the new station will be outfitted with a drone launch on the roof, which he and Coleman said will give first responders an advantage when rolling out on an emergency call.

“From a 911 call, they can launch the drone right to the call,” Johnson said. “It gives you eyes on the scene. You know what you’re going into. Depending on the drone, it also has the capability to drop different things on the scene ahead of time.”

well as the different town administrations, currently led by Town Manager Dori Vecchio.

“We’re very excited and enthusiastic for what’s to come,” Fairbanks said. “We’re grateful for the townspeople for supporting us and everybody at town hall. We’re excited to move in.”

Johnson, too, gave a nod to the progress made, which he credited to the synergy between all involved, including Castagna Construction, whose bid came in more than \$3 million under the total project budget; Owner’s Project Management (OPM) LeftField; and Tecton Architects.

“Everybody works well together,” Johnson said. “Everybody is focused on providing a really nice fire station. It’s great to see.”

Said Coleman: “We are running a modern-day fire rescue agency. We’re doing a lot of things right. A lot of other fire departments look at us to see what we’re doing. To be able to have a facility that matches the level of service we provide and the technology we’re using, is a great feeling.”

More information about the project is available at www.auburnma.gov on the Fire Station Building Committee page. *

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

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

BASEBALL PLAYOFFS WINGS SPECIAL!!

CLIP & SAVE! \$5 OFF Suicide Squeeze (Good thru the World Series)	CLIP & SAVE! \$7 OFF Yankee Hater (Good thru the World Series)	CLIP & SAVE! \$10 OFF Wild Pitch (Good thru the World Series)	CLIP & SAVE! \$15 OFF The Closer (Good thru the World Series)
---	--	---	---

AVVIO

RISTORANTE

**CONTEMPORARY
ITALIAN-AMERICAN
DINING EXPERIENCE**

NOW OPEN!

SCAN TO BOOK
A RESERVATION

The Shops at Blackstone Valley
70 Worcester-Providence Turnpike
Millbury, MA 01527

AVVIORISTORANTE.COM

Serving the Community since 1980

WE PLANT TREES & SHRUBS!

Expert Hand Climbing Crews
Removals • Pruning
Stump Grinding • Cabling

FAST FREE ESTIMATES
Fully Insured • Workman's Comp

CONTACT US TODAY!
508-366-7693 • sales@templemantree.com
MAA & TCIA Member

ADRIAN

continued from page 1

well. Adrian was recovering in the pediatric intensive care unit and was “in great spirits and ready to get up and get moving.”

In the days immediately after the surgery, Adrian was already standing up using a walker and doing “amazing,” according to his mom.

Through it all, one thing is certain: Adrian is not alone.

In fact, he quite literally has his own army in his corner: Adrian’s Army.

A standout football player in the Oxford-Webster Youth Football and Cheer Organization, Adrian’s team and the community have rallied around him. Friends and well-wishers have donned Adrian’s Army T-shirts, and he is riding the crest of a wave of support he carries with him in his fight against cancer.

“I’m really grateful that I have such a great community around me,” Adrian said roughly four days before his surgery as he sat on the sidelines of the football field at Oxford High School watching his team battle a rival. “I have so many people around me that support me.”

On that day, Adrian, bundled up and wearing a mask, led his team out onto the field in a wheelchair,



flanked by friends and teammates, and carrying the team flag. Fans in the stands honked air horns, yelled and cheered, and many of them wore Adrian’s Army T-shirts.

In the announcer’s booth, league President Bobby Poirier announced Adrian’s name and led fans in giving him a rousing show of support.

“It’s the worst thing any parent can go through,” said Poirier,

who has been president for nine of his 10 years involved with the league. “We have a lot of kids we feel responsible for. It’s something no kid should be going through. We want to make sure we’re there to support him anyway we can.”

Clockwise from left: Adrian Roman with his family; Adrian Roman receives well wishes from coaches and teammates; Adrian Roman greets his teammates before a recent game.



Ryder Chevalier is one of Adrian’s best friends, and a teammate on the Oxford-Webster Pirates. He was there the day his friend complained of the unbear-

able pain in his leg. He was there hours later when they learned it was likely cancer. And he is there now, by his friend’s side.

“It has been hard considering he had so much potential to play in all sports,” Ryder said. “I can’t believe it happened to him, especially. But I just tell him to keep going, never give up on your sports dreams no matter what. Keep fighting no matter what.”

For his part, Adrian appears nowhere close to giving up on those dreams. Once he is strong enough after the surgery, another 20 cycles of chemotherapy will start up again. He’ll learn how to use a prosthetic. And, he said, he’ll play sports again.

“I’m going to be OK,” he said. “Hopefully, I’ll still play basketball and baseball. I’m being taken care of by really good doctors and nurses. I’ll finish chemo, I’ll get my prosthetic, and I’m just going to be ready to go after that.”

To financially help the family, Adrian’s older sister Beatriz has created a GoFundMe page: gofundme.com/f/adrians-fight-against-osteosarcoma *

ALTITUDE ROOFING

Residential

Commercial



AltitudeRoofingMA.com

508.963.7794

SHINGLE • METAL • SLATE • MEMBRANE

Auburn’s great pumpkin patch

BY MARTHA AKSTIN

Nan Johnson, a long-time congregant of the First Congregational Church in Auburn, was staffing one shift at the check-out table for the church’s annual fundraiser: the sale of hundreds of pumpkins and gourds ranging from tiny elf houses to star gourds, to swan gourds, to bird houses to

mushroom tops to warties to sugar pumpkins to the big fella traditional-looking pumpkins that are just waiting to be carved into jack-o-lanterns. The latter are sold by their girth, not by their weight, using a special tape measure marked off in inches and dollars.

Grown by the Navajo Nation in New Mexico and trucked up in an 18-wheeler, pallets and pallets of the vegetables arrived at the church on September 19. The gourds were unloaded by an all-hands-on-deck crew of volunteers including Boy Scout Troop 101, students from Auburn High School’s National Honor Society, and of course church members and their families and friends.

“Someone is here every day, seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., rain or shine,” explained Johnson about the sale hours. She said it is one of the church’s largest fundraisers, with proceeds

split between the Navajo Nation and this quintessential, white-spined New England church.

Johnson said the church’s relationship with the Navajo goes back almost 20 years. “I have a photograph of my grandson among the pumpkins when he was about 2. And he’s 18 now,” said Johnson.

The pumpkins will be on sale through October 31. And then what becomes of the pumpkins that no one wants? “Well, we used to bring them to pig farms,” said Johnson, “but there aren’t any of those around anymore.”



Nan Johnson in the middle of the pumpkin patch. Photo by Martha Akstin

So, the pumpkins will be trucked to dairy or cattle farms. “The cows get them now,” said Johnson. “They love them.”

