

The Yankee Xpress

CROSTOWN ADS & BUSINESS NEWS

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boston, MA
Permit No. 55800

Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, Webster

February 12-March 12, 2021

INSIDE

Capitol Siding of Auburn Celebrates 70 years in business promoting customer service

By Janet Stoica

Imagine 70 years in business. Their beginnings go back to 1951. Were you around then?

That is when Capitol Siding was being established by Mark Sarkisian, Sr. on Pleasant Street in Worcester. He and his brother Bill Sarkisian used their trusty station wagon to transport product to customers' homes.

Back then the company was known as Capitol Aluminum Siding as aluminum was the siding material used at that time. The Sarkisian brothers also sold storm windows and storm doors, which were installed over the exterior windows and doors of homes.

So much has changed since the early 1950s and Mark Sarkisian, Jr. and his brother Dale are now the family members who have continued this successful business model. Their dad and uncle's legacy has flourished and grown successfully over the years and has kept the same family values that were instilled in the sons at an early age. "We were taught to be honest, to do a good job, and to satisfy the

customer," said Mark Sarkisian, Jr., "and that's what we strive for daily on each job our crews work on. We've been a member of the Better Business Bureau for the past 60 years and are proud of our A+ rating."

Continued on page 2



Ryan Sabatalo, Dale Sarkisian, Mark Sarkisian, Jr.

Vanderburgh House emerges as a pacesetter in sober living

By Rod Lee

It appears that there is no slowing down Hunter Foote, Vanderburgh House and the communities the upstart nonprofit is creating throughout the city of Worcester, South County and beyond.

A new residence in Southbridge, set to open on Main Street this month, typifies Vanderburgh House's rapid growth as a provider of structured and certified sober living for men and women in a recovery-focused and peer-supported environment.

"It's incredible," Mr. Foote said during a telephone conversation in January, in testament to the success Vanderburgh House's business model is enjoying so far.

Mr. Foote had just returned from one of a couple of trips he has made to Nairobi, this time with his fiancé "and we met with her mother. Kenya has always been a big part of my life," he said.

Continued on page 2



The Chamberlain Home in Southbridge is one of a number of sober living facilities Vanderburgh House owns and operates in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maine. The company's business model is built on residents taking responsibility for their home and their recovery.

Valentine's Day
Brunch Boards All Day
Includes a Mimosa \$25
Take-out available (no Mimosa) • Valentine's Day open 9am-5pm

LENTEN SPECIALS ON FRIDAYS • VEGAN MENU AVAILABLE

B. Kind
Cafe and Lounge
8 Davis Street • Webster, MA
CALL AHEAD FOR TO-GO ORDERS
508-461-7662
NEW HOURS: Wed-Thurs. 9am-3pm; Fri. & Sat. 9am-9:30pm
www.bkindcafe.com

BBB A+ Rating

- Basement Remodels
- Additions • Decks
- Roofs • Windows
- Siding • Gutters
- 3-Season Rooms
- Gutter Cleaning
- Handicap Accessible Ramps

BUY NOW PAY LATER | Wells Fargo Financing Available
0% INTEREST OPTIONS
Locally owned & family operated for over 35 years.

R&S REMODELERS 508-943-1703
www.regiscontractors.com • regiscontractors@gmail.com
*Lead Safe EPA / RRP Certified *GAF Certified Roofing contractor *Residential & Commercial * Licensed in MA & CT
• Fully Insured • MA Lic#CS072324 • CT Lic. HIC#0564343

Your CBD Store™

USDA Certified Organic
CBD
for you and your pets

Mention this ad for
15% Off
your next purchase in store

156-160 Worcester Providence Turnpike
Sutton, MA 01590
(508) 917-8189

NEW FACILITY NOW OPEN!

210 Self Storage

- ★ State of the Art
- ★ All Temperature Controlled
- ★ Reserve today★

210 Southwest Cutoff, Worcester, MA
(508) 304-8808

Knight Automotive

Our Service Dept. Does It All!!!

- TIRES
- TRANSMISSIONS
- OIL CHANGES
- BRAKES
- ELECTRICAL
- STATE INSPECTIONS
- ENGINE DIAGNOSTICS and REPAIRS

Make Your Appointment Today!
FREE LOANER VEHICLES

129 Worcester St., (Rt. 169)
Southbridge, MA 01550
(508) 764-4356
www.knightcars.com

Motorcycle Storage
\$249

VANDEBURGH HOUSE

Continued from page 1

He relishes talking about the endeavors his company is undertaking to help men and women try to shed the ruinous effects of alcohol and drugs.

"We now have a home in Maine, in South Portland, for women; a home for men in Rhode Island, in Pawtucket; a new home in Greenfield, Massachusetts, a two-family for men and women, side by side. It's so cool to work with independent sober home operators. They carry the flag."

The Vanderburgh House concept is built on five principles: recovery, community, accessibility, independence and sustainability.

In terms of the first, Vanderburgh House's policies, leadership and culture are all intended to support residents on their road to recovery. On the second, Vanderburgh House homes are supervised by a house manager who is dedicated to providing service to the home's residents. As for accessibility, homes are open

"to every member of the global recovery community with a straightforward application process, transparent approval criteria and affordable costs." When it comes to the independence factor, Vanderburgh House does not direct its residents' actions; rather, "we coach, support and mentor our brothers and sisters in recovery." In terms of sustainability, residents are encouraged to be "good stewards of the earth and its resources."

The day-to-day workings of Vanderburgh House's homes are governed by a handbook and house rules.

Payment is weekly or monthly starting at just over \$100.

Vanderburgh House does not accept health insurance.

Homes Vanderburgh House has already opened or will be unveiling soon include the Germain Estate in Worcester, for women; the Kenwood Home in Worcester, for men; the Elm Home in Worcester, also for men; the Chamberlain Home in Southbridge, which is coed; the Dartmouth Home for women in Springfield; the Rogers Home for men in

Pawtucket; the Prospect Home for men in Springfield; the Calderia Home in Worcester, which is coed, and the Westville Home in Shrewsbury, also coed.

Chamberlain House is an example of the type of facility Vanderburgh House is looking for in its search for new properties that fit its needs. It is a restored Victorian on a large private piece of land with flowering fruit trees, fountains and gardens, two kitchens and "many updates."

"It's a challenge being able to work with independent operators who have experience," Mr. Foote said. "We attract individuals who are more serious" about being part of a life-changing initiative, he said.

COVID-19 "has not impacted us all that much," he pointed out. "Everyone needs a place to live, if we respect the safety protocols."

When he spoke, Vanderburgh House's new facility in Southbridge was in the process of being set up, and completely renovated.

As is true of other sober living facilities, Vanderburgh House requires absti-

nence from drugs and alcohol. Residents are engaged in their personal recovery journey by attending meetings and working with a sponsor and the house manager for support and encouragement. Residents adhere to a curfew, submit to drug and alcohol screenings and participate in home and community events.

All of Vanderburgh House's actions are guided by "clinical research and best practices."

Expansion beyond Southbridge in South County is something Vanderburgh House is considering, Mr. Foote said.

"Indeed, we are opening the home in Southbridge in short order. We've looked into Webster as well. The rest (towns like Dudley,



A view of Vanderburgh House living space.

Oxford and Charlton, and Putnam and Thompson, for instance) are a bit too small to support a largely walking-only population. We would be happy to explore Connecticut as well," however, he said.

The growth of Vanderburgh House raises all kinds of

possibilities along this line, which is good news for individuals looking for a stable and supportive environment in which to get and stay sober.

Contact Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.

CAPITOL SIDING

Continued from page 1

The company is now known as Capitol Siding and Home Improvement Company, Inc. as not only do they offer siding, but also install windows, roofing, and gutters.

They are a Harvey Elite Dealer, which means that they are offered their best quality windows at a better price, which enables them to pass on the savings to their customers.

"When COVID first appeared, we thought our business would suffer," said Mark, "but we have been able to continue working through the entire situation using good safety guidelines. Because of the high quality of our siding, we also can continue to install this product through the colder months. We will install windows one unit at a time to keep our customer's home warmth at a respectable level."

The quality of window glass should be a major consideration when choosing windows said Mark. He listed the window types as double and triple-paned, Low E, and argon-gas-filled. "The lower the 'U Factor,' the better the

window, as this indicates the heat transfer through the window glass," he said.

Capitol employs 10 siding crews, 3 window crews, and 2 roofing crews. Each crew has 2-4 members.

The company enjoys educating its customers too by advising them that when using contractors: a customer should always ask for a copy of the installer's Construction Supervisor License as well as their Home Improvement Contractor Registration License and Insurance Certificates. Having these certificates means that the installer is obligated to take continuing education classes in their area of expertise. "Many people don't realize that they can be sued if the un-insured installer has an accident on their property. Having Workmen's Compensation coverage is crucial," stated Mark.

Capitol does not ask for a down payment like many other contractors. Once the job is complete, payment is expected.

"We have the best customer-oriented employees," says Mark. "Toni Faccini is our office manager and she's been with us for over 15 years. If it wasn't for Toni I would never be able to take a va-

caution. She's unbelievable with our customers on the phone. She goes above and beyond her responsibilities. She's the salt of the earth. We also have my son-in-law, Ryan Sabatalo, working here as our sales manager and he does a great job in his position. Always focused on the customer's satisfaction and that's what it's all about."

Capitol is proud of how it gives back to the community. They've donated to the Auburn Family Youth organization by providing and installing siding on their building, donated a defibrillator to the Auburn Fire Dept., and made donations to the local dog kennel. Mark is chairman of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce's Golf Committee. The committee has donated \$15,000 in scholarships annually to local high school students. "It's very rewarding," said Mark, "even though this year we could not have a golf tournament due to COVID, people still donated to this worthy cause."

Capitol Siding and Home Improvement Co., Inc., 30 Auburn Street, Auburn. Phone: (508) 832-5981. www.capitolsiding.com.

WELCOME!

89 Southbridge St.
Auburn, MA
(across from Sword St.)

Vacuums always 75¢

BIG KAHUNA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIG KAHUNA CARNAUBA WAX • UNDERCARRIAGE WASH W/ ROCKER BLASTER • x2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK • HIGH PRESSURE WASH • x2 FOAMING POLISH • SHIELD "HIGH GLOSS TOTAL PROTECTANT" • SPOT FREE RINSE • LASERDRI 	\$16
DELUXE WASH	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDERCARRIAGE WASH W/ ROCKER BLASTER • x2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK • HIGH PRESSURE WASH • x2 FOAMING POLISH • SHIELD "HIGH GLOSS TOTAL PROTECTANT" • SPOT FREE RINSE • LASERDRI 	\$12
SUPER WASH	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDERCARRIAGE WASH W/ ROCKER BLASTER • x2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK • HIGH PRESSURE WASH • SPOT FREE RINSE • LASERDRI 	\$9
BASIC WASH	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • x2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK • HIGH PRESSURE WASH • SPOT FREE RINSE • LASERDRI 	\$7

The Yankee Xpress

Published on 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Direct mailed to 63,000 unique homes and businesses each month and available on news stands throughout the region.

2nd Friday: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford and Webster, 1/2 all addresses.
2nd Friday BLACKSTONE VALLEY South: Douglas, Northbridge and Uxbridge.
4th Friday: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford and Webster, other 1/2.
4th Friday BLACKSTONE VALLEY North: Grafton, Millbury and Sutton.

DIRECTORY

Submit business news and community events to news@TheYankeeXpress.com
Request advertising information: ads@TheYankeeXpress.com

Billing and advertising information: [Laura Gleim Igleim@TheYankeeXpress.com](mailto:Laura.Gleim@TheYankeeXpress.com)
Tony Discepolo, Sales (Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, Webster) tdiscepolo@TheYankeeXpress.com
Bill Cronan, Sales (Blackstone Valley) bcronan@TheYankeeXpress.com

The Newspaper Press, LLC / contents copyright 2020
Sally Patterson, Production Manager Carol Kosth, Graphic Artist
Contributing writers and columnists: Peter Coyle, Tom D'Agostino,
Magda Dakin, Christine Galeone, Rod Lee, Amy Palumbo-Leclair, Janet Stoica

168 Gore Road, Webster, MA 01570 PHONE: 508-943-8784 FAX: 508-943-8129

HANK'S LIQUORS

94 East Main St. • Webster, MA

Fine Wine • Spirits • Craft Beer
Lottery • Bottle Redemption
In-Store Specials

Excellent Selection • Convenient Store Shopping
Discount Store Pricing

Fine Cigars • 99¢ Nips

We have the perfect

Wines, Beers

and Spirits for

Valentine's Day!

Hours: Mon-Sat 8 am-11 pm • Sun 10 am - 10 pm



SAINT PAUL

DIOCESAN JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

**Our 158 Saint Paul
SENIOR CLASS members
have COMPLETED
an impressive
1,023 applications
to 256 institutions of
HIGHER LEARNING
here in the US
and abroad.**

**Saint Paul...
Where your future is never remote.**



For in-year or next year enrollment inquiries,
please contact Ms. Amanda Popp at (508) 852-5555, x106
or apopp@saintpaulknights.org

Visit www.SaintPaulKnights.org for more information and to register
144 Granite Street, Worcester, MA 01604 (508) 852-5555



Shipping made easy!

Send your special someone a Sweet Package

- Packing
- Shipping
- Packaging Materials
- Fax, Copies & Printing
- Document Scanning
- Mailbox Rental
- Office Supplies

Monday-Friday 10am-5pm
Saturday 9am-1pm
Closed Sunday

626 School St., (Rte. 44), Putnam, CT 06260
860-963-7815
ExpressShippingPutnamCt.com

Oxford's First Congregational Church celebrates 300th anniversary

By Janet Stoica

The history of our country is always fascinating, and it becomes more captivating when reading about our local area and how institutions came to be. Oxford's First Congregational Church has the distinctive honor of being the first place of worship in this area.

On the evening of Sunday, January 17, members of the church celebrated a very special milestone: three centuries of continuous parish life and for the first time in its history, the church's bell tower was illuminated. "Oxford has always done a great job of maintaining the town center and town common," said church historian Todd Sauter, "and now with the lighting of our bell tower, this serves to add even more attractiveness to the surrounding area. We've never had lighting in our bell tower and its beauty will be inspirational." The serenity and

graciousness that the lit bell tower will add to Oxford's handsome Main Street is immeasurable.

The 20-minute ceremony was attended by 50 members, all socially distanced, in an outdoor setting with others enjoying the formality from the safety of their cars as they parked along Main Street. After a welcome by Reverend Karen D. Fournier, an original hymn followed that was composed by Corbin and Alaina Calloway Bolton. The new steeple light was then dedicated and lit, and an historical proclamation given by Todd Sauter. The steeple bell was rung 30 times with one ring for each decade of the church's life. A very proud and most enjoyable evening. A more extensive ceremony will, hopefully, be held in June.

