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May 14-June 11, 2021

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Earth Day cleanup marks debut of Dudley the Dumpster Dog

By Rod Lee

In Cambridge on the campus of MIT on the morning of April 24, the Doomsday Clock was set as it has been for a while at 100 seconds to midnight as a reflection of the planet's dire environmental state.

But in Dudley that same Saturday, with the scent of magnolia in the air and the sight of tulips and daffodils and forsythia in bloom on W. Main St. and all around town, volunteers taking part in an Earth Day cleanup had reason for hope about the future of the planet.

Earth Day—officially April 22—is in its 51st year. It has grown and now involves one billion people in one-hundredninety-three countries across the globe.

"This is our twelfth year," Jen Cournoyer said, of Dudley's Earth Day cleanup. Ms. Cournoyer is the chair of Dudley's Board of Health.

She was supervising the community-wide effort from a table set up at the Highway Garage on Indian Road.

When a visitor mentioned that there didn't seem to be much happening by way of motorists driving in to latch onto materials they needed for the four-hour initiative, she said "oh we had inquiries for two weeks prior, people coming into the office and picking up bags. We get a grant every year from The Last Green Valley for our Earth Day, for trash bags, gloves, water bottles, snacks, hand sanitizer, grabbers and pickers. We are very thankful for them. They are our co-sponsor.

"We have a lot of specific streets that need attention. We've got volunteers all over town. Those nip bottles!"

Continued on page 2



Dudley Board of Health Chair Jen Cournoyer, "Dudley the Dumpster Dog" (Sofia Poplawski) and Lori Smith were present at the Highway Garage to assist volunteers who had registered to take part in the town's Earth Day cleanup on April 24.

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Former scholarship recipient to speak at Auburn Chamber awards breakfast

AUBURN - The 2021 Scholarship Award Breakfast sponsored by the Auburn Chamber of Commerce will take place on Friday, May 21, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. at the Auburn/Webster Elks Lodge, 754 Southbridge Street, Auburn.

The Chamber will be awarding over \$15,000 in scholarships to eight local graduating seniors at this annual breakfast event.

Guest speaker is Kelly Sullivan, anchor for Boston 25 News and also a graduate of

Auburn High School Class of 2002. Kelly, also like the scholarship recipients, was awarded an Auburn Chamber Scholarship, which she used towards earning her degree in Broadcast Journalism at Syracuse University.

Kelly joined Boston 25 News in June 2017. As a native of Auburn, it has always been her dream to work in the television market she grew up watching.

Prior to working in Boston, Kelly was an evening anchor and reporter at WPRI in Providence, RI. There, she had the opportunity to cover several big stories, from President Trump on the campaign trail, to traveling to Cleveland to cover Tom Brady's return from his suspension, and then to Houston to report on the Pa-

triot's Super Bowl win.

Before Providence, Kelly was also an anchor and reporter at WBBH in sunny Fort Myers, FL. She also worked at NewsChannel 8 in Washington, D.C. where she reported along the parade route following President Barack Obama's first inauguration.

Kelly started her career at WHSV in Harrisonburg, VA where she covered the graduation at Virginia Tech just months after the tragic shootings.

Kelly graduated in 2006 from the S.I. Newhouse



Kelly Sullivan

School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, with a major in Broadcast Journalism and minors in Political Science and History. When Kelly isn't working, she enjoys running, watching sports, and going to Patriots/Red Sox/Celtics/Bruins games with her husband.

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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.

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Submit business news and community events to news@TheYankeeXpress.com
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Kathy Benoit, Advertising Director kathybenoit@theyankeeexpress.com
Billing and advertising information Laura Gleim lgleim@TheYankeeXpress.com
Tony Discepolo, Sales (Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, Webster) tdiscepolo@TheYankeeXpress.com
Bill Cronan, Sales (Blackstone Valley) bcronan@TheYankeeXpress.com

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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-Leclaire, Janet Stoica

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

EARTH DAY

Continued from page 1

Earth Day remains popular—and necessary. While global carbon dioxide emissions fell 17% during the first twelve months of COVID-19 because people were staying home, it has already returned to pre-pandemic levels. Scientists continue to warn that the world is at “a dangerous crossroads” in its attempts to reduce pollution in the atmosphere.