Waste not, want not – a great tradition carried on by frugal New Englanders. *

HAWK HILL ORCHARDS
PICK YOUR OWN APPLES
OPEN Wed.-Sun. 10-5
Visit Our Americana Country Store
•Apples •Cider •Maple Syrup
Specialty Sauces •Dessert Breads and Salsas •Gifts •Honey
•Fruit Pies •Apple Crisp
•Apple Dumplings
•Apple Cider Donuts
•Jams/Preserves
83 Carleton Rd., Millbury, MA
508-865-4037

TheYankeeXpress
Published on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.
Available on news stands in the region.
2nd Friday: The YankeeXpress South: Charlton, Dudley, Webster
2nd Friday: Blackstone Valley South: Douglas, Northbridge & Uxbridge
4th Friday: The YankeeXpress North: Auburn, Oxford
4th Friday: Blackstone Valley North: Grafton, Millbury & Sutton
Contact us:
Martha Akstin, Editor:
martha@localtownpages.com
Submit business news and community events to news@theyankeeexpress.com
To request advertising info, please email ads@theyankeeexpress.com
Jen Schofield, Publisher: The Yankee Xpress, Blackstone Valley Xpress, Local Town Pages, Milford and Upton Mendon Free Press;
jenschofield@yankeeshopper.net
Bill Cronan, Blackstone Xpress North and South (Douglas, Uxbridge, Northbridge; Millbury, Grafton, Sutton);
bcronan@theyankeeexpress.com
Kate Carr, The Yankee Xpress North and South (Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, and Webster); katecarr@localtownpages.com
Susanne Odell Farber, Upton, Mendon, Hopedale: sue@sodellconsult.com
Laura Gleim, Billing & Sales: lgleim@theyankeeexpress.com
Kimberly Vasseur, Production Manager
Sally Patterson, Graphic Artist
Contributing Writers and Columnists:
Tom D’Agostino, Christine Galeone, Amy Palumbo-Leclair, Mark Marzeotti, John Paul, Christopher Tremblay
The YankeeXpress/©2026
9 Industrial Road, Milford MA 01757
508-943-8784 • theyankeeexpress.com

Oxford hosts bulk drop-off days for town residents

The Oxford Department of Public Works will host two bulk-item drop-off days for town residents (no businesses). You must present proof of residency. The maximum vehicle size is a one-ton truck. Households are limited to two loads, which will be checked and recorded at the gate.

Drop-off dates will be strictly enforced:

Saturday, October 31: Residents north of Charlton Street/Sutton Avenue.

Saturday, November 7: Residents south of Charlton Street/Sutton Avenue.

Time: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

If you are unable to make your scheduled drop-off day, call the Dept. of Public Works before October 29 at 508-987-6006 to switch your Saturday only. If you arrive on the wrong day, you will be denied access to the drop-off.

There will be no charge during bulk drop-off days.

Location: Casella Transfer Station, 200 Leicester St., North Oxford.

If you have questions about what is accepted, call Casella at 508-892-1219

For more information, call the Oxford Department of Public Works at 508-987-6006. *

Economy Canvas & Awning Co.
Retractable & Stationary Awnings
Boat & Truck Covers and Related Products
• Full Awning Service - Installation, Removal & Cleaning
• Manufacture & Repair All Canvas Products
115 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA
508-765-5921
www.EconomyCanvasAndAwning.com

POSITIVE HOME SERVICES LLC
Remodeling • Carpentry • Structural • Kitchens • Baths • Windows
Steven Mucci - Licensed & Insured
508-635-7457
positivehomeservice@gmail.com
SCAN FOR WEBSITE

SOUR GRAPES by Tim Jones
CONSTANCE, AESOP'S GONNA BE OUR NEW CAFE FRY COOK AND HE HAS PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE.
OK. HOW IS IT REMOTELY POSSIBLE THAT YOU HAVE ALL THIS EXPERIENCE?
I'VE GOT FREQUENT FRYER MILES.
© 2026 by Tim Jones www.gocomics.com/sour-grapes

The family conversation your estate plan is waiting for



Catherine Harrington
Financial Advisor

FINANCIAL FOCUS®

Provided by Edward Jones

Finishing your estate plan is a big step, but failing to notify the people involved can lead to confusion and complications when it's time to use it. Since the events that bring those plans into action, such as an accident, serious illness or hospitalization, rarely come

with a warning, talking with your family about your estate plan before a crisis occurs can provide clarity and help reduce uncertainty, conflict and stress later.

Would your loved ones know what to do?

About half of Americans turning 65 today will need some form of long-term care, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. If you became unable to make medical or financial decisions, documents such as powers of attorney and advance directives can help ensure someone you trust can step in. Just as important is making sure your loved ones know those documents exist and where to find them. Without access to them, even close family members may be unable to access bank accounts, pay bills or make medical decisions on your behalf without going through a court.

Who should be included in an estate plan conversation?

When you're ready to talk with loved ones, start with anyone named in a formal role in your estate plan, such as a financial power of attorney, health care proxy, trustee or executor. You may also want to include family members who are likely to be involved in your care or inherit assets.

Think about the dynamics of your family as you plan the conversation. Some families are comfortable discussing everything together, while others communicate more effectively through smaller group discussions or one-on-one conversations.

What should your family know about your estate plan?

Start with your values and the goals behind your decisions. Explaining what matters most to you can help family members better understand your wishes.

From there, review practical details, including who serves in key roles, where important documents are stored and how to contact your estate-planning attorney. You may also want to discuss your care preferences if you were to lose independence and any decisions that family members might find surprising. For example, if inheritances will not be divided equally, sharing your reasoning now may help prevent misunderstandings later.

Most importantly, leave time for questions. The goal is not to cover every possible scenario in a single meeting. It's to create understanding and give loved ones confidence about what matters to you.

If a single conversation feels overwhelming, consider breaking it into a few shorter discussions over time.

Need help starting the conversation?

Many people worry about

how family members will react or feel unsure about where to begin. A financial advisor can help you prepare for the conversation and, in some cases, facilitate it. Having a neutral third party involved can help keep discussions productive and ensure everyone leaves with greater clarity about your wishes.

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

Catherine Harrington
Edward Jones Financial Advisor
11 Millbrook Street
Worcester, MA 508-755-1213
Catherine.Harrington@edwardjones.com

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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

Al's

RUBBISH & CONTAINER

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



Al's Rubbish Provides

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

DUMPSTER RENTAL SPECIAL!

Sutton, Millbury **\$500**
15 yard dumpster For 2 tons

Grafton, Auburn, Oxford, Webster, Whitinsville and Northbridge

15 yard dumpster **\$525**
For 2 tons

All Other Towns **\$550**

Additional charges for tvs/monitors, mattresses & box springs

Serving the Blackstone Valley and the Surrounding Towns in Worcester County

FREE DROP
OFF AND
PICK UP!



508-865-4193 • WWW.ALSRUBBISH.COM

Support
Local Small
Business

ETIQUETTE EXPRESS: Making everyday interactions better

Can we talk about that?

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

BY LEE-ANN BARKHOUSE

As we settle into the fall season, calendars start filling up with family dinners, community events, and holiday plans. Just a reminder that we've all heard the advice to avoid politics, religion, and money in polite conversation. Of course, those subjects still come up, especially with people we know well. Most of us have been asked a question we'd rather not answer or drawn into a debate we didn't intend to have. Here are a few ways to

handle those moments graciously.

Q. Are politics, religion, and money still considered off limits?

A. Not always. A thoughtful conversation with a friend is different from putting someone on the spot at a dinner party. Pay attention to the setting and the people involved. If someone seems reluctant to join in, move on.

Q. A family member often asks what I paid for things or how much money I make. They start with, "If you don't mind me asking," but later make comments about my spending or income. How can I respond tactfully?