If the church's first pastor, Reverend John Campbell, could see how his church has fared since 1720 he would be very pleased. In the early 1700s English settlers in the area looked avidly for a pastor for their church. The Massachusetts' Colony did not allow a town to be established unless four requirements had been met in the area: a grist mill, a sawmill, a minister, and a meeting house. The meeting house members began their search for a pastor in 1713 in the undeveloped frontier of New Oxford and it was no small task to find someone who wanted to establish themselves in this unfamiliar territory. Reverend Campbell served for 40 years until his death in 1761. Due to his privileged upbringing and education, he served as the de facto physician, judge,



Oxford Congregational Church's bell tower lit up.

counselor, and leader of the town militia. His grave is behind the church in south cemetery.

Many changes and anniversaries have been celebrated at the First Congregational, including the installation of their current and first female pastor, Reverend Karen Fournier. The first 32 pastors were men. "Church life was always essential to life in the colonies," stated Mr. Sauter. "It was intertwined with the town and supported by the town's tax dollars for the upkeep of the meeting house as well as to pay the pastor's salary. It was the same for all churches at the time. Oxford now has 12 Christian churches." Mr. Sauter enjoys history and has taken a special interest as his church's historian. "My job was made so much easier by those who served before me," he said. "There

was Dorothy Barrie and also Janice Moore. They were great historians for the church." Mr. Sauter owns his own business in the Worcester area, Audiology Associates, and is an avid student of history.

A video of the church's steeple lighting can be found on Facebook at "Facebook.com/firstcongregationaloxfordma/."

Their website is www.oxfordfirstucc.org, where a contributions link can be found for the additional and upcoming celebrations that will be held later in the year. Traditional worship services can be viewed every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on their website. Church offices may be reached at (508) 987-2211. Email: officeadmin@oxford-firstucc.org.

Contact Janet at jstoica@theyankeeexpress.com

Alert Driving Academy

Now accepting applications for virtual classes



Includes:

- 30-Hours classroom instruction
- 12-Behind the wheel lessons
- 6-Hours observation
- Driver's Ed Certificate (RMV)
- 2 Hour RMV required parent class

Payment plans available.

- On-site RMV driver's license road test
- Flexible payment plans!
- Online scheduling included in price

97% of students who test with us pass on the first try.

We are conducting virtual classes
Register today and safely start your program from home.

30 East Main St., Webster, MA 01570
508-943-1155 • www.alertdrivingacademy.com

PRESIDENTS DAY SALE

HUNDREDS OF DEALS

MATTRESS SALE!

TWIN: Reg. \$299 **NOW \$219.99**
FULL: Reg. \$499 **NOW \$299**
QUEEN: Reg. \$599 **NOW \$349**

1000s OF APPLIANCES IN STOCK FOR PICKUP OR DELIVERY

SLEDS • TOBOGGANS • ICE SKATES

18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$799.99 \$699.99	SIDE BY SIDE STAINLESS STEEL REFRIGERATOR Reg. \$1699.99 \$1099.99	KITCHENAID DISHWASHER Reg. \$899.99 \$799.99	OVER THE RANGE MICROWAVE OVEN Reg. \$219.99 \$188.99	GE SELF CLEANING SMOOTH TOP STOVE Reg. \$649.99 \$599.99	TV SALE
20 CU. FT. UPRIGHT FREEZER Reg. \$999.99 \$999.99	GE COMBO WASHER & DRYER Reg. \$1599.99 \$1299.99	DELUXE ELECTRIC DRYER Reg. \$499.99 \$449.99	5 CU FT CHEST FREEZER Reg. \$299.99 \$239.99	DELUXE DISHWASHER Reg. \$399.99 \$349.99	75" LG Reg. \$999.99 \$899.99 55" TV Reg. \$399.99 \$299.99 65" LG Reg. \$699.99 \$549.99 43" LG Reg. \$349.99 \$299.99 32" Smart TV Reg. \$169.99 \$139.99 50" LG Reg. \$799.99 \$449.99 86" LG Reg. \$1999.99 \$1799.99 ALL SONY & SAMSUNG TVs ON SALE!
FAMOUS MAKER GAS OR ELECTRIC RANGE Reg. \$499.99 \$449.99	DELUXE TOP LOAD WASHER Reg. \$499.99 \$449.99	MAYTAG TOP WASHER Reg. \$699.99 \$649.99	GE TOP LOAD WASHER Reg. \$649.99 \$699.99	7 CU FT CHEST FREEZER Reg. \$299.99 \$279.99	PRE-SEASON BIKES IN STOCK

PRICES GOOD WHILE SUPPLIES LAST
INSTANT FINANCING UP TO \$10,000

Check www.whitcosales.com for special coupons

WHITCO

Mon-Fri. 10-8; Sat. 9-8; Sun. 12-7
140 Main St., Spencer, MA
508-885-9343

DJ's Sportscards

Baseball • Football • Hockey
Basketball • MTG • Pokemon
Yu-Gi-Oh • Autos • Supplies

SPORTS ARE BACK! AND SO ARE WE!!



5 Sutton Ave.,
Oxford, MA 01540
Next to RR Tracks
1-508-987-0012
e-mail: djscrds@aol.com
EBAY: DJSCRDS

Hours: Tues., Wed. 12-6 p.m.
Thurs.-Fri. 12-7 p.m.; Sat. 10-2 p.m.

REUPHOLSTER IT!

Don't throw that comfortable chair away!

DUMAS Decorating Center

CARPET • WOOD • VINYL • WALLPAPER • PAINT

www.DumasDecoratingCenter.com

470 Riverside Dr. (Rte 12)
N. Grosvenordale, CT
860-923-9619

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm • Sat 9am-Noon
Evenings by Appointment



Faith guided Tim Hare to success selling cars, and Chamber award

By Rod Lee

Mike Hare, who is one of his father's four children, recalls how the imposition of discipline went when he and his brother Mark misbehaved as kids.

"If we owned up to it, there would be minimal punishment. But if we tried to weasel out of it..." Mr. Hare said in a telephone conversation in December. There was a hint of a smile in Mike Hare's voice as he spoke those words.

We were chatting about Tim Hare of family-owned and operated Harbro Auto Sales in Whitinsville and Webster, who received the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's 2020 Gerry Gaudette "Extra Mile Award" at the organization's 42nd annual meeting on November 19. Mike Hare did not see the ceremony, which was conducted virtually for attendees who had pre-registered and which featured a keynote speech by Maj. Gen. Thomas E. Murphy.

Maj. Gen. Murphy is director of the Critical Technology Task Force at the Department of Defense and a product of Oxford High School and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

"That's really cool and a great credit to my father,"

Mike Hare said, of the honor bestowed on Tim Hare. "He didn't even tell me that he won that award."

With the humility he has long been known for (and which many would agree is uncharacteristic of a car salesman), Tim Hare attributed his success in a business he and his brother Dave Hare started on Linwood Avenue in 1973 to his parents, to people who have helped him along the way, and to fully embracing Jesus Christ. "I was raised on the words of Jesus," he said, after accepting the award from Gerry Gaudette's son Lee Gaudette of Gaudette Insurance. "In my younger years, I rejected them. Thirty-eight years ago, the Lord changed the course of my life and my wife's (Jane Hare)."

Mike Hare was not surprised to hear that his father pointed out in his brief remarks on November 19 that the phrase "extra mile" originated not with the Chamber but with Jesus Christ—in the Bible.

His dad's faith-based approach to business "just dovetailed into my brother and I's," Mike Hare said. "My grandfather was like that. My dad tells me a story about how he gave up drink-

ing and smoking and used the money he saved to buy a little lake cottage in the 80s that we all still enjoy.

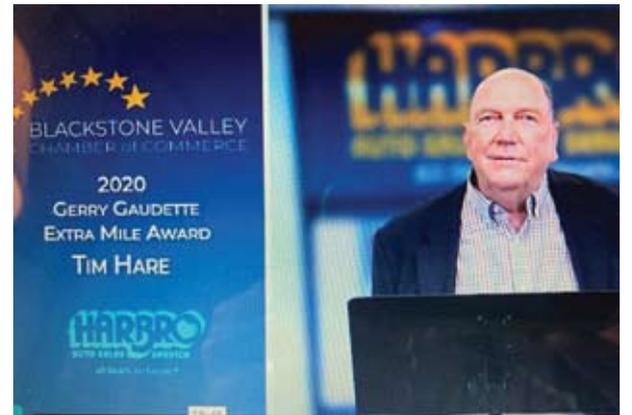
"I remember my dad driving around in a muscle car and drinking with his friends," Mike Hare said. Turning completely to Jesus Christ, "it's changed him one hundred eighty degrees. He was never one to put up a cross or a big fish, he is quiet that way. He has always told me he doesn't want too many rewards on earth, they'll come in heaven."

Tim Hare has turned Harbro Auto Sales over to his sons (it is now a third-generation business with the addition of other family members). He and Jane Hare are involved with providing the battery-powered "Action Track Chair" to disabled veterans and others whose physical limitations prevent them from getting around. But when the pandemic hit last March and "none of us knew what was going on and we had to pretty much close the doors" for a time, "my dad saw what was happening and we talked it through. Even though he is not active in the business, we came up with the best plan we could, all things considered. Dad was more like a guiding light

person for us. He's a phone call away and he always answers his phone. Who better than the guy who founded it?" to seek advice from, Mike Hare said.

"He has most recently been helping us find cars. Many leases were expiring but being extended because of a lack of inventory. A lot of the vehicles we would normally buy are not there."

Mike Hare said that with his dad's help Harbro has survived the pandemic so far. "Eight staff did not want to



Tim Hare, a founder of Harbro Auto Sales, speaks after being presented with the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's "Gerry Gaudette Extra Mile Award."

come back. All in all it blended out. We gave the Salvation Army some money. We are so thankful and feel blessed, even though people

aren't driving as much."

Contact Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.

Central Floor Covering

- RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL -
SALES & INSTALLATION

CARPETS • NO WAX VINYL FLOOR COVERINGS
LAMINATE, CERAMIC TILE & HARDWOOD FLOORING

- FREE ESTIMATES
- EXPERT INSTALLATIONS
- 35 YEARS EXPERIENCE

QUALITY • SELECTION • SERVICE • SAVINGS

257 W. MAIN - RTE. 197
DUDLEY, MASS.

508-943-0724

www.centralfloorcovering.com



Mild Steel
Stainless Steel
Aluminum
Hot Rolled • Cold Rolled
Abrasion Resistant

ACCURATE
METAL
SALES &
FABRICATION

A Division Of Industrial Transfer & Storage, Inc

Sheared • Plasma Cut
Bent • Rolled • Saw Cut
Punched • Drilled
Welded • Fabricated
Commercial & Residential

In House Design Services • Mig & Stick Welding • AWS D1.1
Rigging and Millwright



Accurate Metal Sales & Fabrication
508-765-4929
www.Accuratemetalsales.com

529 Ashland Ave
Southbridge, MA
Where Service Is Stronger Than Steel

Industrial Transfer & Storage, Inc.
508-765-9178
www.Industrialtransfer.com

The Hoyt Foundation Donates \$35,000 to The Center of Hope Foundation, Inc.

SOUTHBRIDGE - The Center of Hope Foundation, a non-profit agency serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is pleased to announce a charitable contribution in the amount of \$35,000 from the Hoyt Foundation. This

contribution will help the Center of Hope to continue with its mission in providing services and opportunities so that the individuals who are served are achieving the most fulfilling, meaningful and productive lives possible.

"The Center of Hope's fundraising events have been put on hold due to the current pandemic," said Cindy Howard, CEO of the Center of Hope. "The funds raised from these events are necessary to continue offering opportunities such as Special Olympics, holiday giving, food distribution and offering help in emergency situations that happen within the community."

Erika Travinski, COO of the Center of Hope says, "One of my greatest joys

working at the Center of Hope, is the hope that surrounds the building. Hope for the well-being of those around us. Hope to continue offering services and opportunities that put smiles on countless faces. The joy that emerges from such hope is magical. We are grateful to have the support from the Hoyt Foundation, who share and believe in our mission to provide as many opportunities as possible to the disability community."



Even a pandemic cannot keep Dick Hoyt, founder of the Hoyt Foundation, away from personally delivering a sizeable donation.



MAPFRE recognizes N. Grosvenordale resident as 2020 Community Champion

MAPFRE Foundation recently named MAPFRE employee Jill St. Cyr of North Grosvenordale among its 2020 Community Champions, as part of its annual corporate volunteer award program. The program recognizes employees who are passionate about volunteering and participate in activities during the year to help their communities. St. Cyr, a senior manager at MAPFRE, was recognized for work with It Starts at Home, Inc., a nonprofit organization that she founded in 2019 to help children through fundraising drives, volunteering activities, etc., in the Thompson, Connecticut, and Webster areas.

Regional Microenterprise assistance grant program

If your business is located in Clinton, Douglas, Lancaster, Northbridge, Sterling or Webster, you may be eligible to apply for a Microenterprise Assistance Grant.

Grant awards of up to \$10,000 are available to eligible businesses within those towns that have experienced financial loss due to COVID-19 and the associated shut downs. Eligible businesses must have five employees or fewer (including the owner(s)), must have been in business since January 1, 2019 and must be able to demonstrate revenue loss caused by the pandemic. The business owner's family income must fall within certain limits. Other eligibility requirements apply.

The grants are made possible through a Community Development Block Grant

program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Federal CARES Act and administered by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.

Preliminary applications will be reviewed for eligibility. All businesses deemed eligible for assistance will be entered into a lottery that will determine the order in which applications are processed. Separate lotteries will be held for each community. Applications received after the February 8 deadline will be added to the wait list on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information and a preliminary application contact Carol Cyr at the Webster Office of Community Development: (508)949-3800 ext. 4004 or e-mail: ccyar@

webster-ma.gov.

You can also visit www.webster-ma.gov, or the website of the municipality in which your business is lo-

cated: www.douglas-ma.gov; www.clintonma.gov; www.ci.lancaster.ma.us, www.northbridgemass.org or www.sterling-ma.gov.

Memorial Beach improvements with PARC grant

You may have noticed some activity down at Memorial Beach over the last week or so. Last year the Town of Webster applied for a grant through the state's PARC Grant Program. The town was awarded a grant in the amount of \$400,000 from the state to cover 73% of the cost of upgrades to be done at the beach.

The decisions on what upgrades to do came from various Beach Committee reports and was presented at town meeting. There are some great happenings going on.

A dog park will be erected near the animal shelter. On the far side of the dirt parking lot area there will be an all-purpose field and PickleBall Court.

Playground equipment will be updated, making it more ADA accessible. There will be play equipment for the water, and last but not least the beach house will see upgrades in the bathrooms and concession stand.

Officials would like to thank the residents of Webster for their support in this project.

PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS SERVICES
Accounting, Bookkeeping, Tax Preparation & Planning
STEVEN NOWICKI IRS e-file
508-987-3600
15 Barton St., Oxford, MA 01540
Call us for professional and affordable tax preparation

Pamala Holt joins Goodrich Insurance Agency
We are excited to welcome Pamala Holt from Dudley, MA to our team of insurance professionals at Goodrich Insurance Agency in Milton, MA. Pamala has over 20 years of insurance expertise and will be our Personal Lines Account Manager. Pam joined our office family on November 23, 2020 and will be working remotely from Dudley and in our main office in Milton. Help us give Pam a warm welcome! We look forward to providing our current clients and new clients with professional, personal, knowledgeable valued client services you expect from Goodrich Insurance Agency!
Donna Benoit, CIC CPIA, Vice President **Pamala Holt** Account Manager
William L. GOODRICH INSURANCE Agency, Inc.
424 ADAMS STREET, MILTON, MA 02186
Bus. (617) 698-5544 FAX (617) 698-8515
We appreciate your business. Questions? Call US First!

RUSMART
AUTO UPHOLSTERY
ANTIQUE • CUSTOM MARINE • RV'S Est. 1947
723 MAIN STREET, NORTH OXFORD, MA 01537
Ken & Art Clements **(508) 987-1171**

INCOME TAXES
Personal & Business
IRS e-file
WILLIAM N. KRING
Certified Public Accountant / Admitted to U.S. Tax Court
103 W. Main Street, Dudley
508-949-1439
20% DISCOUNT FOR NEW CLIENTS

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

Chief's corner

Penalties for removing no trespassing signs

By Chief Steven J. Wojnar
Dudley Police Department

As a follow up to an article about trespassing, I was asked another question. The person had experience with people removing trespassing notices posted on land. Hunters were suspected as the primary violators. The person asked if I could provide some information on the penalties associated with this activity.

The most common statute dealing with trespassing is Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 266 Section 120. It in essence defines a trespass as "entering or remaining upon property without right." A posted notice of "No trespass-

ing" is considered a proper means of notification to potential violators. The law does address the improper removal of these notices. Massachusetts General Law Chapter 266 Section 122 states in part, "Whoever willfully tears down, removes or defaces any notice posted on land, or other property described in section one hundred and twenty, by the owner, lessee or custodian thereof, warning persons not to trespass thereon, shall be punished..." The penalty for a violation is a fine of \$25.

In addition to this penalty, the person can be charged with trespassing, which car-

ries up to 30 days in jail and/or a \$100 fine. The person is also subject to arrest. Other violations may also be considered. If there is other property damage, if something is removed or destroyed, or other crimes take place during this time, the violators can face a variety of penalties. There are several reasons why people place these signs on their property. Others must respect the law on these cases and either ask permission to enter the premises or find alternate locations to travel or conduct business.

As the pandemic continues and cases rise, we ask everyone to stay safe and continue

to take the necessary precautions to protect yourselves. Anyone in need of vaccination information can find it at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling 508-949-8036. The work of the Town Officials, particularly our Administrator and most importantly, those from the Board of Health, is greatly appreciated. The rules regarding this virus seem to change constantly, and more pressure is placed on local governments to respond, all with limited resources. We continue to serve the people of Dudley and work with the community to improve the quality of life for everyone.

I thank the men and women from my department for their continued dedicated service to the Town during these trying times. Thanks also go out to the many Police Officers, Fire and Emergency Services members, public works, health care, government and all other "essential" personnel for their continued hard work and service. We greatly appreciate the support we re-

ceive from our community. *Thanks again for your questions and comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department 71 West Main St., Dudley, Ma. 01571 or email at swojnar@dudleypolice.com. Opinions expressed in this weekly column are those of Chief Wojnar only and unless clearly noted, do not reflect the ideas or opinions of any other organization or citizen.*

H.A.N.D.S assistance available

The Dudley group H.A.N.D.S (Helping Address the Needs of Dudley's Seniors) is a local non-profit 501C 3 organization, which assists low-income town residents over age 60, with meeting their home heating needs. The group was formed in 2008. Since that time, they have provided more than \$84,000 to 174 deserving individuals. It is extremely taxing on those with insufficient means to decide between food, medicine, rent, and being warm. The pandemic has only added to these pressures. This group helps ease some of the burden on people and ensures they are kept warm during the cold winter months.

H.A.N.D.S distributes over 95% of all donations received directly to service providers who assist these residents. For the 2020/21 Heating Season, H.A.N.D.S granted 11 awards totaling \$7,207.90. This will go a long way toward helping these seniors in this time of desperate need. Fundraising in the time of COVID-19 has been challenging for many organizations. The Annual H.A.N.D.S Bucket Brigade fundraiser in the Spring of 2020 was eliminated. H.A.N.D.S' success is determined by the amount of donations received and the Board is grateful to every person, group, school, church, and business which supports this endeavor.

If you wish to learn more about H.A.N.D.S, including application or donation information, go to www.handsofdudley.org. It can also be found via email at Handsofdudley@gmail.com, phone - 508-943-8517, or by mail at H.A.N.D.S P.O. Box 343 Dudley, Ma. 01571.

COVID vaccines for Dudley residents

The Town of Dudley announced that Dudley residents can now go to dudleyma.gov to complete a brief form to be notified when a local COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic becomes available for residents, business owners and employees.

As the vaccination becomes available, in accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Phased COVID-19 Distribution Plan, enrollees will be contacted by the Dudley Board of Health and provided with the date, place and time to receive the vaccines. Residents who do not have the

ability to access the internet are encouraged to first ask for assistance from family members, caregivers or friends who will be able to go to dudleyma.gov and complete the form on their behalf. The entire online process takes approximately five minutes.

Additionally, a vaccination phone number has been established to enable residents that are unable to complete the online form to receive assistance from a Dudley Board of Health Assistant to complete the form over the phone. The vaccination phone number is

(508) 949 8036. Residents that call the vaccination phone number for assistance can expect to be asked to leave a message and to receive a call-back within five business days. Because of the volume of local vaccination requests that the Town is expecting, online form submission at dudleyma.gov is strongly encouraged.

The Town recognizes that members of the community may have difficulty in traveling to receive vaccinations, and different methods of delivering the vaccines locally are being developed through

a cooperative effort between health care providers, the board of health and the Dudley Fire Department Emergency Management Division.

The Town of Dudley does not have the ability to purchase additional vaccines or expedite the process. The phased approach which is being followed across the State has been developed by medical and health professionals at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) to best deliver the vaccine in a coordinated effort across the Commonwealth.

Open Sky Services achieves highest accreditation level

CARF International, an independent organization that provides accreditation services worldwide to health and human service providers, has granted Open Sky Community Services' Behavioral Health programs a three-year accreditation. This accreditation is the highest level awarded by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) and was given after a rigorous evaluation process focused on quality and results.

In the report notifying Open Sky of the award, one of the areas of strength noted was the array of supports it provided to frontline workers through the COVID-19 crisis. The organization's staff was described as experienced and dedicated and persons served echoed that assessment with comments like "I didn't know how to trust, but now I trust staff" and "For the first time in my life, I feel safe."

Funders who were interviewed for the accreditation praised the quality of care provided by Open Sky, while peers at other Central Mass agencies recognized Open Sky for its success at building collaborative relationships to broaden the safety net of human services in the region. President and CEO Ken Bates was delighted by the accreditation team's findings. "I was particularly struck by the fact that a number of staff members mentioned how well we

handle conflict and differing opinions," said Bates. "This willingness to entertain different viewpoints is, as CARF noted, an important indication of Open Sky's commitment to continuous improvement."

Open Sky was formed through the 2018 affiliation of Alternatives Unlimited and The Bridge of Central Massachusetts. With over 100

programs throughout Central Massachusetts, the organization provides services and supports to more than 4,900 adults, young adults and youth with mental health challenges, developmental disabilities, brain injury, substance use disorders, homelessness or other complex challenges. Open Sky also provides services and supports for LGBTQIA+ youth

through its Safe Homes program, as well as expert training for human service professionals and school personnel on evidence-based practices and best practice treatment models through the Bridge Training Institute.

For more information about Open Sky Community Services, please contact Lorie Martiska, lorie.martiska@openskyscs.org



Insist on exceptional.

Post-Acute Rehab • Long-Term Care • Orthopedic Rehab
Wound Care • Pulmonary Care • Cardiac & Stroke Recovery

312 Millbury Ave.
Millbury, MA 01527
www.careonemillbury.com
508.793.0088

CAREONE
At Millbury

1085292

Lake Chargoggagoggmanchuggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Souvenirs
Sweatshirts & Tees
Postcards • Hats
Jackets • Tervis Tumblers
Etched Glassware
"Images of America, Webster" book

508-943-4900
154 Thompson Rd., Webster, MA

behind Wind Tiki in the Sterling Realty Building

shop online at www.websterlakegifts.com

A Vibra Transitional Care Facility

Short-Term Rehabilitation • Long-Term Care
Hospice Stays • Respite Care

Getting You Back to Better.

111 Huntoon Memorial Highway • Leicester, MA 01542
Phone: 508.892.6800 • www.vhmeadows.com

The Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation 12th annual appeal

The Dudley-Charlton Education Foundation (DCEF) is pleased to announce the launch of our 12th annual appeal with a \$2,500 donation from Cornerstone Bank. Cornerstone Bank has supported DCEF annually since

our inception. Each year, the DCEF awards grants to educators in our district to fund the implementation of creative and exciting ideas that enhance the school experience for our students. Although the classroom

and school year look different this year, the need still exists and all funds contributed to the DCEF are used to support education in the community.

Previous donations have made a significant impact

across all seven schools in the past 11 years funding 118 grants and more than \$300,000 for fresh and creative ventures in the classroom.

Please consider investing in the future of the Dudley-

Charlton Regional School district students by supporting our 12th annual appeal which is running through March 31st. Donations may be made securely, on-line at: www.dcedfoundation.org or by sending a check to:

DCEF, PO Box 92, Dudley, MA 01571.

On behalf of the thousands of students impacted, and the teachers who facilitate these learning opportunities, thank you for your support.



AMERICAN RENT-ALL LLC
and American Self Storage

- Self Storage
- Climate Controlled Areas
- Honda Generators/Mowers
- Moving Supplies
- Propane





HONDA
Power Equipment

SALES & SERVICE

Inquire within or call for details.

Route 131, Thompson, CT 06277
860-923-2155 • 860-923-9100 • 860-923-2626
www.AmericanRentAll.com
Monday - Friday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm • Saturday: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm



You're Retired.
Your Money Isn't.

To learn about the different options for your retirement accounts, call my office today.



Dennis Antonopoulos
Financial Advisor
5 Albert St
Auburn, MA 01501-1303
508-832-5385

edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Yes, WE CAN FIX IT!



INSATION TECHNOLOGIES

PICK UP THE PHONE AND CALL US!

<p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">COMPUTER REPAIR</p> <p style="font-size: 12pt; color: yellow;">AND SUPPORT ANYTIME, ANYWHERE!</p>	<p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">iPhone & iPad Repairs</p>	<p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">SECURITY CAMERAS & INSTALLS</p>
---	---	---

Virus & Spyware Removal

Wireless Network Setup

Printer Setup & Repairs

Data Recovery & Backup

Network Security & Installs

Desktop & Laptop Sales

Managed IT Services

VOIP Services

MANAGED IT, VOIP AND NETWORK SERVICES

31 Thompson Road, Suite 2 • Webster, MA

508.422.0477
Mon-Wed: 9am-5pm
Thurs-Fri: 9am-6pm
Sat: 9am-2pm

www.insationtech.com

email: info@insationtech.com



Remote Car Starters

SMART PHONE INTEGRATION: APPLE CAR PLAY or ANDROID AUTO
SECURITY SYSTEMS • COMPLETE CAR AUDIO SYSTEMS
ELECTRONIC ACCESSORIES

SALES / SERVICE / INSTALLATION

Owner Operated - Remote Starters Our Specialty Since 2001

Jay Morse 405 East Main Street
508.765.3836 Southbride, MA 01550

STORMN'S AUTO DETAILING



SIMONIZ ★ CLAY BAR TREATMENT
WASH & WAX DETAILS ★ CHROME INSTALLATION
CERAMIC AND MORE!

774-289-8747

WEBSTER, MA



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
- SM LANDSCAPING JOBS
- ETC.

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

The Yankee Xpress

Support the advertisers
in the Yankee Xpress

Residents earn awards from WGU

SALT LAKE CITY - The following local residents have earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University. The award is given to students who perform at a superior level in their coursework.

Zaily Naranjo of Douglas, has earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University College of Business.

Mohammad Ghani of Oxford, has earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University College of Information Technology.

Dean's List at WIT

BOSTON - The following local students have made the Dean's List at Wentworth Institute of Technology for the Fall 2020 semester.

Nicole Marie Thackberry of Douglas; Abagayle Paige Morin of Dudley; Madeline Rae Davis of Dudley; Brandon Scanlon of Dudley; Daniel Edward Vanderhoof of Webster; Adrianna T. Rocheleau of Webster.

**Support
Local
Business**

•

**Shop
Local**



Great things
to come
...in 2021!

*Celebrating life,
love and
each other.*



No matter the reason or the season, the staff at Christopher Heights Assisted Living continuously strive to ALWAYS keep you **HEALTHY * ACTIVE * SOCIAL * CONNECTED * SECURE & COMFORTED**

For more information or a tour of our beautiful community, please call Laura L. Crosetti at 508-949-0400, extension 4106

Make Yourself
at Home at
Christopher Heights
Assisted Living



CHRISTOPHER HEIGHTS™
AN ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY
338 THOMPSON ROAD
WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
www.christopherheights.com

THE last green valley™
National Heritage Corridor

We're Wide Open

Green by day, dark by night!
Come explore our wide open spaces and historic New England downtowns & villages
Visit TheLastGreenValley.org
or call 860-774-3300

Samuel Slater **EXPERIENCE**

Is your bike a hundred years old?

1920s-40s bicycle, motorcycle, "streetscape" items, old light posts, parking - no parking signs from the 20s-30s wanted.

Contact Olivia at ospratt@samuel Slaterexperience.org or call the museum at 508-461-2955.

THE LAST GREEN VALLEY: Outdoors is answer to pandemic blues

By Rod Lee

Life these days is not much different for Assistant Director Fran Kefalas, Financial Officer Nick Velles and their fellow staffers at The Last Green Valley, than it is for other residents and businesspersons of South County and northeastern Connecticut.

Much of what would typically be happening by way of events in communities served by the Danielson-based organization have been scaled back or put on hold because of the pandemic.

There is a positive note despite the toll taken by COVID-19 that management at TLGV

is glad to witness, however, Ms. Kefalas said in a telephone conversation in January.