Dudley wasn't the only South County town tackling Earth Day. A cleanup was held the same day in Webster, which prompted town officials to thank Pratt Trucking Little River Recycling for the dumpsters they provided, the Webster Police Department for its involvement, and the Girl Scouts and Middle School students for their participation.

In Auburn, town officials put out the word early, on April 1, messaging that while a wholesale community-wide effort would be difficult, individual residents and business could emulate the organization “Keep Massachusetts Beautiful” by undertaking litter prevention, waste reduction, recycling, community greening and environmental education.

Charlton's Earth Day cleanup was also held on April 24 with the Charlton

Fire Department “out and about” to lend a hand and a hearty thank you issued on Facebook afterwards.

As for the town of Dudley, it provides encouragement and support to its helpers to generate enthusiasm, Ms. Cournoyer said.

“This year we have little seedlings we are giving out to people and if you do something you can plant a tree for someone. We have Girl Scout troops taking part. Year after year the same ones show up,

and new people too.”

This year, the town introduced “Dudley the Dumpster Dog” as a way to inject some lightheartedness to the proceedings. “This is Dudley the Dumpster Dog's debut,” Ms. Cournoyer said.

“We are also running a raffle. We are just trying to encourage people to give back to the community.”

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



Keirsten Doud, Skylar Finlay and Marlee Donohoe had three bags full of trash as they worked a rural road in Dudley, where the Earth Day cleanup is in its twelfth year.

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Accord Adult Day Center provides welcome relief to family caregivers

By Janet Stoica

Taking care of our families is paramount to so many of us. Taking care of our children is the first priority, but when our parents require care and socialization there is no better place to choose than a facility like Accord Adult Day Center in Webster.

If you have ever been in a position where an adult family member requires your full-time attention, you quickly realize that you alone cannot provide all that is needed for their physical, emotional, and mental well-being.

I write from personal experience. My dear mother entered her older life's circumstances requiring more care than I could possibly provide for her. The energy required from a caregiver to provide that extra level of support is so very draining, mentally and physically. But with the guidance and assistance of an adult day health service provider, she received a full day's worth of socialization and activity. It was as if a huge weight had been lifted from my shoulders.

Accord Adult Day Center is open Monday - Saturday from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. to provide the most essential services for a loved one's care. It's a true respite for both the adult who requires care and the caregiver. Transportation for Accord's adults is provided roundtrip if necessary. Activities and sustenance are part of their daily schedule.

According to Joe Rizzo, owner and executive director

of Accord, "We're here to assist our families and our participants, striving to provide a good quality of life to the communities we serve. Our participants come from Auburn, Charlton, Douglas, Dudley, Northbridge, Oxford, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Spencer, Sutton, Uxbridge, and Webster, well as Thompson and Putnam in Connecticut. Typical costs at Accord average about \$10/hour versus the \$30/hour charged by home care organizations."

"Families know that we keep their members safe and the socialization component is a huge part of what we offer. Sitting at home watching TV is not socialization," said Mr. Rizzo. "We provide group interaction, utilizing gross motor and cognitive activities. Our clients have told us this is a club-like atmosphere where they feel a sense of belonging and camaraderie. They come here to make friends and to have their needs addressed with dignity and privacy."

Accord's staff consists of nurses, certified nursing assistants, social workers, and activity personnel. They follow all COVID guidelines, such as 6-foot distancing, mask requirements, and adherence to strict cleaning and sanitation standards. Accord also recently installed a total building UV air purification system to improve air quality.