A. It's okay to say that you do mind. Try, "I'd rather not get into the price, and I'm happy with my purchase." If they ask about your income, you can say, "I prefer to keep that private." Say it pleasantly, then

move the conversation along. If they keep asking, you don't need a new explanation. "I'd rather not discuss it" is enough.

Q. How do I disagree with someone without sounding disrespectful?

A. Let them finish before you respond and make sure you understand what they mean. You might say, "I can see why you feel strongly about that. I see it differently." Then share your view without assuming you know their reasons or trying to win them over. A question such as "What led you to that opinion?" can keep the conversation going. "How could you believe that?" usually shuts it down. And if neither of you changes your mind, it's perfectly fine to agree to disagree.

Q. What if someone won't drop a subject I don't want to discuss?

A. Be a little more direct: "I know this matters to you, but I prefer to not discuss." Then change the subject. If they bring it up again, it's fine to excuse yourself.

before answering. It's perfectly fine to say, "Actually, I'd rather keep that private," and move on. You don't owe anyone a reason.

If you're the one asking, be prepared to hear no. Accept the answer with a warm "Of course," and change the subject. Respecting someone's privacy helps them feel at ease with you, even when the conversation takes an unexpected turn.

Until next month, be kind, be thoughtful, and remember that the smallest acts of consideration often leave the greatest impression.

Warm regards,
Lee-Ann

Have a situation you'd like help with? Write in or email (info@investinuma.com) and your question may be featured in a future column. Let's build a kinder, more respectful world, one interaction at a time.

*Lee-Ann Barkhouse is the founder of Invest in U, where she helps individuals and organizations build confidence, professionalism, and meaningful connections. She is a certified etiquette trainer, board-certified health & wellness coach, and workshop facilitator who inspires people to communicate with confidence, strengthen relationships, and show up as their best selves. Learn more at www.investinuma.com. **

ETIQUETTE TIP OF THE MONTH

"If you don't mind me asking" can be a warning that a personal question is coming. If you're on the receiving end, take a moment



430 Main St., Oxford, MA

We repair all makes and models of Garage Doors and Electric Openers

- Commercial and Residential -

Sales • Service • Installation

800-605-9030 508-987-8600

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



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

Many new styles and colors to choose from.

Visit our display by appointment



Nicolopoulos

Plumbing and Heating, Inc.

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

RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL

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

NOW SERVICING OIL SYSTEMS!!

- 24 Hour Emergency Service -

www.nicolopoulosplumbingandheating.com Lic. #MPL 15663

NO JOB TOO SMALL

HEARING AIDS

We help you bring your hearing back to life



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



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



HEARING CARE CENTERS

800-835-2001 • PUTNAM, CT

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




www.amplisound.com



Nine ballot questions to appear on November ballots

Published by the Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin's Election Division office, the official 2026 Information for Voters book (also known as the Red Book) was recently mailed to each voter's residential address as well as public locations throughout the state.

The Red Book contains information on each of the nine statewide questions that will appear on the November 3, 2026, State Election ballot. These nine binding questions are the most that voters have ever been asked to consider. Included in the publication is a summary of each proposal, the full text of the proposed/existing law, statements describing the effect of a yes or a no vote, and brief arguments for and against each question.

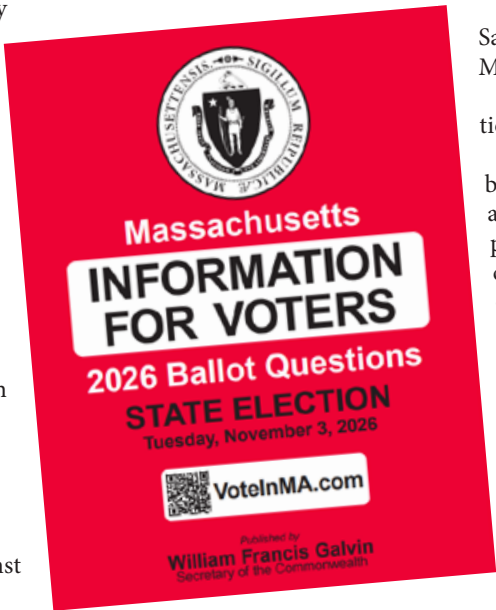
Limited additional copies of the Red Book may be available at city and town halls, at some libraries, or by calling Galvin's Elections Division at 800.462.8683 or Citizen Information Service at

- 800.392.6090.
- Question 1: Expanding the Public Records Law
 - Question 2: Collective Bargaining for CPCS Employees

- Limit & Rebate
- Question 6: Natural Resource Conservation Fund
- Question 7: Single Family Homes
- Question 8: Prohibit Retail Sale of Adult Recreational Use Marijuana
- Question 9: Firearms Regulation

With so many questions, ballots in most communities are expected to be two to three pages long. The length of each community's ballot will depend on the number of offices and candidates running in that community, whether the ballot must be printed in more than one language, and any local questions that may be added to the ballot by the city or town. Because of the complexity of the questions, Galvin encourages voters to take notes in the Red Book and bring it with them when they go to the polls.

Be informed. Take time to read each question and understand its impact. And then go vote on Tuesday, November 3. ★



- Question 3: State Primary Elections
- Question 4: Election Day Registration
- Question 5: State Revenue

Deacon John Phillips: A role model for active citizenship

As we approach the November 3 election day, let's recall the example of Sturbridge resident Deacon John Phillips – a farmer, deacon, and militiaman of 1776, who thought it a citizen's duty to vote in the elections for his nation's chief executives.

He did that duty the first time when George Washington's name was on the ballot, and the last when Abraham Lincoln was among the candidates. In 1864 at 104 years of age, his 79-year-old son drove him into town.

In an account given by one of the deacon's neighbors, "he rode from home, two miles, to our Town

Hall...to cast this vote. He entered it between two unfurled flags of his country, bearing on the Stars and Stripes; all within, at the same time rising, with uncovered heads, to do him homage. And when offered two votes [ballots] to take his choice, he said, 'I vote for Abraham Lincoln.'"

The President, upon hearing this story, wrote to Phillips: "I have heard of the incident at the polls in your town, in which you bore so honored a part, and I take the liberty of writing to you to express my personal gratitude for the compliment paid me by the suffrage of a citizen so venerable.

The example of such devotion to civic duties in one whose days have already extended an average lifetime beyond the Psalmists' limit, cannot but be valuable and fruitful. It is not for myself only, but for the country which you have in your sphere served so long and so well, that I thank you..."

Phillips died on February 25, 1865.

Yankee Xpress thanks the Sturbridge Historical Society for allowing us to reprint this inspiring article from its recent newsletter about a 104-year-old man - and his 79-year-old son – who, in 1864, rode two miles into town to vote. ★

Where to find your next copy of the The YankeeXpress



AUBURN

- A Great Notion..... 65 Southbridge Street
- Weepin Willies 64 Auburn Street
- Herbal Life..... 64 Auburn Street
- Root & Press Café 163 Washington Street (Inside Lundgren Honda)
- Town of Auburn Recreation and Culture 104 Central Street
- Auburn Town Hall..... 104 Central Street
- Library 369 Southbridge Street
- Senior Center 4 Goddard Drive
- Auburn Police Station..... 416 Oxford Street
- Park 'n Shop..... 711 Southbridge Street

OXFORD

- Half Baked & Fully Roasted 578 Main Street
- Oxford Market, Deli & Catering..... 676 Main Street
- Hometown Liquors..... 240 Main Street
- Oxford Package 331 Main Street
- Veranda Café 6 Charlton Street
- Slice of Heaven 273 Main Street
- DJ's Sports Cards 5 Sutton Ave
- Oxford Senior Center 323 Main Street
- Robbins Garden Center..... 28 Sutton Ave

THANK YOU to these local businesses and location for supporting Community News! Would you like to carry The YankeeXpress at your business? Email Jen Schofield today! Jenschofield@localtownpages.com

FREELANCE WRITERS WANTED!