"We're seeing a lot more trail use, definitely a lot more people getting outdoors," she said, echoing remarks made earlier by Mr. Velles (one advertisement that TLGV has placed promotes the theme "green by day, dark by night!, come explore our wide open spaces and historic northeastern downtowns and villages").

"We have been running programs. We had a successful Walktober," Ms. Kefalas said.

This is not to say activity is anywhere near normal.

"Our nine Massachusetts towns (including Webster, Dudley, Oxford, Southbridge and Sturbridge), that has been one of our biggest challenges, operating in two states," she said. Under Massachusetts guidelines, "we cannot do a Massachusetts program because it's not considered essential." Also, "with COVID-19, not a lot of our volunteers are jumping up and down to do walks." A number of these volunteers are elderly and vulnerable to the virus. Between this and the restrictions the organization faces in Massachusetts, "we are not in Massachusetts

as much as we want to be," Ms. Kefalas said. "We are encouraging DIY hikes and stuff like that. We've worked with the Opacum Land Trust (in Sturbridge)."

TLGV's partnership with the Opacum Land Trust has been beneficial for both parties. Recently, TLGV awarded more than \$22,000 in a new grant program to a number of recipients "to help nonprofits build capacity during challenging times." Among these were the Avalonia Land Conservancy in Mystic, Chamberlin Mill in Woodstock, Click in Windham, Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution in Lebanon and the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District in Norwich.

The Opacum Land Trust was allocated \$1500 of this money "to expand remote communications through its website and other digital platforms to better promote its properties," Ms. Kefalas said.

Meanwhile, efforts are being made to publicize events like a Bald Eagle Hike in Plainfield and Acorn Adventures in Woodstock.

"We had a great turnout for (one of) our Acorn Adventures programs, run by (Chief Ranger) Bill Reid at the Lead Mine Trail, twenty people that day," Ms. Kefalas said. "We had hoped to do that again but we can't."

Nevertheless, "it's important to us," she said, "to let people know we can provide



The Last Green Valley is saying "Opt Outdoors" for invigorating and scenic trail hikes, as the wait continues for an all-clear for regular programming offered by the organization.

the space. We did a winter solstice hike that drew nineteen people. The thing we can do is get people outside to enjoy the great outdoors."

The hope with the dawn of 2021, she said, is that things will "get better" so that TLGV's "Spring Outdoors" and other programs "from the spring equinox to the summer solstice" will be able to be held as scheduled.

"Guidance from the governors of Connecticut and Massachusetts is critical to us," Ms. Kefalas said. As TLGV awaits further instructions, "we are trying to strike that balance to keep people safe." One way of doing this, Mr. Velles pointed out, is to require pre-registration and to limit attendance to "twenty-five to thirty people," with masks and social distancing.

In Connecticut, events cannot be hosted on private property, he said, "but [they can] in public space. People are making their own decisions" in regard to what opportunities to take advantage of.

Normally, Ms. Kefalas said, "we have three hundred

different opportunities for people to get outdoors in the spring. Even if we have one hundred this coming spring—that would be good."

To the inevitable question "is The Last Green Valley (which is part of the National Heritage Corridor) okay financially?" Ms. Kefalas said, "oh yeah, we're fine. We shifted gears to a pay-what-you-can membership, to keep people engaged. Actually, our membership is climbing. It's working out. We extended our partner organizations a full year. We are able to do that because we get funding from the National Park Service. We are secure for the last fiscal year."

A brief pause in our talk prompted Ms. Kefalas to say, "Sorry! A red-tailed hawk just landed in a tree in front of me!"

That particular sighting is a sure sign that things are indeed good in The Last Green Valley.

Contact Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.

PLYWOOD PLUS
The PLUS is so much more...

**Kitchen Design • Kitchen Cabinets • Pine Molding • Doors
Windows • Hardwood Floors • Custom Orders • Hardware**

Family Owned and Operated
#1 Merillat Dealer in Worcester County
Builder's Premium Supplier

Free Kitchen Design
Delivery Available
Personalized Customer Care

Merillat
THERMA TRU
DOORS

600 Park Ave, Worcester • 508.831.9900 • www.plywoodplus.com

See an Expert in Cosmetic Dentistry

Jason R. Tubo, DMD, MAGD - Master of the Academy of General Dentistry

Advanced Cosmetic Bonding | Minimally Invasive Dentistry
Completely Digital Treatment (NO impressions!)
Single-tooth implants | Full-mouth reconstruction
Computer-Guided Surgery | 3D Cone-Beam X-ray
Crowns | Veneers | Advanced Esthetics

Alison Before ACB
(Advanced Cosmetic Bonding)

↓ Alison After ACB
(Advanced Cosmetic Bonding) ↓

**Whitinsville
family dentistry**

(508) 234-8107

12 Prospect Street
Whitinsville, MA

www.DrTubo.com

Real People. Real Results.

See more of Alison's case and more REAL Before and After cases actually done by Dr. Jason Tubo at www.DrTubo.com

Finding yourself a little addicted to Dr. Tubo's Before and Afters? See them when they're brand new Follow Dr. Tubo on Instagram:

@dr.jasontubo

Charlton Optical's customer loyalty continues to rise

By Janet Stoica

There are approximately 200 optical stores in central Massachusetts, many of which are great places to have your eyes checked, contact lenses ordered, and eyeglasses chosen, but for the last five years, Charlton Optical has stood at the top of the list by being voted Best in Central Mass. by its loyal and happy customers.

Owner Peter Maly is understandably proud of his professional and customer-focused staff for all that they have accomplished in the areas of eye examinations, contact lens choices, eyeglass frame selection, and their own unique lens grinding lab for

customers' spectacles.

"It's our customer service," said Mr. Maly, "along with the longevity of our employees and our old-fashioned values. We want to make sure our customers are happy with our products. We stand behind what we offer our customers and honor all our warranties. Our crew and their personalities are what keeps our clients coming back. It's the teamwork."

Charlton Optical also has a new optometrist, Dr. Renee Gomez, who, according to their website, provides primary eye care for all ages, including contact lens examina-

tions and fittings, laser vision consultations, diabetic evaluations, pre-post cataract evaluations and general vision exams. Dr. Gomez is licensed as a Doctor of Optometry in Massachusetts and is a member of the American Optometric Association and the Massachusetts Society of Optometrists.

"We also have top-of-the-line equipment," stated Mr. Maly. "We offer Optos Retinal Imaging which captures a 200-degree high-resolution digital image of the retina in a single shot without using eye-drop dilation." Mr. Maly explained that his company chose to bump out their existing floor plan to accommodate their newest eye examination equipment.

The shop will be celebrating its 27th year anniversary at the same location this year. "We have a large selection of frames along with our ability to accept most insurances, making us one of the busiest shops around. The other very large advantage that sets us apart from our fellow optical shops is that we grind our own lenses here," Mr. Maly said. Charlton Optical also dispenses all major brand contact lenses along with rebates, if applicable.

Mr. Maly and his staff opticians actually create your eyeglasses right on the premises. The process involves blank generic power glass and/or plastic lenses that arrive in one-inch-thick formats. As pre-



Staff members (L-R): Shelley Smola, Peter Maly, Lynda Schultz, Jayne Deluca, John Verdolino, Dr. Renee Gomez, and April Swanson.



New Optos retinal imaging equipment

scriptions are accepted from customers, he and his fellow opticians use their lab equipment to grind the blanks to the proper power for each individual whether it's one power, bifocal, trifocal, or progressive lenses. One-stop shopping for sure.

Another interesting facet of this shop is its Chemistre line of sunglasses that includes the insertion of tiny magnets in the upper left and right corners of a customer's clear spectacles making those specs capable of accepting a flat pair of sunglasses with like magnets. Once those flat sunglasses are clicked on those tiny magnets, it is impossible to tell the wearer has clip-on sunglasses.

"We do almost all our own optical work," Mr. Maly stated, "grinding prescriptions with a computerized edger with most scrips done the same day presented. We also specialize in safety eyewear for companies."

Charlton Optical's customers hail from Massachusetts and Connecticut with their goal of purchasing contact lenses, eyeglasses, and frames—from designer to economy styles. Many of their regulars are local residents, coming from the Brookfields, Quinebaug and Thompson, as well as Webster and Dudley.

Mr. Maly began his career working at Gentex Optics of Dudley. He so thoroughly enjoyed working in the pro-

duction area making lenses that he decided to further his education in the lens grinding area. He is certified by the National Contact Lens Examiners, American Board of Opticianry, and the Opticians Association of Massachusetts.

Their two newest employees are Shelley Smola, a new optician who has been with the group for six months, and April Swanson, who began her career as a technician three months ago. They are also currently seeking another optometrist and a new billing employee.

Charlton Optical is open Monday - Saturday and is located at 109-6 Masonic Home Road, Charlton. (508) 248-1188. www.charltonoptical.com

President's Week Savings

- New Vehicle Savings -

2020 EcoSport 4wd
Choose from " " units
Up to \$4500 in rebates!!!

2020 Ford Escape
Choose: \$5000 Rebate "OR"
0% FOR 60 mos. "+ 2000 cash

2021 Ford Explorer
Choose: \$2000 rebates "OR"
0% for 60 mos. "+ \$1250 cash

- Pre-Owned Values -

- **2015 Lexus RX300**
AWD, black w/leather, 3.5/V6, pwr moonroof#cu7435 **\$23,888**
- **2017 Ford Fusion Titanium**
gray, AWD, p-roof, nav. leather, 40k mi.....#cu7497 **\$17,988**
- **2017 Honda Civic "EX"**
black, front wheel drive, cloth, auto., great mpg's.....#cu7490 **\$23,888**
- **2017 Edge "SEL"**
AWD, white gold w/3.5/V6, leather, nav., 39k miles. (choose from '6' pre-owned Edge).....#tu0930R **\$23,888**

(#cu7467)
2019 BMW 430xi Convertible
hard top- all wheel drive, 19" wheels, navigation, neck warmers.
Reduced!! \$45,999 (orig. MSRP was \$63,110)

- **2019 Ranger Super Crew**
gray, 2.3, 4 cyl., turbo, XLT, 29k mi. FX4 package.....#tu3064 **\$30,888**
- **2019 Chevrolet Silverado 1500**
"LT", 4x4, 5.3/V8, T/Ton pkg., only 16k miles.....#tu3019 **\$39,888**
- **2016 Nissan Rogue**
silver, AWD, 2.5, 4cyl, nav., m-roof, 61k..#tu3018 **\$16,488**
- **2014 Subaru Crosstrek "XV"**
premium, gray, 4 cyl., AWD, cool wheels, 83k mi.....#tu3010 **\$13,888**

- Purchase With Confidence -

"Where friends send their friends"

366 E. Main Street, Rte. 9 • East Brookfield

508-LAM-FORD www.lamoureuxford.com

Hours: Mon-Thurs 8:30am-8:00pm • Fri: 8:30am-6:00pm • Sat 8:30am-4:00pm

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. 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sat. 7:30 a.m. - Noon

VISIT US FOR YOUR NEXT PROJECT!
HOMEOWNERS
WELCOME!



Clean Slate Estate Inc.

New England's Premier Estate Clean-Out Company.

www.CleanSlateEstate.com

ESTATE CLEAN-OUT SPECIALISTS

"We buy Comics, Gold, Coins, Jewelry, Artwork, Collectibles, Cars, Guns, Toys Highest Prices Paid!"

FREE QUOTES CALL
(800) 989-4521

TEXT US A PHOTO
(401) 640-9385

FULLY
INSURED
AND
BONDED



Clean Slate Estate Inc.

15% OFF
FOR SENIORS
AND WAR
VETERANS



CLASS B CDL DRIVERS

Must possess a valid Class B drivers license, current medical card, proof of a DCL self certification, clean driving record and experience in the waste and recycling industry.

Positions offer full-time, year-round work with a family owned company servicing the industry for over 80 years. Full vacation & benefit package. Wages in proportion to ability and experience.

MECHANIC WANTED

Pratt Trucking/Little River Recycling Oxford, MA

Job Summary: Pratt Trucking is a family owned and operated company in Oxford, MA. We are searching for a qualified mechanic to work on our fleet of Garbage Trucks, Roll Off Trucks, Hook Lift Trucks, and other equipment. Top Wages Paid, Weekends Off, and Benefits!

Responsibilities: Performs physical tasks in the shop or field in support of operations including, but not limited to: inspection, troubleshooting, repairs, and maintenance of equipment. Provides unscheduled repairs of equipment; reviews equipment status with operational personnel and performs scheduled maintenance of trucks and equipment. Inspects, repairs, maintains, and makes recommendations and performs modifications to functional parts of a variety of equipment and machinery. Diagnoses maintenance requirements on diesel engines, transmissions, drive lines, differentials, electrical circuits, hydraulic systems, and chassis through diagnostic aids, inspections, and interpretation of equipment reports with assistance. Disassembles, overhauls, and replaces worn parts on equipment as required. Reads and interprets work orders to perform required maintenance and service. Demonstrated commitment to a clean and safe working environment.

Qualifications and Skills: Knowledge of Mack, Cummins, GMC, Chevrolet trucks. Knowledge of troubleshooting/diagnostic tools. Experience as a heavy duty truck mechanic. Ability to work safely in a shop environment. Mechanical skills should include, but are not limited to, mechanical, electrical, pneumatic and hydraulic troubleshooting and repair of trucks and equipment.

Benefits: Health Insurance, Top Wages! Over-time optional. **Job Type:** Full-time. **Experience:** Driver's License (Required), Diesel Mechanic: 1 year (Required), Diesel repair certification (Preferred), Trash industry experience (Preferred), Class A or B CDL (Preferred), Welding experience (Preferred)

Salary based upon experience (top wages paid)

Apply now in person at Pratt Trucking

22 Town Forest Rd • Oxford MA 01540

(508) 987-1187

or apply online at: www.pratttrucking.com

Morse Farm

1 Silvestri Rd., Dudley, MA

774-402-0069

Morse Farms will start a new chapter for our 43rd season. We will be offering CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) shares in 2021.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA)

HOW DOES IT WORK?



You Meet A Farmer & Purchase a CSA Share Before Spring Growing Season → The Farmer Uses Your Funds For Initial Costs Such As Seeds and Labor → The Farmer Grows A Variety of Heathy Food For You and Other CSA Members → You Get Fresh Fruits & Veggies Every Week From a Local Farmer Whom You've Met

KNOW YOUR FARMER - KNOW YOUR FOOD

Our season was from June until the Sunday before Thanksgiving. **CSA** will start the end of June, first of July and run for 20 weeks. We will be vegetable oriented with some greens and no mystery fruits or vegetables. We will discuss your preferences in order to tailor your **CSA**.

CALL FOR DETAILS.

-Morse Farms is known for above average quality and varied selection.

HICKORY WOOD NOW FOR SALE FOR SMOKING.