Do you have a talent for engaging writing that informs and inspires? We are looking for locals interested in telling stories important to the area. Please submit writing samples to martha@localtownpages.com

SPORTS

Mastering the fairway

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Having a father who had a passion for golf as well as a membership at Green Hill Golf Course in Worcester, Auburn's Aidan Donohue was teeing off at the tender age of two years old. As soon as he stepped onto the greens, Donohue fell in love with the game and has been playing it ever since.

By the time he was 10 years old, he was playing on the Junior PGA as well as playing US Kids Golf Tours with his dad, caddying for him. When he began winning tournaments, the young golfer realized that he was actually pretty good.

"I was working on making myself a well-rounded golfer going out with my dad," Donohue said. "It was great companionship playing together."

As high school got closer Donohue knew that he wanted to play for Auburn. But since the school did not have a junior varsity team, he knew that he would have to play well to make the varsity team. According to his father, all he was hoping to do was make the team and be able to help them.

Not only did he make the team, but he inserted himself into the lineup right away.

"As a freshman he shot a 35 on the first day of tryouts," Auburn Coach Rob Kemp said. "Almost immediately he was contending for that top spot."

Although he was vying for

a spot on the starting lineup, Donohue realized that it might not come to fruition in his freshman season.

"The coach had told me prior that freshmen usually don't start, but since I continued to play well, I got to start and had a hole-in-one during my second match," Donohue said. "I had never had a hole-in-one and at first, it didn't go in, just rolled around. It was great feeling."

Donohue continued to battle Mikey Jocelyn throughout the year for that number one position for the Rockets, with both golfers shooting in the mid-30s. By the time the season ended, Donohue was the CMAC League Champion, shooting a 75.

"My freshman season was successful and I believe I accomplished everything that I wanted to, except play well at the Districts," he said.

Following his freshman campaign, he went on to capture the club championship at Green Hill, becoming the youngest golfer to do so since 1929. Donohue even defeated Bruce Carter, someone who has won numerous club championships over multiple courses.

"Aidan knew that his biggest challenge going in was Bruce, but he knew that he still had a good chance of winning," his father Brendan said. "Over the two days he shot a 77 and 73 on the par 72 course, so when he won it was a surprise, but it wasn't a surprise."

Winning a club championship is a big deal, especially for a

15-year-old golfer. Now his name is up on the clubhouse wall.

Behind the play of Donohue and Jocelyn, the Auburn golfers went undefeated last fall and are looking to improve upon their play this year. Donohue believes that Auburn has a talented team coming into the season, but his coach sees a well-rounded team behind his top two golfers.

"There is a lot of depth behind these two this year," Kemp said. "I feel that this is our year and we could make a run hopefully into the State Tournament. Last year in the MIAA Division 1 West Sectionals we tied for 29th, shooting a 16 over par for an 88 average."

This year Donohue will be teeing off with Sam Shea, another sophomore. Shea was in the seventh and eighth position last fall, but drastically improved his game and has moved up to play with Donohue.

Although Donohue is currently slated as the team's top golfer, the sophomore believes that he must play up to his game and keep pace with the senior Jocelyn.

"I've got to keep up with Mikey, who shoots around 36," Donohue said. "If I can do that this year then I'll feel real good and should be able to make it back to the Districts and play good."

Once the season is over for the Rockets, Donohue will continue to play as much golf as he can until the snow starts to fly. Once winter sets in, Donohue and his father will hit the simulators until the warmer weather returns.

As for the future, Donohue will take golf with the Rockets one year at a time. When he was in middle school, he just wanted to



Aidan Donohue proudly holds up his hole-in-one shot.

make the high school team. Now as a high school golfer he wants to play well enough for an opportunity to play in college. Following college, the next step would be the Pros, but he's not thinking that far ahead.

"Playing in the PGA would

be absolutely great, it would be wonderful," Donohue said. "But I am definitely not thinking that far ahead. Right now, it's all about high school and helping Auburn win a championship." *

Celebrating 75 years in Business

Hi! I'm Matt with

CAPITOL SIDING
& Home Improvement Company
Family Owned and Operated Since 1951

We're a local contractor out of Auburn specializing in siding, windows, doors, roofs, decks & gutters

"DONE ONCE, DONE RIGHT"

508-832-5981

and
Ask for Matt

THOMPSON
Landscaping & Construction

**COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL
SNOW PLOWING AND SANDING**

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

Millbury, MA • 508-523-7790
Ebthompson36@gmail.com • Free Estimates • Fully Insured

TALES FROM BEYOND

tomdagostino.com

Southern Vermont College's ghostly tenants

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

Southern Vermont College's main architectural attraction, the Everett Mansion, has some very interesting and historical ghosts roaming its vast halls; namely Edward Everett himself. Edward Everett was born on May 18, 1851. He began his career as a bottle salesman for his stepfather, but soon became shareholder, then owner of the American Bottle Company. His company would later merge with another perennial glass manufacturer called Corning. This later became the Owens-Corning Fiberglass Company.

In 1910, Everett purchased 500 acres along the slopes of Mount Anthony and began construction on his summer villa. From 1911 to 1914, work crews meticulously toiled under the architectural direction of George Totten, one of the Gilded Age's most skilled architects.

The 27-room mansion was furnished in lavish Victorian décor with parquet floors of various beautiful designs in different wood. No expense was spared in creating this beautiful manor where the Everett family could spend their summers overlooking the Green Mountains. The house cost \$2 million to construct. Not a lot of money when you figure Mr. Everett's wealth was somewhere between \$40 and \$50 million.

He called his home "Orchard House," as it was surrounded by one of the largest apple orchards in the country. About 75,000 apple trees, along with 3,000 plum trees and 2,000 quince trees were planted by Mr. Everett's workers. Edward, his wife Amy and their

three daughters moved into the house in 1915. In 1917, his wife tragically died after a prolonged illness.

He later met Grace Burnap who was 30 years younger than him. They married in 1920 and had two daughters together. Edward died in April, 1929 at the age of 77. Grace lived in the mansion until 1952 before selling it to the Order of the Holy Cross. The order subsequently exchanged properties with Southern Vermont College, which was at the time named St. Joseph's College.

The mansion now houses the administrative offices, library, bookstore, café, art gallery, mail room, dark room, and a classroom. It also houses a few lingering ghosts who do not mind making their presence known. Everett's second wife Grace is seen gliding through the halls and rooms of the estate. Some claim that the spirit of Everett's first wife also resides within the stone edifice. She is known as the "Lady in White" because she is seen wearing a white robe while floating through the manor. Edward's ghost has also been frequently reported in the house.

Other strange occurrences at the Everett estate comprise of wisps of smoke appearing out of nowhere, doorknobs turning, lights turning on and off by themselves, and doors that were previously locked mysteriously flying open. Shadows are seen crossing the halls and footsteps echo in the otherwise empty building.

The shade of a monk in a black robe has been witnessed floating around the perimeter of the campus. The property was a seminary once, so the presence of such a

spirit would not be out of the ordinary. Many legends abound of the hooded figure as he roams the grounds, only to vanish before anyone can get close to him.

The old carriage house became a computer lab. This is where a man in period clothing is seen wandering. Doors also lock by themselves and computers turn off suddenly. The carriage house used to accommodate the Everett's Rolls Royce automobiles and served as living quarters for the coachmen.

Arlene and I visited the college on a beautiful May afternoon. The manor looked much like it did in its heyday: the ornate woodwork, grand oak staircase, patios and stunning views of the surrounding area. The semester had ended and the empty halls and rooms afforded us an opportunity to take some photographs and record some audio. Although we did not capture any paranormal activity on camera or recorder, we did get an opportunity to chat with a few living people who were still on campus.

They were gracious in sharing the stories of the college and its array of haunts. With the diverse array of ghostly activities, it must be a

very exciting school both for the living and otherwise. *


THRESHOLD DECKS
FAMILY AND VETERAN OWNED

OUTDOOR LIVING, BUILT BETTER.

 **DECKS**
 **PORCHES**
 **SCREEN ROOMS**

 **(508) 735-9671**
 **Info@ThresholdDecks.com**

THRESHOLDDECKS.COM

Fred D. Giovaninni
HANDYMAN SERVICE



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

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

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



SEAMLESS GUTTERS LLC

5" Seamless Gutters
6" High Capacity Gutter
Gutterglove Gutter Guards
Heated Gutter Guards
25 Colors
508-278-4170
AmeriGutter.com

Family Run Since 1997!!

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

GET NOTICED!

Contact Kate!
508-304-3019 or
katecarr
@localtownpages.
com

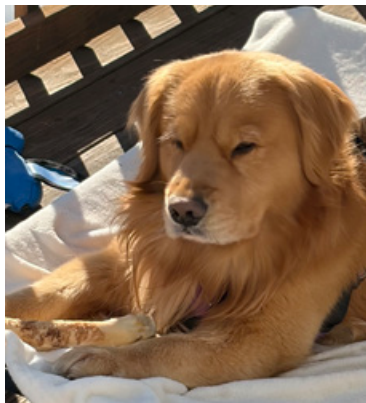
QUALITY BUILDING MATERIALS
FOR ALL YOUR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING NEEDS

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



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





LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Home renovation, according to Luke

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

The kitchen renovation began with a sense of optimism. A new floor, new cabinets, and granite countertops promised our home the refresh it desperately needed. Boxes appeared. Furniture shifted. The familiar became unfamiliar.

Luke was not impressed.

He sniffed the dusty boxes, surveyed the commotion, and then looked at me as if to say, Are you going to box me up, too?

My dog readers know this about me: I don't like to leave my dog home alone. If there's a way to take Luke along, I'll gladly do it—even if it means bending a rule or two.

But this was Indian summer, the kind of warm September day when leaving a dog in a car, even with the windows cracked, is simply not an option. I looked at the boxes,

then down at Luke, and could practically hear the question in his head.

You're leaving?

I knew I had to soften the blow.

"Hold on, Luke. Mummy has a surprise for you. You've been such a good boy."

I grabbed his shin bone and raced back into the kitchen, with Luke trotting close behind. Among the handful of things that had escaped the packing boxes was a jar of peanut butter.

Suddenly, my departure was ancient history.

Luke's eyes locked onto the glorious picture of my hand frosting his shin bone with a generous smear of peanut butter. His focus was laser sharp. He tracked every move, trotting beside me as I hurried to place the gooey treasure on a towel.

His excitement over something as simple as peanut butter felt contagious. I happily shut the door behind me and left for work. Mission accomplished. I was about to (later) learn that food isn't the only motivator to keep my dog happy.

I'm soooooo happy you came



to see me!!!! Wonderful people, minted with fresh new smells — and who rang the doorbell all day long — poured into our home.

Ding Dong, Ding Dong. Luke never tired of a sound that meant one thing. Guests were coming over! He grabbed a sneaker, wiggled, did a tap dance, and greeted each contractor with a dog in need of training. Made ya' look. He put down the sneaker to steal the oily rag that spilled from the plumber's back pocket. *I'm Luke! You can read about me in the paper, too!* He made his presence obvious.

"What's her name?" the plumber asked.

"It's Luke," I stated. But the background sound of my neighbor's tree cutter muffled the sound of my voice.

"Hi Lou!" The plumber rubbed the ears of what he thought was a female dog and accepted a forgiving paw. Neither of us had the heart to correct a man who was about to clean up our mess.

Want to see my upside-down kitchen? Lou led the plumber to a room that had become a tale of two kitchens, old and new.

Weeks passed, and Luke came to realize there are worse things than a torn-apart kitchen. For one thing, given all the helping hands coming through our door, he was rarely alone.

Not only had my dog learned to make lemonade from lemons, but he had also discovered that renovations came with their own special perks.

Mom, have you seen that new



piece of plywood? It smells just like a tree!

He was learning, too, to accept the differences in the world around him. The familiar sounds of our home had been replaced by drills, hammers, saws, and industrial fans. The kitchen he knew had disappeared, only to be replaced by a strange new landscape filled with ladders, lumber, tools — and an endless parade of people to greet.

For Luke, it turned out, home renovation wasn't about losing his

familiar world.

It was about discovering a new one.

And if you ask Luke, every good renovation should come with peanut butter, a few new friends, and plenty of opportunities to say:

"Ding Dong! Another guest to greet!" *

Write to Amy
amyleclaire@hotmail.com
Visit Luke on IG @livingwith-lukevalentino

Licensed & Insured Free Estimates

LYNCH FENCE CO.

VISA MasterCard

- Serving RI & MA Since 2001 -

401-356-4699 - LYNCHFENCECO.COM

It's
Happening
in
THE
last
green
valley™

Now is the Time to Experience Nature

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

www.thelastgreenvalley.org

REAL ESTATE

Why so many sellers are cutting their price right now

Price cuts are turning up everywhere right now, and they read very differently depending on which side of the deal you're on. Sellers tend to worry a cut means walking away with less than they hoped. Sometimes that's true, but more often it just means the



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

market moved faster than the listing did. Buyers, for their part, often assume a cut means something's wrong with the house. Most of the time, that's not the case. This is what's actually driving all those price cuts, and why it matters regardless of which side of the deal you're on.

Forty-two percent of homes for sale are now carrying a price cut. The share of sellers cutting their asking price has climbed every month for seven straight months. Today, more than four in 10 active listings have had at least one price cut, and the typical seller is cutting about \$17,560 off their original number.

It's happening because with rates still elevated and with more homes to choose from, buyers can afford to wait for the right home in their budget. So, sellers who price at the higher end of market value end up adjusting down quite quickly.

What does that mean for you? If you're selling, this isn't a red flag. But it is a sign that pricing it right from day one is your best bet. Just know that the market's been shifting fast enough this year that sometimes even a well-priced house can fall behind within a matter of weeks. If that happens to you, dropping your price to catch up to

where pricing actually stands today tends to bring in more buyers and helps you sell closer to true market value.