LEBLANC OIL LLC
508-248-1444
24 HOUR SERVICE

DELIVERY AREAS
Auburn, Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, Cherry Valley, Dudley, East Brookfield, Fiskdale, Holland, Leicester, North Brookfield, North Oxford, Millbury, Oxford, Rochdale, Spencer, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Sutton & Webster.
Connecticut: N. Grosvenordale, Quinebaug, Thompson & Woodstock.

Monday-Friday 7:30am-5pm
Saturday 9:30-2pm

- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Automatic Delivery
- Fuel Assistance Accepted
- Licensed In House Technicians (NO subcontracting)
- Burner Service
- Oil Tank Installations (Free Estimates)

5¢ OFF
PER GALLON
OF OIL
OF 175 GALLONS
OR MORE

Must present coupon.
Offer cannot be combined.

NEW OFFICE LOCATION IN SOUTHBRIDGE | 34 NEWMAN AVE.

FOOD AND FUN PULL-OUT SECTION

PULL OUT SECTION

Save these pages as a guide to area dining and things to do

Programs and events at the Pearle L. Crawford Library

DUDLEY - The Pearle L. Crawford Library, 40 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, has listed the following programs and events. Join us for one of our virtual programs at the Pearle. To register go to www.crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021.

Storytime on Facebook Live Wednesdays at noon - Join Miss Lida for a live storytime on Facebook, every Wednesday at noon, and then stop by the library for a free take-and-make craft kit. No Facebook account is needed for this free program. Just point your browser to <https://www.facebook.com/crawfordlibrary> to access the video. Can't tune in at noon? Recordings of each week's storytime are available on the Facebook page beginning Wednesday afternoon.

Music and movement

First Friday of every month at 11:00 a.m. Join Deb Hudgins on Facebook for Music and Movement, one of our most popular programs. Nothing gets kids on their feet and having fun quite like songs, dance and silly stories. No Facebook account is needed for this free program. Just point your browser to <https://www.facebook.com/crawfordlibrary> to access the video.

Wingmasters birds of prey Friday, February 22, 6:00-7:50 p.m. Wingmasters will present

a children's program featuring educational videos and live birds of prey, with question and answer sessions. Meet a falcon and an owl and learn about them and other birds of prey. Free; registration is required. Participants will receive a link to the Zoom meeting 24 hours before the event. Sponsored by the Hugh W. and Harriet K. Crawford Endowment.

Hands on nature presents backyard birds

Monday, March 22, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Meet the birds in your backyard with this fun free program for kids. Free; registration is required. Participants will receive a link to the Zoom meeting 24 hours before the event. Sponsored by the Hugh W. and Harriet K. Crawford Endowment.

Tracing your immigrant ancestors

Thursday, March 25. 6:00-7:45 p.m. Most of us are here today because someone, somewhere, left everything they knew for something unknown. Find out how, find out why, find out more. This talk will give you the tools you need to identify the place of origin of your European ancestors. Margaret Fortier will cover

how to start, what to watch out for, and how to use the whole family to find what you are looking for. Case studies tracing local immigrants will

illustrate the method. Free. Registration required. Participants will be emailed a zoom link 24 hours before the program.



The Dog Truck

91 Gore Road, Webster at Fish & Game
OPEN YEAR ROUND
WINTER HOURS: 11am-2pm Mon.-Sat.

THE DOGS

- PLAIN DOG \$2.25
ketchup, mustard, relish, onions
- CHILI DOG \$2.75
homemade chili sauce
- Add cheese, onions \$3.00
- KRAUT DOG \$2.75
warm sauerkraut
- SLAW DOG \$2.75
homemade coleslaw

COMBOS

- includes chips & drink
- TWO PLAIN DOGS \$5.50
- TWO CHILI, KRAUT OR SLAW DOGS \$6.50
- TWO TUNA, CHICKEN SALAD, OR MEATBALL \$7.00



THE OTHER STUFF ON A ROLL

- MEATBALLS \$3.00
American cheese
- TUNA SALAD \$3.00
- CHICKEN SALAD \$3.00
- ITALIAN SAUSAGE \$4.00
sauteed onions & peppers

Check our Facebook page for specials

Before placing your order, please inform your server if a person in your party has a food allergy

Cozy up this Winter!
Flavored Coffee & Teas
Homemade Pastries & Chocolates

- * Bath Salts
- * Soaps * Candles
- * Essential Oils...

...And of course **BOOKS!**

Booklovers' Gourmet
Books • Coffee • Gifts

72 East Main Street, Webster (near CAP Auto & The Flower Garden)
Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5
Shop online: bookshop.org/shop/bookloversgourmet
Call ahead for curbside pickup 508-949-6232

Open for browsing with safety protocols • www.bookloversgourmet.com

EBT ACCEPTED NOW!

Fridays only during Lent

Baked Haddock **\$11.99**
with potato and vegetable

Lobster Roll **\$17.99**



DAILY SPECIALS

- Imported Ham \$5.99/lb
- Land o Lakes pre-sliced Am. cheese \$5.99/lb
- Ham Salad \$6.99/lb
- Oven Roast Turkey \$8.99/lb
- Corned Beef \$8.99/lb
- Pastrami \$8.99/lb
- Roast Beef \$8.99/lb

Delray Docs
FRUIT & DELI

508-943-3303

31 Thompson Rd., Webster

(in the New Nipmuc Plaza)

Open: Tues. thru Fri. 9-5;

Sat. 9-4; Sun. 9-2, Closed Mondays

Deli Help Wanted Apply Within



"An absolute must see for history lovers!" - Google Review

★★★★★

Explore Over 20 Exhibits



568 Main Street, Hudson, MA
www.AmericanHeritageMuseum.org
(978) 562-9182



St. Andrew Bobola take-out Lenten fish dinners

Fridays from February 19 through March 26, St. Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main St., Dudley, will be offering take-out Lenten dinners with your choice of baked or fried fish from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Fried dinners include french fries, cole

slaw and tartar sauce. Baked dinners include baked potato, coleslaw and tartar sauce. Please note – take out only and please call ahead 508-943-5633 to order.

Cost is \$12pp for adults and \$6pp for children. If you have any questions or to order, please call the rectory, 508-943-5633, during regular office hours, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. to noon. During Lent, come take home a great meal and avoid cooking on Fridays.



Mexicali

CANTINA GRILL

Sun-Thurs: 11a-10p
Fri-Sat: 11a-11p
MexicallisFreshMex.com
Dine In & Takeout!

Gift Certificates Available

"We are social distant compliant" for the health of everyone.

DINNER OR LUNCH

50% OFF

Buy any lunch or dinner, get 50% off the 2nd lunch or dinner of equal or lesser value with beverages purchased. Dine in only. 1 per table/party. Not combinable with other offers or specials. Offer expires 3-15-21

INDOOR DINING
Take-out Always Available

Online orders with pickup or delivery

41 Worcester Road, Webster, MA • 508-461-5070

Facebook.com/MexicallisFreshMex Like Us!

New England Steak and Seafood

Casual Elegant Dining and Banquets

Banquet Facilities Available

PRIME RIB AND STEAKS

-Prepared over our open pit-

FRESH SEAFOOD & LIVE LOBSTERS

CHICKEN & PASTA DISHES

APPETIZERS • SALADS • SOUPS

COMBINATION DINNERS

KIDS VALUE MEALS (12 & UNDER)

TRY OUR FAMOUS Cinnamon Rolls & Chowder

Lunch: Wed-Thurs-Fri Open 11:30am Dinner: Daily 4:00pm to close
Sunday Noon to close - Closed Tuesdays

Serving this area with the finest steak and seafood for over 60 years

508-478-0871 • 11 Uxbridge Rd. ~ Rt. 16 Mendon

See Our Menu on our website

www.nesteamandseafood.com or on Facebook

LENTEN SPECIALS

Fresh Seafood All Month Long

Haddock • Shrimp Scallops • Clams Lobster Fra Diavlo and much more..!

FINS & TALES

AT 858 MAIN STREET

Celebrate Easter with us

Sunday, April 4

11:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Braises • Seafood • Chowders • Steaks • Pastas

858 Main Street, Southbridge, MA
508-764-3349 • www.FinsandTales858.com

27 Worcester Road, (Rte. 20)
Charlton, MA
508-248-7866

WINTER SPECIALS 2021

ED STEARNS
Dressed Meats Inc.

A - \$50.00

- 5 LBS. CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS OR
2 LBS. BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST
- 2 LBS. HAMBURG OR
2 LBS. STEW BEEF
- 1 LB. HOT DOGS OR 1 LB. BACON
- 2 LBS. NEW YORK SIRLOIN STEAK OR
3 LBS. HAM STEAKS
- 2 WHOLE OR CUT UP CHICKENS
(AVG. WEIGHT 3 LB. EACH) OR
3 LBS. PORK CHOPS

B - \$50.00

- 3 LBS. BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST OR
1 PKG. (1½ LBS.) MARINATED
CHICKEN BREAST
- 2 LBS. HAMBURG OR
3 LB. GROUND TURKEY
- 3 LBS. PORK CHOPS OR
2 LBS. HAM STEAKS
- 1 WHOLE OR CUT-UP CHICKEN (3 LBS.)
OR 1 PKG. SAUSAGE OF YOUR CHOICE
- 1 LB. BACON OR STEW BEEF

\$75.00

Be Mine

\$100.00

- 5 LBS. CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS OR
1 LB. BACON
- 3 LBS. HAMBURG OR
3 LBS. STEW BEEF
- 2 LBS. LONDON BROIL STEAKS OR
2 LBS. NEW YORK SIRLOIN STEAKS
- 3 LBS. BEEF POT ROAST OR
3 LBS. BONELESS PORK ROAST
- 3 LBS. BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST OR
1 PKG. (1½ LBS.) MARINATED
CHICKEN BREAST OF YOUR CHOICE
- 1 WHOLE CHICKEN (3 LBS. AVERAGE)
OR 1 LB. SAUSAGE OF YOUR CHOICE

- 5 LBS. BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST OR
3 LBS. BEEF POT ROAST
- 4 LBS. CHICKEN LEG QTRS. OR 1 LB. BACON
- 3 LBS. BONELESS PORK ROAST OR
2 LB. NEW YORK SIRLOIN STEAK
- 1½ LBS. SIRLOIN TIPS OR 3 LBS. PORK CHOPS
- 3 LBS. HAMBURG OR 1 PKG. (1½ LBS.)
MARINATED SIRLOIN TIPS OF YOUR CHOICE
- 2 WHOLE OR CUT-UP CHICKENS
(6 LBS. TOTAL) OR 1 PKG. (1½ LBS.)
COOKED CHICKEN WINGS
OF YOUR CHOICE
- 1 LB. SAUSAGE OF YOUR CHOICE OR
1 LB. HOT DOGS
- 1 ROASTING CHICKEN (6-8 LBS.) OR
2 LBS. STEW BEEF

NO SUBSTITUTIONS.
PLEASE ORDER IN ADVANCE

Custom cutting section closes
1 hour before closing time.

We Accept Cash, EBT

Visit our website: www.edstearnsdressedmeats.com

FIRST PLACE
Ed Stearns
Dressed Meats Inc.
BEST
BUTCHER SHOP
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

Like us on
 facebook

Retail Store Hours

Tues.	9am-5pm
Wed.	9am-5pm
Thurs.	9am-6pm
Fri.	9am-6pm
Sat.	9am-4pm

February group art show

WEBSTER - "New Hope" - February Group Art Show and Sale featuring 16 local artists will be on display and for sale February 2-27, at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, Webster.

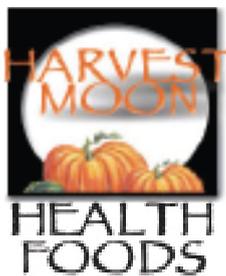


John Gaumond photo le coeur.



A. Tisdell Arctic Polar Bear with Cubs watercolor.

All works will be the artists' interpretation of "hope" and includes photography, acrylic, watercolor, collage and mixed media. The show may be viewed during regular business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5. For more information call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com



HARVEST MOON HEALTH FOODS LLC

Rt. 21 • Unit #4 • Colonial Plaza • Putnam, CT
www.harvestmoonhealthfoods.net
Hours: Mon-Wed. 10am-6pm • Thurs.-Sat. 10am-5pm • Sun. 11am-3pm

Healthy eating keeps the heart beating!



860-928-2352

Check us out on [facebook](#)
We accept all major credit cards

Breakfast - Lunch - Catering

508-731-0744

Full Menu available for Take-out



Now available
Order online at
[chownow.com](#)



Not your average Diner

Serving House-Made Comfort Food using the highest quality ingredients

Ash Wednesday

February 17, Open till 7 p.m.
Eat in or Take out

Haddock & Chips	\$14.99
Fried Clams	MKT
Baked Haddock.....	\$17.99
Seafood Casserole.....	\$17.99
Baked or Fried Scallops	\$19.99

Available weekends during Lent along with Regular Specials

Fisherman's Feast Fried Haddock & Chips
served with a cup of clam chowder and 3 clam cakes

NE CLAM CHOWDER • SEAFOOD CHOWDER • LOBSTER BISQUE

★ **Sundays** ★

6 am-12:30 pm - Breakfast ONLY

Pastries made on site

Mon.-Thur. 6am - 2pm; Fri.-Sat. 6am-8pm
Now accepting all major credit cards

578 Main Street, Oxford, MA • 508-731-0744

www.halfbakedfullyroasted.com



28 Worcester Rd., CHARLTON
63 Main St., DOUGLAS
10 W. Main St., DUDLEY
325 Woodstock Ave., PUTNAM, CT
83 E. Main St., WEBSTER
170 Thompson Rd., WEBSTER

DOZEN \$4.99
DONUTS 4

With Coupon Only. Coupons good at these locations only.
Cannot be combined with any other offers. Expires 2/28/21

DOZEN \$4.99
DONUTS 4

With Coupon Only. Coupon good at these locations only.
Cannot be combined with any other offers. Expires 2/28/21

ALL COUPONS ABOVE NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNTS OR OFFERS. EXPIRES 2/28/21

• HELP WANTED •
ALL LOCATIONS

Crew personnel
Store Manager
Call

508-461-5200
for information

Pete's Sports



Peter Coyle



Sponsored by
Oxford Ins. Agency
300 Main St., Oxford
508-987-0333
pcoyle@oxfordinsurance.com

February means the Clark Tournament for the local boys' qualifying basketball teams that include eligibles in the likes of Bartlett, Shepherd Hill, and Oxford. The popular Worcester tournament will likely submit to COVID 19 precautions and continue reset for 2022. Let's hope the millennials don't forget how historic and exciting this annual event really is and make it a top priority to qualify and compete during the winter vacation week during Presidents Week. The MIAA is on the move and tradition is not a consideration anymore.