If you're buying, it's easy to assume a price cut means something's wrong with the house. But with cuts happening on more than four in 10 homes right now, the reality is, sellers are just catching up to where the market already is. And with affordability still tight, that's exactly the kind of opening you need to get a better deal.

But why are sellers adjusting faster than before? Data shows that list prices are trending down nationally. That's often a sign that sellers are pricing more realistically from the start instead of listing high and getting stuck cutting later. List prices have fallen about \$26,000 from last year's peak. Some of that decline is seasonal since list prices typically soften each winter before rebounding in the spring. So, expect asking prices to keep

drifting a little lower before turning back around.

That is good news for buyers, who are seeing lower asking prices and more room to negotiate. With rates still elevated, buyers can only stretch so far. Sellers who meet them where they are instead of holding out for unrealistic prices are the ones getting to closing and doing that up front is always better than chasing the market later.

Buyers, you've got room to negotiate again. At the same time, data shows sellers now outnumber buyers by about 58 percent, the widest gap on record. That changes the power of who controls the market – and impacts how homeowners should price their house. Nationally, about seven in 10 markets now favor buyers or are trending that way. For sellers, that means standing out matters as much as pricing. With more homes to choose from,

buyers are comparing you directly against the competition. So, a little flexibility, like covering closing costs or being open on timing, can be what gets your house picked over another.

For buyers, it means more room to ask for a lower price, help with closing costs, repairs after inspection, or some combination of all three. That's especially true for homes that have already sat for weeks, where sellers are often the most willing to talk.

Price cuts are a normal part of today's housing market, and both buyers and sellers can use them to their advantage. Connect with a member of The Marzeotti Group or a trusted real estate professional to look at what's actually happening with prices in your neighborhood, so you know exactly where you stand before you list or make an offer. *

Storytelling for grownups

The Friends of the Auburn Public Library announce their next fundraising event: Storytelling for Grownups (like a 'Stories from the Stage' or a 'Moth' evening).

Five presenters will each tell a 20-minute story about interesting, real-life events, people and places. Planned speakers are Lewis Alderton, Michelle Weagle, Julianna Uresch, Sharon Eaton and Robert Tatro.

Storytelling helps us connect with others, boosting our imagination, memory, and empathy while weaving a tapestry of shared experiences and profound insights. Stories have the power to astonish us, make us laugh and cry, and open our hearts to the world.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 6-8:30 p.m. at The Pakachoag Center, 203 Pakachoag St. with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$20 and

includes light refreshments. Pre-registration is required by emailing friendssofauburnlibrary@gmail.com to assure we have sufficient seating. The Friends also accept registrations by mail to the Auburn Library in care of the Friends or by

dropping a registration in the cash box in the library lobby. Registration forms are posted in the library lobby for your convenience. Cash, check or PayPal accepted. We hope to see you then!

All proceeds from the evening will be used to enhance services, expand programs and purchase items not included in the library budget. Watch for upcoming Friends events on the library website auburnlibrary.org. You will also find notices in the Library lobby and postings on our Facebook group page.

Our next meeting is Monday, November 16, 5 p.m. in the Merriam Room. Check the library's

calendar in case of a change. New volunteers are welcome! Add your email to our contact list by emailing friendssofauburnlibrary@gmail.com.

Consider becoming a volunteer because you can never have too many Friends! *





ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE

Snowblower & Generator Repair

Tractor Service • Tune-Ups & Repairs

Pickup & Delivery

508-987-2775

492 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540

WWW.WORCESTERCOUNTYLAWNMOWER.COM





Mark Marzeotti
REALTOR®

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

945 W. Boylston Street
Worcester, MA 01606





Affordable Housing Opportunity
1 Ridge Rd., Auburn, MA 01501

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

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

# of Units	# of bedrooms	Rent*	Maximum Income Limit (% AMI)	Minimum Income Requirement**
31	1 BR	\$1613	80%	\$48,000
43	2 BR	\$1734	80%	\$51,600
8	3 BR	\$1852	80%	\$55,400

*Rent may be adjusted based on annual income limits provided by HUD.
**Minimum Income Requirement does not apply to households receiving housing assistance

Eligibility Requirements:
•Must meet all income and background eligibility requirements under the Tenant Selection Plan approved by EOHLIC. •Minimum 1 person per BR

Maximum Income per Household Size
(2026 limits, provided by Worcester MA, HUD Metro Area)

1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people
\$69,850	\$79,800	\$89,800	\$99,750	\$107,750	\$115,750

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





THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

Low rolling resistance tires, no-start Chrysler 300, AAA-approved repair facilities, rubbing compound woes, and more

Q. I have been following a story out of California that, in a few years, the state will require special low rolling resistance tires to improve fuel economy. Although I am always looking to get more miles per gallon on my truck, I don't like the idea of being told I can only buy

a certain type of tire. Will these rules be implemented on the East Coast?

A. Studies show that when the rules are fully implemented, California motorists could save up to \$1 billion annually in fuel and energy costs and avoid approximately 2 million

metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year. Will this initially cost consumers more? Studies estimate an increase of about \$6 to \$30 per set of tires. Another unknown, from what I have read, concerns tread life. These tires also need to meet a minimum wet-grip requirement

while still maintaining low rolling resistance. My biggest concern is that, as a vehicle ages, its use often changes. The truck or car you drive as your primary transportation today may become a second or third vehicle in the household and may not justify the expense of a premium low-rolling-resistance tire. In theory, regulations like this could limit consumer choice and make it harder to match the tire to the vehicle's actual use. To answer your original question, as of now, I know of no states that are looking to adopt this legislation.

Q. I have an old 2000 Chevy Silverado. Recently when I go to fill it up no matter which way I turn the nozzle I have to go super slow or the handle will shut off. Any ideas why this is happening?

A. This is usually a result of a clogged vent which is part of the evaporative emissions system. A plugged or clogged EVAP vent valve is quite common especially in 20-year or older vehicles. If the vent can't open, the tank cannot breathe while filling. I would start with a visual inspection. A kinked vent hose is also a possibility. In addition, an emissions code that points to an EVAP issue will also be a clue to the problem.

Q. My 2014 Chrysler 300 has had an intermittent no-start problem since new. The dash lights flash, but the

engine won't start. A roadside technician recently suggested turning the steering wheel while pressing the brake and start button,

which worked. No diagnostic codes have ever been found. What could be causing this?

A. Once you've checked the basics, including battery condition, electrical connections, and the key fob battery, it's time to look at the symptoms. I suspect the steering wheel is placing enough pressure on the steering lock mechanism to occasionally bind, preventing the lock from releasing and the vehicle from starting. Without diagnostic trouble codes and with a problem that occurs only occasionally, pinpointing the exact cause can be challenging. Unfortunately, intermittent issues like this can be difficult and expensive to diagnose because the vehicle often operates normally when inspected.

Q. I am an AAA member and looking for a reliable and reasonable repair shop for my Acura and Honda near me.

BY JOHN PAUL

CAR DOCTOR
continued on page 13



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

**EVERYTHING FROM
DAILY DRIVERS
TO CLASSICS**

HOT ROD SERVICES:

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

GENERAL MAINTENANCE:

Oil Changes, Brakes, Suspension
Alignments, 4 Wheel Drive, Tires

robsautomotiveshop.com
repair@robsautomotiveshop.com



COMPLETE AUTO GLASS SPECIALISTS

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



MOBILE AUTO GLASS SPECIALIST

Insurance Company Preferred Shop.

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

201 W. Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571
800-479-7697 • 508-949-1327

Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm • Saturday 8am to 12pm

Visit Us at roysautoglass.net

BUY HERE PAY HERE

Payments as low as \$60 per week

Come Pick Out Your Car!

Bad Credit • No Credit
No Problem

WE FINANCE EVERYONE!

Come Check Out Our Prices!

FARRAR AUTO BODY, INC.

204 Main Street • Oxford, MA
508-987-0022



U-KNIGHTED
AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR
We are the "Give me a BRAKE...
I'm EXHAUSTED Repair Shop"

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

Senior Discount Available

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

Same day service on most repairs

FREE Brake Inspection with every Oil Change

M&M Auto Body

Ron Moscoffian
Appr. #9537

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

Scott Milner
R.S. #3926

"Guaranteed Fast Service, No Matter How Long It Takes"

TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING

dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com

Stay one step ahead of cybercriminals

Your financial security is only as strong as your digital security. A single stolen password, convincing scam or fraudulent investment offer can lead to lost savings, damaged credit or hours spent recovering compromised accounts. As our financial lives move increasingly online, protecting your personal information is part



DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

of protecting your financial future.

Cybercriminals are getting smarter, and technology like AI is making their job easier. But fortunately, some consistent habits

can help protect you from many of today's common threats.

Watch out for phishing. Phishing is a common way criminals break into accounts and steal money. These attacks often arrive as emails, texts or phone calls that appear to come from your bank, employer or another trusted organization. Fake websites can trick you into typing in your password or financial details.

To protect yourself, verify unexpected requests through a separate channel, such as calling a company directly using a number from its official website rather than one provided in a suspicious message. Avoid clicking unexpected links and consider using a password manager which auto-fills your login information only on legitimate websites.

Strengthen your accounts. Stolen passwords give criminals easy access to your email, banking and social media accounts. Try using a

unique password for every account and enable multifactor authentication whenever it's offered. When possible, choose phishing-resistant options like passkeys or security keys; they're harder for scammers to bypass than basic text message codes.

Be skeptical of urgency. Scammers increasingly use deepfakes, which leverage AI-generated voices, videos and images to convincingly impersonate trusted people, including company executives, advisors and even family members. These messages often create pressure to send money or share sensitive information immediately.

If you receive an urgent request that feels off, slow down. Hang up and try calling back to the person or organization using a known phone number. Many successful scams rely on emotional pressure rather than technical tricks, so a

moment of skepticism can go a long way.

Protect your money and identity. Fraudulent investment platforms and cryptocurrency schemes continue to cost Americans billions of dollars each year. Be cautious of investment opportunities promoted through unsolicited messages or social media contacts and always verify a platform independently before sending money. If you're unsure whether an opportunity is legitimate, a financial advisor can help evaluate it before you invest.

Data breaches can also put your information at risk, even when you've done everything right. It's smart to check your bank and credit card statements regularly for unfamiliar charges, and to freeze your credit if you suspect your information has been compromised. You may also choose to freeze your credit preemptively.

Keep your devices updated.

Software updates often fix security weaknesses that criminals could otherwise exploit. Backing up important files, whether to the cloud or an external drive, also protects you if ransomware ever locks you out of your own data.

Small habits matter. Unique passwords, multifactor authentication and skepticism help stop many scams before they start. Take steps to help safeguard your money, identity and long-term financial goals.

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

CAR DOCTOR

continued from page 12

AAA has Approved Auto Repair Facilities nationwide. These facilities provide a 2-year 24,000-mile warranty and up to a \$75 total discount in labor charges for AAA members. If there is ever an issue with the repair or the repair process, someone from one of the approved auto repair specialists can get involved and help you solve any issues. Go to aaa.com/repair to find an AAA approved shop in your area.

Q. I had some scratches on the hood of my Buick and tried to remove them with Turtle Wax Rubbing Compound. Instead, it seems to have removed some of the clear coat. The instructions didn't warn about this possibility, and Turtle Wax never responded to my complaint. The dealer quoted \$4,200 to repaint the hood. Do I have any other options?

A. Much like sandpaper, paint-care products vary in aggressiveness. Waxes and polishes add shine, polishing compounds remove minor surface defects, and rubbing compounds are designed to cut into the top

layer of the finish to remove heavier scratches and oxidation. Before considering a costly repaint, I would visit a reputable automotive detail shop. A skilled detailer may be able to improve the appearance with paint correction and polishing. Another lower-cost option is a wipe-on clear coat restoration product. While not a permanent repair, these products can often restore gloss and improve appearance at a fraction of the cost of repainting.

Do you have a car question? Email the Car Doctor for a personal reply at jpaul@aaanortheast.com

\$600 CASH
for all COMPLETE vehicles delivered to
RPM Enterprises
Pick up is also available
THE BEST DEAL AROUND!!!
ALL THE TIME - Cash Paid
for Your Light & Heavy Scrap
Office **1-959-444-3889**

American Legion

Chester P. Tuttle Post 279

88 Bancroft St., Auburn, MA 01501

Find us on [facebook](#)

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

EVERY FRIDAY
Karaoke 7:30PM-11PM

Live Bands Every Friday 7-10
Bands to be announced
\$10 cover charge for all bands

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

Tiny Tim's at the Tuttle
Open for Breakfast & Lunch
7 days a week
Sun. & Mon. 7am-2pm,
Tues. to Thurs. 7am-8pm, Fri. & Sat. 7am-9pm
Phone: (508) 832-2701
For Hall Reservations: (508) 721-5142
or email TinyTimsCatering@gmail.com

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

Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

6-Month	4.25 % APY*
1-Year	4.50 % APY*
3-Year	5.00 % APY*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

Dennis Antonopoulos
Financial Advisor
5 Albert St
Auburn, MA 01501
508-832-5385

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 10/01/26. 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).

FDI-1867P-A-E-FL EXP 31 MAR 2028 AECSPAD 30241645



CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396



**SAMUEL
SLATER'S**

RESTAURANT

LAKESIDE DINING

200 GORE ROAD, WEBSTER, MA

WWW.SAMUELSLATERS.COM






WEEKLY SPECIALS



**SUNDAY
BRUNCH**

10AM - 3PM





**HAPPY
HOUR**

EVERY WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY • 4PM TO 6PM

**PRIME RIB
WEDNESDAYS**

12 OZ PRIME RIB + TWO SIDES

ONLY \$30

STARTS AT 4PM

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



FOR RESERVATIONS, EVENT TICKETS, AND MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SAMUELSLATERS.COM

RESTAURANT HOURS: WED-FRI, 4PM-9PM | SAT, 12PM-9PM | SUN, 10AM-3PM



MASSACHUSETTS

visitma.com



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



10/23

BLOOD, SWEAT & KEYS HALLOWEEN DUELING PIANOS

10/31

**HALLOWEEN PARTY
WITH XS DANCE BAND**

\$500 GRAND PRIZE FOR BEST COSTUME
PLUS PRIZES FOR 'FUNNIEST', 'SCARIEST',
AND MOST 'CREATIVE/UNIQUE' COSTUMES!