This space has not heard that this pandemic time is any fun for those attempting to play basketball although the unanimous sentiment is "the kids are together and competing" although handcuffed

Standing room only... no more bleachers at Memorial Athletic Field

by MIAA rule changes to the rules of basketball that hardly make any sense. You either go to war or you don't, meaning the MIAA is handicapping the rules of the sport in hopes that this invisible disease doesn't go into gymnasiums. You can't stop what you don't see. A lot of schools have opted out of playing because of the pandemic. Wait until you see "fall 2" starting up February 22 to April 25 for football and indoor track. The rules and constraints put in by the MIAA in basketball have schools opting into the geographical pod model which is like playing in a straight jacket. Anyone who is refereeing or officiating these contests should receive immunity for any bad calls in the future. Officials and referees today are like traffic cops at Kelley Square in Worcester during rush hour. Way too many moving parts and the biggest enemy is COVID-19 which is invisible. Go figure. The bottom line this winter is some schools opted in and some school opted out to play basketball. COVID-19 is the enemy and it is invisible and causes death. Unless the MIAA restricted playing rules are 100% guaranteed not to

spread the invisible COVID, then please wait until a vaccine is distributed as a safety measure and the COVID cases can be related to a safe environment. Are high schools really going to attempt to play football in February? We will find out soon.

Taking a recent tour of Ray Street in Webster brings an eye catching major change in the landscaping at upper Memorial Athletic Field. No, second base hasn't moved since 1983 and remains in its usual place. But, both grandstands or bleachers on each side of the football field have been taken down because of safety issues. The safety project affects both the football and baseball situations. Officials have indicated that only a 200-seat maximum seating capacity set of portable seats will be put on the home side of the football field while the visitors side of the football field will be left vacant to sideline standing for fans. It will be standing-room-only on the visiting sidelines and both end zones. Visitors can sit on the home side if they wish. The school bands are going to have to find their own way to be comfortable at games.

While the football grandstands or bleachers decision are just the sign of the times we are in, the baseball field just lost its personality by taking down the famed short porch in right field. The baseball field on Ray Street is an all time treasure in New England. One of the best high school venues ever. Its personality and layout make it as good as Fino Field in Milford and Tivnan Field at Lake Park in Worcester. Does anyone remember when Ray Street was a hotbed for learning how to compete and play all the sports of any season in the 50s, 60s, and 70s? When every kid settled his own differences in a world of playground pick-up games? Bloody noses and ripped pants were guarantees for the end of every day on Ray Street and we were better off for it. The lessons of LIFE on Ray Street became who we are today. Challenging yourself against older kids or more gifted talented kids were the best of times. The bloody noses and ripped pants measured where we were headed in life and we didn't even know it. Sadly today Ray Street is home to the pigeons and that unused second base that sits so proudly in the middle of the baseball diamond

waiting for some kid to slide into it one more time. Football and baseball will continue to be played at the Memorial Field in Webster under the watchful eyes of parents and officials and public address announcers and local cable TV. No more settling your own differences or bloody noses or ripped pants. No more limping home from Ray Street all alone thinking of going back to Ray Street tomorrow for another lesson in LIFE. Even the pigeons have nowhere to sit anymore.

Finally, Rusty Oleszewski's last excerpt on the French River Rivalry sadly ends in today's edition. Oleszewski captured everyone's imagination and soul over the last four months with his crystal clear remembrance of the Dudley students leaving Bartlett High School because of the local political environment between the two schools in 1974. A whole new world was made back in the early 70s and nobody knew that Shepherd Hill would become what it is today. Shepherd Hill grew by leaps and bounds over the last 50 years because of the real estate market in Dudley and Charlton. Shepherd Hill

Regional High School became a thriving educational and athletic institution. Oleszewski gave us his perspective on how Shepherd Hill established itself over 50 years ago. Time has passed and the common denominator of all Bartlett-Shepherd Hill athletic events in the early times of 1974 to the mid-80s proved to be personal for each school, meaning it was a true rivalry in every sense. Both sides brought their emotions to the athletic events between the two schools and it is safe to say that you either wore green or maroon on your sleeve at all times. Unfortunately, there is no rivalry today as both schools dimmed the rivalry down to memories only and thankfully Oleszewski raised the great Bartlett-Shepherd Hill rivalry out of its grave and wrote about how both schools handled their emotions during the French River Rivalry. Thank you Rusty on your outstanding insight about how it was and how it will never be again. You suited up in the maroon and gold in three sports and went onto Amherst College and played football and baseball. Your loyalty will forever be appreciated.

The "French River Rivalry" - short lived but with everlasting memories

Final chapter

By Rusty Oleszewski

Last month we explored facets of the French River Rivalry between Bartlett and Shepherd Hill students after graduation. We also acknowledged the camaraderie which formed between the rivals as they became teammates for different teams or institutions.

I have been away from the local area since 1995 but have visited many times in the 25 years since.

Now as an outsider, but someone who previously lived in Dudley or Charlton for 36 years, I see those two towns have not developed the social or commercial relationship that Dudley and Webster had, or in many cases, still has.

It seems, perhaps only to

me, that Dudley and Charlton are partners in a school system but not much more. In the 50 years or so since the Webster and Dudley school systems were split, let us imagine how those officials responsible for making that decision might feel now.

Certainly, Dudley's farmland image has changed considerably with their population growth. So much growth that the town now has TWO stop light intersections. I used to joke when I was away at college that to find my house "you just turned right at the light!"

The latest figures I have found show a student population of 1217 for grades 9-12 at Shepherd Hill. In comparison, Bartlett High School has 443 students in grades 9-12.

If you recall, when the Webster School Committee decided to dismiss Dudley students from Bartlett, the high school was overcrowded, with upwards of 1000 students roaming the halls during the 1960s.

The Dudley-Charlton school district has a total enrollment of over 4200 students compared to the Webster school district which totals near 1850 students. Webster still has two parochial schools through grade 8 whose students may or may not continue their high school years at Bartlett. But do these numbers mean that Dudley has fared better than Webster?

From a fiscal view, the added tax dollars from a housing boom has benefitted the Dud-

ley-Charlton district along with the contributions of continued regionalization. Webster has built a new high school and junior high school, expanded and remodeled the former Park Ave. Intermediate school. Webster is also home to that lake with the long Indian name, and yes, I can still pronounce it correctly even today. The lake seems more popular than ever as many original summer camp homes have become million-dollar investments.

To yours truly Webster still has that tight knit, neighborhood community look and feel to it. I know the Main St. area has had its problems in recent times attracting commercial clients but a new library and police station seem to be helping spur new activity.

The neighborhood pubs may not be as abundant as in the 20th century but just across the street from Memorial Athletic Field in Webster, the **Polish-American Veterans Club**, commonly referred to as the **PAV**, is still a gathering spot for local sports enthusiasts. Just as old tales of baseball games between the Brooklyn Dodgers and Giants or football games pitting the Baltimore Colts against the New York Giants are rehashed, the battles between Bartlett and Shepherd Hill during their heyday are etched in time.

Names like **Jarosz, Kunkel, Bazinet, Bartolomei, Lindstrom, Daskowski, Miglionico, Stearns** etc. left

their mark on this rivalry. During a stretch in the 1990s the schools played each other twice during the football season. Both schools benefitted from the packed grandstands. Unfortunately the respective coaches had to plea with their athletic directors to end the double meetings because the games were taking a toll on the players. They were such emotional and physical battles.

Throughout this look-back at the French River Rivalry, the majority of my focus has been on the football and basketball programs of the neighboring schools. I wish to make mention of the many other athletes competing in sports such as soccer, field hockey, softball, cross-country, track, golf and cheerleading who also created their own memories of epic wins or losses.

I previously mentioned in an earlier chapter several coaches from both schools but I would also like to tip my hat to not only coaches at the high school level, but also, the junior high and intermediate levels and all the volunteer youth coaches. It is a huge commitment that these men and women make to teach our young athletes not only how to compete in their respective sports, but more importantly, how to do it the proper way. Sportsmanship and respect for an opponent are never misplaced by these two schools. I am proud to have been a part of helping to build from the ground up programs at a new



Rusty Oleszewski

school. Conversely, I cannot help but wonder how cool it would have been for many of us Dudley kids to have been part of the green and white tradition already in place at Bartlett High School.

In closing, I want to thank The Yankee Express and Peter Coyle for giving me the opportunity to relive and learn about some of the most formative years of my life. As we grow old, we take comfort in some of the simpler things during what has been a very disruptive, stressful and bewildering year.

Let us pray that 2021 brings a safe and effective vaccine to citizens of the United States so that life as we remember it can slowly return and local athletes can return to playing the games that they love. Stay safe and always try to do the right thing.

The Yankee Xpress note: our sincere thanks to you, Rusty, for your contribution of the French River Rivalry. Your walk down memory lane has been enjoyed by those of us who remember it well.

100's OF ROLLS
OF STAINMASTER
CARPET

Stainmaster Remnants
Pet Proof Carpeting in stock
Bound Area Rugs in stock

NORTH OXFORD MILLS
Carpet and Flooring

The best values in flooring since 1970

Rte. 12 & Clara Barton Rd., North Oxford • 1-508-987-8521
www.northoxfordmills.com • Open Tues., Thurs., Fri. & Sat. 9-5; Wed. 9-8

Celebrating
50 Years!

Tales from beyond

The Ghosts of Pachaug State Forest

By Thomas D'Agostino

The ghosts of Pachaug are well documented and have attracted the curious and paranormal enthusiasts for years.

As the shadows grow long and darkness envelops the terrain around Pachaug State Forest in Voluntown, Connecticut, unearthly shrieks permeate the wooded domain. They are the shrieks of an Indian girl who was killed by British soldiers over three centuries ago. The once flourishing village that is now deserted thicket is host to several creepy entities from colonial soldiers to the wraith of a little girl. There is even a black misty figure that stalks those who hike the trails and roads of the forest.

The ghosts seem to fall neatly into the history of the region. Pachaug is Indian for "bend in the river." The Narragansett, Mohegan, and Pequot tribes inhabited the area. Towards the end of the 17th century, the colonists began to settle there and convinced the Mohegan tribe to rid the others from the land. After they had gained the help of the Mohegans in successfully removing the other two tribes, the colonists then turned and pushed them out as well.

Around 1700, a six-square-mile expanse of land was given to veterans of the Indian Wars. They named the new settlement Volunteer Town due to the fact that they had been volunteer soldiers during the conflict. In 1721, they shortened the moniker to Voluntown. A community was quick to spring up along the fast flow of the Pachaug River. This tributary runs through the forest from Beach Pond to the Quinebaug River. Mills began to dot the river as early as 1711. Nearly every brook has some remnant of the many mill ruins in the forest preserve.

Like many other small New England farming and mill communities, progress and technology became their enemy and soon the small village of Pachaug was on the downward slide. By the Great Depression of the early 20th century, the village was nothing but overgrown roads and

crumbling homes. The mills, long dormant had also fallen into disrepair and were soon consumed by the ravages of time and nature. All that remained among the forest were the ghosts that still hold their vigil to this day amid the ruins of what was once their home.

There is a section of the forest called Hell Hollow along a road and pond of the same name. The name is not necessarily derived from the demonic forces that thrive in the area. The settlers named many parts of Connecticut with prefixes like "devil" or "demon," as the area gave them the feeling that there were supernatural forces at work. In the case of Hell Hollow, the land was rocky and poor. Farming was brutal and the area was prone to flooding. Such names have carried on through history. If they are haunted at present, it only adds to the mystery of the locale. A rock formation known as "Devil's Den" can be seen northeast of Hell Hollow Pond, on the southwest side of Flat Rock Road along the Quinebaug Trail. This may not be of ghostly significance but tends to reiterate the fact that the settlers were probably a bit superstitious.

Visitors to this patch of the forest have witnessed a dark entity that rushes out of the woods directly in front of them. The strange mist is reported to be about fifteen feet long and hovers a few feet off of the ground as it makes its way across the road. Hikers and hunters alike have given testimony to the strange fiend that lurks in the dark bowers of the forest. Many also get a fearful feeling of being watched while traversing the trails of the Hell Hollow section of the forest.

Another haunting in the Hell Hollow area is that of an Indian girl. In the late 1600s, an Indian woman was slain by English soldiers near the present Hell Hollow Road. Since then her vengeful screams of murder and brutality have saturated the air in a tormenting aria that eerily replays over and over. The screams send

even the bravest hunter on his heels for more hallowed ground. The local hunters will not venture far into that area according to the few I have talked to. They wished to remain anonymous for fear of ridicule but as one said, "When you hear that piercing scream come out of the woods, no one cares what anyone might think. Your hair stands up on the back of your neck and you are out of there!"

The ghost of a colonial soldier still makes his rounds at a section along Breakneck Hill Road. Locals have encountered the vigilant spirit many times over the years as it marches back and forth along the side of the road. Some have actually almost hit the wraith as it crosses the road, still on eternal duty.

Author David Trifilo encountered the ghostly soldier once while traveling along the thoroughfare. He wrote of his experience in his book entitled, "The Hauntings of Pachaug Forest." The author was rounding a sharp bend of the road when he encountered a threadbare colonial soldier carrying a long musket over his shoulder. The entity marched into the road directly in front of Trifilo. When he hit the brakes, the ghost vanished into the void. The sightings of the soldier have been frequent over the years. Paranormal investigator and writer Lauren Neslusen has heard of others who have been startled by the ghostly guard as it crossed the road in front of them. Motorists have actually driven through the specter. Some have stopped for a moment to reflect on what they had just encountered while others do not stick around for a second meeting.

The ghost of this soldier has been witnessed for centuries. The first sighting recorded goes as far back as 1742. The description is the same as the present day witnesses accounts. The spirit is dressed in a tattered uniform holding a long musket slung over the right shoulder. He marches silent and dusty along the bend in the road, sometimes cross-

ing as if looking for something on the other side. The date of the first sighting definitely places him well before the American Revolution. Perhaps he is a remnant of King Philip's War (1675 to 1676) or Queen Anne's War (1702-1713), which was the second inter-colonial war between France and England. Some claim he is from the French and Indian War, yet that conflict took place from 1754 to 1763, several years after the initial sighting of Pachaug's sentinel ghost.

Another spot of spectral relevance is an area of the forest called Maud's Grave. The original site of her burial was on a rise next to the remains of the Reynolds home at the Sterling/Voluntown border.

Maud was the daughter of Gilbert and Lucy Reynolds. She died just before her third birthday after choking on an apple from complications due to diphtheria. The parents found her on the morning of October 12, 1886 with the apple by her side. They preserved the apple in alcohol because it had the impressions of her baby teeth in it.

She was the third child of the Reynolds to die within a few years, but she was not buried in the family cemetery. Mrs. Reynolds was so taken aback by the death of her daughter, that she buried her close to the home where she could see the cross that marked the grave. It is in this spot that her ghost is seen, perhaps trying to find her family or wondering why she is not at rest with her brothers. No one has an answer, as she has never spoken. Even after she was laid to rest in the family plot, her ghost has continued to wander the grounds which were once her home.

In 1965, a relative moved the remains of Maud to the family burying ground on the top of Bare Hill. A cross was fashioned from bricks over her grave and her original marker was taken to the church the family once attended and put in a closet. It remains there to this day as a reminder of one of Hell Hollow's most famous ghosts.



Maud Reynolds' grave marker.



Breakneck Hill Road where soldier's ghost is seen.



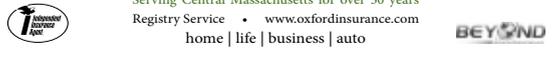
Hell Hollow Road.



300 Main Street
tel 508-987-0333 fax 508-987-0063

Office Hours
mon-fri 8:30-5:00 | thurs 8:30-7:00

Serving Central Massachusetts for over 30 years
Registry Service • www.oxfordinsurance.com
home | life | business | auto





430 Main St., Oxford, MA

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

- Commercial and Residential -

Visit our display by appointment



Renew your homes appeal with a new garage door.

Many new styles and colors to choose from.

Sales • Service • Installation

800-605-9030 508-987-8600

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

Under New Management

CURRENT HOURS

Monday to Saturday 7am-7pm

Sunday 8am-6pm





NEW ENGLAND

CONVENIENCE

Milk, Eggs, Bread, Snacks, ATM, Lottery, Cigarettes, Tobacco, Cigars and Smoking Accessories.

WE HAVE THE CHEAPEST

CIGARETTES IN TOWN!!

65 James Street • Worcester, MA 01603 (774) 530-6966

Living with Lincoln

The Senior Stroll

By Amy Palumbo-LeClaire

Every pet owner, at one time or another, has experienced the joy of going for a WALK. Some dogs even know how to spell the W-A-L-K. I don't know what's better: the build-up to the walk or the actual stroll itself. When it comes to living with Lincoln, I'd have to give each a fair shake. Now that he's a Senior Pet, walks have become even more interesting, and treasured.

"Want to go for a walk?"

The question passes through him like electricity while he relaxes in his preferred spot, the nook beneath our island countertop, his dog cave. He stiffens his posture, stretches his paws forward at an attentive numeral eleven, and tilts his square head. "Want to go for a walk?" I repeat the question just to plant that expression (a Dog Owner fave) in my mind.

The second request sells him. He springs from his cave and grabs the nearest dishrag, one of several used to clean dirty paws. "I love this idea!" He parades around the kitchen with the dirty rag.

It's a Retriever thing.

Dogs remind us that the simple joys in life are the sweetest. He waits for me to grab my coat from the closet and, since its winter, tack on a hat, scarf, and gloves. Leave it to a dog to give "his person" the charm of a butler. He observes my routine carefully. He grins while

I button my coat. He blinks while I wrap my scarf. Then he performs a happy dance, as though we've both just won the lottery. "Do you want to go see Gracie, Lincoln?" I keep the inspiration going. Naming other Golden Retrievers in the neighborhood turns on his heart light even more.

"Do you want to go see the new puppy?" He tap-dances and grabs a dropped glove. "Let it go, Lincoln." I'll admit, this particular habit has lost its luster. "Lincoln, please. I need the glove. Let it go." Refusal. He wiggles to the front door mouthing the glove like a magician with a dove. I resort to the obvious: use my bare hands as a scissor to pry open his upper and lower jaw. The slimed glove drops to the floor like a dead bird.

"Go ahead, Lincoln." Since he's already pushed his way through the opened doorway, I gesture that he GO first.

"A couple throws?" Before I have a chance to attach leash to collar, he's found a ball in the yard. Now that he's ten, I have to monitor the number of throws because we still have an entire three mile walk to manage. "Just a few," I say to him. He drops the ball by my feet and waits, the indent at his head creased with that expression again. I toss him a few and he completes the 40 yard dash to retrieve one of thousands of balls thrown over a decade. I

resist the opportunity to offer the Gronk-toss—a high ball thrown perfectly to allow him to spring like a dolphin on all fours, catch the ball on the hop, and carry it back with a celebrity smile. 2020 has been a year of worry. Test positive? Torn ACL?

"We're going for our walk now, Lincoln." He stares up at me, foam lining his black lips like the suds of an ocean shoreline. He secures the ball to one side of his mouth with big canines that have been filed flat by so much ball play. He drools. A new battle begins. "Let it go, Lincoln." He turns his head away from me—a subtle hint to let me know he'll be bringing along the ball, thank you very much.

"Give."

Refusal.

Our latest problem.

His breathing is already compromised due to age and, well, a few senior issues. I use gloved hands to pry a slurpy ball from a surprisingly strong, old mouth. In the process, the ball shoots off my hand and takes a bad bounce. The two of us scramble like football players for the fumble. "Leave it!" I shout. Too late. Lincoln recovers the ball, a close snag. A ghost from NFL Football Past announces the play while Lincoln celebrates the victory with a dance. Meanwhile, I produce Plan B.

Reverse Psychology.

I pretend I don't mind that he has won the battle and walk to the edge of the driveway, as though to desert him. "Bye, Lincoln. Have fun."

His expression softens. "You're really going to go without me?" He tip-toes toward the mailbox, ever so slowly, a lion studying his prey. "Can we talk about it?"

"I'll be right back, Lincoln," I lie, and keep walking. He comes closer to the driveway threshold, more vulnerable now. I spin around, dash towards my ball-obsessed dog and perform a quick, unexpected extraction. Then I jog back down the driveway, place the ball on a high garage shelf, return to his side, and snap on a leash. We cross over to the street. He pulls me back in the direction of the garage. "Cheap shot."

I tug him forward. Within seconds, the incident is a distant memory. Unlike humans, dogs forgive immediately, fully. They don't hold grudges. We go for a walk. Lincoln

wears a permanent smile that falls somewhere between the residue of ball play and the promise of new adventure. His trot is peppy, age-defiant. We pass kind neighbors, interesting shrubs, and the small, crabby pug whose bark is significantly worse than any dog's bite. He tailgates Lincoln's hairy butt with an obscene, gurgling rattle.

"Go home!" I turn around and stomp my foot. Lincoln shakes him off and proceeds, unaffected by bad behavior. "Hyper little fellow, isn't he?"

We pass the deserted apple orchard and Lincoln takes a shot at pulling me back to beautiful "off-the-leash" years when we'd tour rows and rows of apple trees long since cut down. The field, now overgrown and fenced in, is nostalgic for both of us. "You remember the orchard, don't you, Lincoln?"

I notice the memory emerge in his mind. He flecks me a knowing grin. Then, as quickly as it came, the memory morphs to a new sight. A friendly Human across the street walks a gorgeous German Shepherd pup. Normally, a tsunami could not hold me back from this pup. "What a beautiful pup!" I croon. Lincoln interrupts. "My name is Lincoln! I'm ten years old and have my own column! You can read about me in Living with Lincoln, of The Yankee Xpress!"

"I'm sorry. I'm on Day 10," the Human says, and we part like the Red Sea. Lincoln tosses a glance up at me. "He had the puppy smell, too."

It's a 2020 thing.

We make our way to the "home stretch" at Dodge Road, where a trot becomes a stroll.

The pep in Lincoln's step becomes a pause in his paws. "You want to take a rest, Lincoln?" He sits, lifts his head, and smiles proudly. Despite an already healthy self-esteem, I pour on praise. "You're doing such a good job walking." I massage his ears. "Most ten-year old dogs couldn't walk this far. You're so athletic. We'll get some water when we get home. Sound good?"

He listens to me - happy tongue out - and agrees. Always, there is inspiration between us while we put our best foot forward and count our blessings. Life is worth living. Especially with a dog like Lincoln.



More ball please.



The glove caper.

Missy's Doggy Day Spa

82 Dresser Hill Rd.,
Charlton, MA
508-248-0056

Owner/Groomer
Meaghan Lanagan

WALK-IN NAIL SERVICE
www.missysdoggydayspa.com

Prayer



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (intention), Amen.

If you pray three times a day, three consecutive days, you will receive your intention, no matter how impossible it may seem. Praise and Thanksgiving please the Heart of God. **Believer**



We couldn't be happier or prouder to have served our community for half a century. Join our year-long celebration of this milestone by following us on Facebook or through our website to stay informed of our fun-filled activities.

For just fifty cents a day, fifteen dollars a month for 12 consecutive months, or a one-time payment of \$180, you will help us continue our mission and commitment to saving stray, homeless and unwanted dogs and finding them loving forever homes. Please help us reach our goal by becoming one of the 300 reoccurring donors we need to make this a success. To sign up as a reoccurring donor please visit our website dogorphans.com.

Dog Orphans 2nd annual virtual bow wow bingo

Dear friends,

We are very excited to be celebrating our 50th anniversary this year and will be holding many fun-filled activities throughout the year. Whether on-line, or in person, if possible, we have many events coming your way.

To kick off the year, we are proud to announce our second annual virtual bingo game. At this time, we are looking for sponsors to support this event. For only \$100, sponsors can take part in the fun and also enjoy a complimentary bingo card, a Dog Orphans 50th anniversary mask, promotion of your business on our Facebook page as well as during live streaming of the bingo games at least twice throughout the month.

We look forward to partnering with you to celebrate our 50th anniversary and happily promote your business.

Sincerely,
Ron Morse
(508) 475-1855
Dog Orphans, Inc.
90 Webster Street
Douglas, MA 01516

Valentine's Day SPECIALS



All Month Long

Conventional
Oil Change
\$14⁰⁰

\$14⁰⁰ off

Synthetic
Oil Change

CAHILL'S TIRE & AUTO SERVICE

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1967

508-987-0603

33 Sutton Avenue, Oxford, MA (Exit 4B Off I-395)

www.cahillstire.com



YOU COULD GIVE
YOUR PEOPLE
CULLIGAN WATER
FOR ONLY

\$49 /MO.

*Culligan Water*TM

CulliganNewEngland.com

860-282-1188



Limited time offer. Dealer participation may vary.

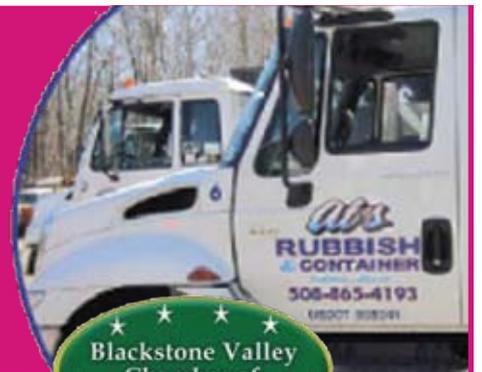
Al's RUBBISH & CONTAINER SERVICE

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 10 Days
- All Rentals Include Drop Off and Pick Up
- No Hidden Fees
- Estate Clean Outs
- Furniture/Appliance
- We Recycle

A Sweetheart of a Deal!

15 Yard Dumpster - 10 Day Rental

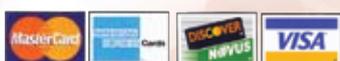
***NEIGHBORHOOD DISCOUNT**

\$350

Good for up to 2 Tons of Residential Trash Only

FREE DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Support Local Small Business



*TOWNS: SUTTON, MILLBURY, GRAFTON, WHITINSVILLE, NORTHBRIDGE, DOUGLAS, OXFORD, WEBSTER, AUBURN

508-865-4193 • WWW.ALSRUBBISH.COM

Get your oil change done right.

\$24.99

CONVENTIONAL OIL CHANGE

Up to 5 quarts. Extra quarts add'l. Price does not include taxes or shop fees. Valid until 05.31.2021

\$54.99

SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE

Up to 5 quarts. Extra quarts add'l. Price does not include taxes or shop fees. Valid until 05.31.2021



508-499-3510
HarbroAuto.com/Service

BUY HERE PAY HERE

Payments as low as **\$50 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.

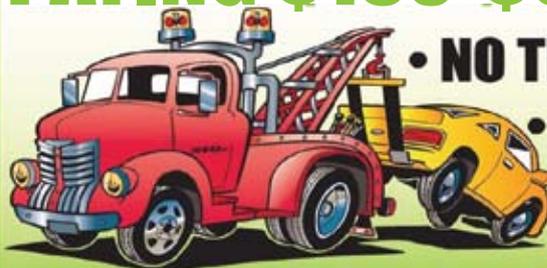
204 Main Street • Oxford, MA
508-987-0022



WANTED

Junk Cars & Trucks • Large Equipment
(Tractors, backhoes & trailers)

PAYING \$150-\$600 CASH



• NO TITLES NEEDED
• FREE PICK-UP

7 DAYS A WEEK!

CALL 401-639-9398

PARK AVE AUTO INC .COM

508.757.2277 1163 Main St. Worcester, MA

\$5,888
or **\$109 mo.**
0 Down
YOUR CHOICE!

2017 KIA FORTE LX*



2012 SONIC LT 70k



2010 NISSAN ROGUE S AWD



2004 DODGE RAM

4x4, 5.7 hemi

2013 CHEVY CRUZ LS

2008 DODGE AVENGER RT 80k

2007 Wrangler X Unlimited



\$9,888

2012 Civic EXL 83k 2016 Elantra LX

YOUR CHOICE

2015 Dodge Ram Crew Laramie 4x4

\$26,990

LOADED!



2013 Lincoln MKZ AWD, 68k

\$14,990

LUXURY AT ITS BEST!



2006 Diesel Box Truck E450 Cutaway

80k, 6.0

\$7,990

• NO CREDIT
• DIFFICULT CREDIT
• REPOSSESSION
• BK CREDIT CARDS
WE CAN HELP THOSE OTHER DEALERS CAN'T!

'04 Kia Sedona 90k.....	\$3490
'03 Lexus ES300.....	\$3990
'06 Ford Fusion 115k.....	\$4490
'12 Chevy Cruze.....	\$4990
'12 Chevy Impala 75k.....	\$7990
'11 Mustang Convertible 80k...	\$8990
'09 GMC Sierra 4x4, 1500.....	\$8990
'07 Chevy Tahoe LTZ.....	\$8990

*Payments based on 60 month payment on the 2017 Kia Forte at 2.99% dealer doc fee of 199 tax title and registration extra.

Tips on financial planning



Dennis Antonopoulos

For many of us, the COVID-19 pandemic may be putting a hold on dinner at the charming local bistro, but the spirit of Valentine's Day cannot be extinguished. This year, perhaps more so than in the past, you may want to make your Valentine's Day gifts even more meaningful. So, for example, what can you give

Financial gifts for your Valentine

your loved ones to help them along on the road to financial security?