PORTION OF PROCEEDS
TO SUPPORT
CHUCK PERKS' WIFE ON
HER MEDICAL RECOVERY

11/7

**BEST OF TIMES:
THE MUSIC OF STYX, FOREIGNER & REO SPEEDWAGON**

11/13

**COMEDY NIGHT WITH COREY RODRIGUES,
STEVE BJORK & BRIAN WAYNE**



11/14

**PETTY LARCENY:
A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF TOM PETTY**



11/18

**HOLIDAY CUSTOM SWAG WORKSHOP FROM
BEMIS FARMS NURSERY**

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 & GARRETT FINN**

1/8

**VIVA LAS ELVIS: ELVIS PRESLEY'S 92ND BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION WITH AWARD-WINNING TRIBUTE ARTIST
DAN FONTAINE**



From a Queen to a King, a Haus to an Inn

Auburn ice cream shops, part 3

BY HELEN POIRIER

Believe it or not, a used car dealer is now at the corner of South Street and Route 20 where a neighborhood ice cream

Grafton Filling Station and had his home at 54 Stone Street.

Miland was born in 1916 and was only three when his father died; Mabel eventually oversaw the businesses. Miland graduated from

Montrose of Auburn Inc. for a change in management with Robert LaBaire of Arrowhead Avenue succeeding Bassios.

In 1961 the Montrose Dairy was demolished to make way for the



Miland Kann's Dairy Haus.

place once stood. According to a long-time resident of the area, it was called Dairy Queen, but the then-owner lost the franchise, and Bernhard Meyers took it over and changed the name to "Dairy King."

Meyers was born in Dortmund, Germany, and came to the United States in 1959, acquired the property and ran the business. He received his U.S. citizenship in 1965. He was a member of the First Congregational Church and the Kiwanis Club. He also held a position on the Auburn Board of Health in 1985, filling a one-year term. He was married to Frieda K. Lehmann for 40 years until his death at the age of 70 in September 1994. They had two sons who were both in the Air Force.

The Dairy King eventually became the Auburn Sandwich Shop and was a favorite eatery of the area. It remained some type of restaurant, with the exception when it was Joseph's Produce, until recently when a car dealership occupied the lot.

Many a child enjoyed stopping on the north side of Washington Street at 87 South Street to enjoy a cone of their favorite flavor of ice cream. Included in some of the responses to the favorite ice cream places survey were Pam who thought that the Dairy King "sank you," and Coby remembers it as Meyers Dairy Queen.

This was a very busy intersection. Across from the Dairy King was a filling station owned by the Kann family. Miland D. Kann ran the filling station at 499 Washington Street and lived at 495 Washington. His mother Mabel owned a store at 947 Washington Street as well as a home at 58 Stone Street. Her other son Arthur ran the

Mary D. Stone School in June 1931. He served in the Army in WWII in Europe and obtained the rank of Tech 5. Miland married Dorothy in November 1941. They had twin daughters, Dorothy and Donna. Miland worked as a civil engineer for the Worcester Department of Public Works for 23 years, retiring in 1981. The family were members of the First Congregational Church of Auburn.

It was said by some that he started the Dairy Haus to keep his grandchildren busy, especially in the summer while he was working at the filling station. The Dairy Haus served hard and soft ice cream. Those who remember Dairy Haus as being their favorite place for ice cream are Michelle, Lynn, Steve, Katelyn and Clarissa who liked their soft serve. Other favorites were Kay's King Spa or Fitz's for novelty ice creams.

On the other side of town, the Montrose Dairy was at 624 Southbridge Street. There was a duck pond in the back and a sand pit that was a popular hangout for hot rodders Thursday through Saturday. John F. Bassios was the owner and operator of Montrose for 10 years from the mid-1940s to mid-1950s. Bassios had an extensive background in the hospitality business.

Montrose was more than just an ice cream stand. On July 11, 1931, the Naval Reserve Band gave a concert there. The members of the Outdoor Group of the Woman's Club enjoyed tea at the Montrose after a January hike, the town Democrats had meetings there, and Montrose donated ice cream to a local flower show.

In 1957 there was an application to the Auburn Selectmen from

construction of the Yankee Drummer Inn and Motor House, which opened in May 1961. The restaurant was run by Tamburi Company who owned the Yankee Pedlar Inn in Holyoke. The hotel part was run by the Auburn Motor Inn Inc., whose spokesperson and builder of the hotel was Alex Pappas.

This was the fifth restaurant in New England that was owned by the Early American Inns Co. The Auburn Motor Inn Inc. officers were Dr. Gordon C. Milne, president, William J. Barlow, vice president, Alex Pappas and Helen J. Boria clerks. Directors included George H. Campbell, Geno Camosse, Hector E. Barriere, Michael Pappas, and Athena Pappas. The inn is only a memory as is Montrose Dairy but thought of ice cream being served there still brings smiles to many faces.

This article is the third in the "Ice Cream Shops of Auburn" series and was made possible by the Auburn Historical Society & Museum, 41 South Street. The museum is open Tuesday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call 508-832-6856 or email auburnmuseum@verizon.net, visit them at auburnhistoricalmuseum.org or follow them on Facebook at Auburn Historical.

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. *

Helen Poirier is a director at the Auburn Historical Society & Museum.



1. The Auburn Historical Society & Museum held its annual Harvest Dinner Fundraiser on Sept. 26 at Pakachoag Church. More than 100 supporters enjoyed the catered meal, great company, and raffles that included everything from gift cards to curated baskets to a beach Santa. Visit the society's website at auburn-historicalmuseum.org to learn more about this nonprofit whose mission is to preserve and share the history of Auburn and the surrounding area.



2. Oxford Police Department's newly appointed Chief Jeromy Grniet held his first department-wide meeting recently where he outlined his vision and goals. Also given out were five department awards (selected by their peers): Officer Picard, Top Gun; Cpl. Mercier, Road Guardian; Officer Gray, Community Police Officer of the year; Dispatcher Natale, Dispatcher of the Year; Officer White, Officer of the year. Congrats to awardees – and the entire department. As they concluded, "Most of all, thank you to the Oxford community, we appreciate the strong support and valued friendships and partnerships."



Are you a member of a community group - Lions, scouts, Rotary, public school, garden club - and have a photograph that would be of interest to readers? Yankee Xpress welcomes your submission to Photo Finish. Please email your photograph to martha@localtownpages.com and include your name, address, and phone number (for verification). We want Photo Finish to reflect the community, but we need your help and participation to make that happen. Thank you!

FOR ALL YOUR FUEL NEEDS

NEW BOILER INSTALLS

- Crown Boilers
- Williamson Furnaces
- Oil Tank Installs



**Central air conditioning
and ductless mini splits**

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



**We do NOT
Sell Biofuel!**

Which will help prevent
system breakdowns.

HELP WANTED -

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



A Full Service Oil Company
24-Hour Emergency Service

WWW.LMTOIL.COM • WE DO ONLINE ORDERING

Print & Deliver

We Print *and* Deliver
your inserts.



Perfect for
Big Events,
Coupons,
Menus
and
More!

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

SAFE HOME ROOFING

**FREE
ROOF
INSPECTION**

**SENIOR &
MILITARY
DISCOUNT**



Tyler



Manuel

508-864-9717



**Family owned and operated
RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL**



CLIP AND SAVE

\$500 OFF

**ANY ROOFING JOB
OVER \$10,000**

SAFEHOMEROOFS.COM