Here are a few possibilities:

• **Contribute (indirectly) to an IRA**

Virtually anyone with earned income can contribute to an IRA, which offers tax benefits and an almost unlimited array of investment options. Yet, most people never contribute the maximum amount allowable each year, which, in 2021, is \$6,000, or \$7,000 for those 50 and older. You can't contribute to another person's IRA, but you can give that person the money for that purpose. However, an individual can't contribute more to an IRA than he or she earned during that year. So, if you were

to give someone \$1,000 to be placed in an IRA, that individual must have at least \$1,000 in earnings. Be aware, though, that the recipient can use the money for any purpose.

• **Give shares of stock**

You probably are already familiar with the products your loved ones use – so why not give them shares of stock in the companies that make those goods or services? Most people enjoy being “owners” of businesses whose products they use. Furthermore, owning stocks for the long term can be a valuable component of anyone's financial strategy. If you are unsure of how to give stocks, you may want to consult with a financial professional.

• **Stay protected**

If your valentine also happens to be your spouse, you can give a gift of tremendous value by simply working to protect what you have. For example, if something happened to you, would your spouse be able to maintain the household, educate children, pay the mortgage and so on? A financial professional can help you find the protection you need, as well as suggest ways to defend yourself against the devastating costs of long-term care. A private room in a nursing home can cost \$100,000 or more each year, according to the insurance company Genworth, and Medicare typically pays few of these expenses, so you'll want to be prepared.

• **Create (or revise) your estate plans**

It doesn't sound very romantic but making sure your estate plans are in order is one of the best gifts you can give to all your loved ones. If you haven't created your plan yet, contact an attorney who specializes in estate planning. You may also want to involve your tax and financial advisors. And if it's been a while since you looked at your existing plan, take the time to review it – this is especially important if you've had changes in your family situation.

On Valentine's Day, the chocolate hearts and flowers are certainly always appreciated. But financial gifts can help you make a truly lasting impact on your loved ones' lives.

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 SPIC

Mark Marzeotti
Realtor

25 Union Street, 4th Floor
Worcester, MA 01608

617-519-1871
MLMarzeotti@gmail.com
www.MarzeottiGroup.com

THINKING ABOUT PAINTING YOUR CABINETS?
More affordable, less disruptive than you may think

WITH AMAZING RESULTS

Fine Interior Finishes

econnor117@gmail.com
207.779.7142

Hannah Harwood Fund scholarship

OXFORD - The Oxford Board of Selectmen announced the availability of Hannah Harwood Fund scholarship applications. The scholarship has provided aid to Oxford students pursuing degrees in medicine and allied health fields for many years. The fund was established through the 1902 will of Charles Harwood in memory of his late mother, Hannah.

Oxford residents may come to the customer service window at the rear of the town hall, 325 Main Street, at the top of the entrance ramp Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to receive application materials. Applications are also available at www.oxford.ma.us/board-selectmen. Completed applications are due in the selectmen's office April 1 by 4:30 p.m.

The board will select the recipient of the scholarship. To qualify the student must be a resident of Oxford and entering their undergraduate freshman year enrolled in the field of medicine or allied health. Economic need and grade point average or class rank will be considered in the decision.

Resource directory

ads@TheYankeeXpress.com

home

CAPITOL SIDING & HOME IMPROVEMENT COMPANY, INC.

Custom Exteriors • Vinyl Siding Replacement Windows Roofing • Seamless Gutters

MARK SARKISIAN, JR.
markjr@capitolsiding.com
www.capitolsiding.com

30 Auburn Street
Auburn, MA 01501
Tel 508-832-5981
Fax (508) 832-0464

automotive

**WE WILL BUY YOUR VEHICLE
CAR - TRUCK - SUV
AT THE BEST PRICE!!**

2010 - 2019 MODELS

Perro's PRE-OWNED AUTOS Since 1965

ASK FOR JOHN or MICHAEL
508-641-8195
508-641-8197

772 Southbridge St., Rt. 12, Auburn, MA 01501
www.PerroAuto.com

CHARLTON MANOR
REST HOME / ASSISTED LIVING

We can help... We care.
MICHAEL D. TURPIN, President

Taking New Admissions *Call today!*

Don't overpay for false promises. We will provide the care your loved one deserves. We are the affordable choice.

HIRING PRIVATE AIDE
4-8 p.m. seven days a week

12 Town Farm Road, Charlton, MA
Tel. 508-248-5136 • Cell 978-314-2290
Fax 508-248-6445

Debra Pitts, Manager
DPitts.cmrh@gmail.com
www.charltonmanorresthome.com

glasses

studio 20/20

Erica O'Brien, L.O.
371 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA 01566
774-241-0718
www.studiotwentytwenty.com

Gift cards available for purchase in-store, online, or over the phone.

Frame choices from Independent Companies

Sunglasses • Computer Glasses
Blue Light Protection Glasses
Safety Eyewear
Cycling / Motorcycle Enthusiast Glasses
Golf & Performance Glasses

Jewelry and Accessories for all crafted by local artisans.

All eyewear is available in prescription and non-prescription.

Stop in to see the unique selection!

WORCESTER COUNTY LAWNMOWER

New Snowblowers in stock

ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE AT THE LOWEST PRICE

Lawn Mowers, Tractor Service, Tune-Ups & Repairs Pickup & Delivery, Lawnmower Repair

508-987-2775
492 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540
WWW.WORCESTERCOUNTYLAWNMOWER.COM

290 Providence Rd.
S. Grafton, MA

Kris Sutton
kris@streetcarsolutions.com

STREET CAR SOLUTIONS

StreetCarSolutions.com
508-839-7071

fuel

CLEAN OUTS
DONE BY
MrCleanest.com

WE DO EVERYTHING!!
"Better than the rest" - VERY REASONABLE PRICES TOO!

Estate / Cellar / Attic / Garage
Carpets / Floors / Upholstery
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SNOW PLOWING

508-740-1883 DOUGLAS MASS.

PROFESSIONAL CAR CLEANING
MOTORCYCLES & BOATS

Vic Catacchio
Owner
Est. 1983

Gift Cards Make Great Christmas Gifts!

218 Worcester St.
N. Grafton, MA 01536

774-272-0815
shineitup2@yahoo.com

catacchio

AUTO
DETAIL

SOCHIA'S OIL & GAS INC.

13 Cook Street
E. Douglas, MA
508-476-2278
www.SochiasOil.com

FUEL OIL - PROPANE - KEROSENE

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

Serving: WHITINSVILLE, UXBRIDGE, DOUGLAS, SUTTON, MILLVILLE, MENDON, UPTON, MILLBURY, WEBSTER, GRAFTON, OXFORD, DUDLEY, HOPEDALE

Heating - Air Conditioning
24 Hour Burner Service

RE: Real Estate



Mark Marzeotti

Market recap – good tips if you are planning to buy or sell

home they purchased:

- o Internet: 52%
- o Real estate agent: 29%
- o Yard sign/open house sign: 6%
- o Friend, relative, or neighbor: 5%
- o Home builder or their agent: 6%
- o Directly from sellers/Knew the sellers: 2%
- o Print newspaper advertisement: 1%

Home seller statistics

- The typical home seller was 56 years of age, had a median household income of \$107,100, and lived in their home for 10 years.
- 89% of sellers were assisted by a real estate agent when selling their home.
- Recent sellers typically sold their homes for 99% of the listing price, and 38% reported reducing the asking price at least once.
- The typical home sold was on the market for 3 weeks.
- 41% of sellers who used a real estate agent found their agents through a referral by friends or family, and 26% used the agent they previously worked with to buy or sell a home.
- Sellers who definitely would use same agent again:

74%

For sale by owner (FSBO) statistics

- FSBOs accounted for 8% of home sales in the past year. The typical FSBO home sold for \$217,900 compared to \$295,000 for agent-assisted home sales.
- FSBO methods used to market home:
 - o None: Did not actively market home: 46%
 - o Yard sign: 25%
 - o Friends, relatives, or neighbors: 22%
 - o Social networking websites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.): 14%
 - o Open house: 11%
 - o Multiple Listing Service (MLS) website: 6%
 - o Online classified advertisements: 5%

ments: 5%

- o For-sale-by-owner websites: 5%
 - o Video: 2%
 - o Print newspaper advertisement: 1%
 - o Direct mail (flyers, postcards, etc.): 1%
 - Most difficult tasks for FSBO sellers:
 - o Preparing/fixing up home for sale: 12%
 - o Understanding and performing paperwork: 10%
 - o Getting the right price: 9%
 - o Selling within the planned length of time: 6%
 - o Having enough time to devote to all aspects of the sale: 5%
- * Source: 2020 National Association of REALTORS*

Home buyer statistics

- First-Time vs. Repeat Buyers:
 - o First-time buyers: 31%
 - o Median age of first-time buyers: 33
 - o Median age of repeat buyers: 47
- o Median household income of first-time buyers: \$80,000
- o Median household income of repeat buyers: \$106,700
- The typical home purchased was 1,900 square feet in size, was built in 1993, and had three bedrooms and two bathrooms.
- Among those who financed their home purchase, buyers typically financed 88% of the home price.
- 88% of buyers purchased their home through a real estate agent or broker—a share that has steadily increased from 69 percent in 2001.
- Buyers who would use their agent again or recommend their agent to others: 91%
- Where buyers found the



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

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

Together, We're Working For You!

Reviewing your Situation
Diane & JoAnn are specialists in the Senior Housing Market. There may come a time when you consider selling and moving on—we can help. Call for a FREE consultation.




Looking for friendly, responsive, easy to talk to Realtors? You found us!



RE/MAX
Re/Max Acclaim

Maureen O'Connor
REALTOR® SRES, CMRS

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

351 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540
508-832-6888
maureen@oconnorrealtor.com
508-981-4902

YOUR DREAMS, OUR MISSION

THE LUX GROUP

Sandi Grzyb - Realtor/Agent
774-230-3500 • 508-943-6960
sandigrzyb@aol.com
sandi.luxgrouphomes.com
Licensed in MA & CT

Lake Realty

Maureen Cimoch
Real Estate Consultant
Cell 508.769.9211

111 East Main Street, Webster
www.LakeRealty.net
www.WebsterLake.com or .net



SMART

Fully Insured & Licensed in MA

RI Reg #: 41975
HIC #: 190392



SHINE CONSTRUCTION INC

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE TODAY

508-278-3300

• SERVING ALL OF NEW ENGLAND •
www.shineconstructioninc.com

Commercial / Industrial lease opportunity

21 Pearl St., Webster, MA 01570

Description:
57k sf. Building.
Wet Sprinkler system.
3 Phase Electrical.
New Zoned High Efficiency Gas Heat.
New Electrical Lighting.
Freight Elevator (3500lbs Capacity)
Rate \$8.00 /sf./yr.

Usable space:
First floor 21,978 sf. with 11½ ft ceiling height.
Second floor 22,784 sf. with 11½ ceiling height.
Third floor 5,244 sf. with 12 ft. ceiling height.
Drive in Bay with dock leveler (1)
Exterior Dock Doors (2) First Floor. (2) second Floor.
Parking private gated and public street plus two bay commercial garage 20x30x12.

Available
June 1, 2021

Robert Warehouse LLC

Contact: Pete Coppola
at 774-249-8289

FOR ALL YOUR FUEL NEEDS

NEW BOILER INSTALLS

STARTING AT:

- Crown Boilers \$5,000.00
- Williamson Furnaces \$4,000.00
- Oil Tank Installs \$2,000.00

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 less system breakdowns.

10¢ OFF

PER GALLON
With an order of 125 gallons or more.
Coupon must be presented at delivery. Expires 2/28/21



A Full Service Oil Company
24-Hour Emergency Service

WWW.LMTOIL.COM • WE DO ONLINE ORDERING

THERE'S A SMARTER WAY TO HEAT ANY ROOM THIS WINTER.



Heat the rooms you live in... without wasting energy on the rooms you don't.

- ◆ Uses 25-50% less energy to heat your home.
- ◆ Employs allergen filtration to reduce germs, bacteria and viruses.
- ◆ Provides year-round comfort that keeps you cool in the summer too.
- ◆ Requires no ductwork, so installation is quick and easy.



AMERICA'S #1 SELLING BRAND OF DUCTLESS
HUGE REBATES AVAILABLE FOR DISPLACEMENT OF ELECTRIC, OIL AND PROPANE HEAT!

Choose Morrisette & Son as your installer, and receive:

- Upgraded Diamond Dealer Parts & Compressor Warranty to 12 years (from standard 5 years parts/7 years on compressor)
- Finance through MassSave with 0% HeatLoan
- Rebates through MassSave & Processing on Your Behalf
- Extended Labor Warranty Available
- Highly Trained Technicians with Installation & Service

Looking to replace your electric heat? Ask us about additional rebate opportunities through MassSave!

Contact us today for a no cost in-home assessment!



0% APR⁺

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY
PRESIDENTS MONTH
SALES EVENT

NOW THROUGH MARCH 1, 2021 GET 0% APR FINANCING FOR UP TO
63 MONTHS
ON SELECT NEW 2021 SUBARU MODELS*

*NOW THROUGH MARCH 1, 2021 GET 0% APR FINANCING FOR 63 MONTHS ON ALL NEW 2021 ASCENT, IMPREZA, LEGACY AND OUTBACK MODELS. NO DOWN PAYMENT REQUIRED. MONTHLY PAYMENT OF \$15.87 PER \$1,000 FINANCED. OTHER RATES AND PAYMENT TERMS AVAILABLE. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER COUPON, DIRECT/EMAIL OFFER OR PROMOTIONAL OFFER UNLESS ALLOWED BY THAT OFFER. SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL, VEHICLE INSURANCE APPROVAL AND VEHICLE AVAILABILITY.



2021 SUBARU CROSSTREK
DRIVE FROM 2.0i

\$207 PER MONTH*
36 MONTHS
10,000 MILES/YR



2021 SUBARU FORESTER
DRIVE FROM 2.5i CVT

\$233 PER MONTH*
36 MONTHS
10,000 MILES/YR



2021 SUBARU OUTBACK
DRIVE FROM 2.5i PREMIUM CVT

\$246 PER MONTH*
36 MONTHS
10,000 MILES/YR

*OFFER EXPIRES 02/28/2021 SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND CREDIT APPROVAL. WITH 10% OF MSRP DOWN. DOC, FEES, AND 1ST MONTH'S PAYMENT DUE AT SIGNING. TAXES ADDITIONAL. PRICING VALID ONLY ON CROSSTREK #305301, FORESTER #462901, AND OUTBACK #104176 AS LISTED. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS.

LONG SUBARU
R.H. LONG MOTOR SALES Since 1927

Visit Long Subaru to find your ideal new Subaru or used car. Our dedicated sales staff and top-trained technicians are here to make your auto shopping experience fun, easy and financially advantageous. We guarantee that your long relationship with us will be one that you will happily tell your friends and family about.

LONGSUBARU.COM | 508-943-7070 | 7 SUTTON RD., WEBSTER, MA