Transportation vans are equipped with HEPA air filtration systems and passengers are safely separat-

ed during their trips from home to Webster and back. One hundred percent of the staff have received their COVID vaccinations and 90% of their clients have received at least one of their COVID vaccinations.

"We work to address everyone's needs," stated Mr. Rizzo. "Our goal is to expand our services to meet the needs of the communities we serve. We've provided remote services during the COVID pandemic which were designed to check in on participants ensuring that food, care, and support systems were available in the home along with remote activities, but we realized that our clients preferred group settings. Our clients are looking forward to outdoor garden activities as well as sitting out in the pavilion. It'll be great to re-engage people and get back to our previous routines."

Accord is a locked and secure facility, adding to a family's peace-of-mind once their relative becomes an Accord client. Participants are provided light breakfasts consisting of cereal, toast, fruit, juices, and tea or coffee; snacks of parfaits, yogurts, cheeses, and crackers; and lunches that include an entrée, vegetables, dessert, and beverages. The menus adhere to USDA Food Program Guidelines, are nutritious, and cater to specific nutritional needs.

"We have to be flexible and adjust to our community's needs," said Mr. Rizzo. "There were about 25 facilities



Daily exercise and a variety of activities to provide a good quality of life for participants.

like ours across Massachusetts that closed during COVID and won't be re-opening. We accept most third-party insurances like MassHealth, Fallon Navicare, Commonwealth Care Alliance, Tri-Valley, Tufts, United Health, as well as Connecticut Community and Senior Resources Care. Our nurses and social workers will assess and develop an individualized care plan to address their needs. Everyone has different situations and health care needs. We will assist and provide direction and information.

"Having a family member remain in their home and in their community is very important. We advise many families not to wait until it's too late to have their parent, aunt, uncle, or other elderly family member join our program. We're here to help guide you in the right direction. We have so many participants who truly look forward to coming here. They seek out their new friends and look

forward to the activities. It's very heartwarming to see the friendships that have developed. This certainly wouldn't happen if they were home by themselves."

Joe Rizzo is also president of the Massachusetts Adult Day Health Services Association ("MADSA"), which represents 120 adult day programs, their participants, and caregivers. He holds an MBA as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Health Care Administration and is a licensed nursing home administrator.

"Accord means agreement," said Mr. Rizzo, "a partnership between our families and our organization. Our objective is to provide a comfortable and safe place for your loved one. We give the caregiver time to recharge their batteries. Caring for a family member is draining, physically and mentally. We want to make life easier."

Accord Adult Day Center is at 10 Cudworth Road in Webster. Phone: (508) 949-3598. Hours: 8-4 p.m., Mon-Sat. www.accorddaycenter.com Find them on Facebook.



Participants cheer on their friends in bowling.



Accord Adult Day Center is located at 10 Cudworth Rd., Webster.



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Ticket to Work program brings employers and workers together

By Janet Stoica

People with disabilities can achieve and accomplish as much as any other employee. It's all a matter of matching up each employer with an individual's capability.

At Life-Skills, it is Kim Lapworth's goal to make this happen. She is the vocational trainer for Life-Skill's Ticket to Work (TTW) program, which is designed to provide workplace support for individuals with disabilities.

Her immediate challenge is to create awareness for the TTW program, as she says it is underutilized. She wants to get the word out to potential employees who receive SSDI (Social Security Disability In-

urance) and SSI (Supplemental Security Income) that they shouldn't be afraid to explore their employment options.

The TTW program includes a safety net of assistance along with long-term support to success. "We focus on a person's ability and not their disability," says Ms. Lapworth. "We'll work with potential employees and employers to come up with reasonable accommodations for both to ensure long-term success. We're here to help people find a job and keep working."

The Massachusetts' Ticket to Work program allows individuals receiving SSDI benefits to work and earn money

without losing their benefits. "Disabilities shouldn't keep anyone from fulfilling their career goals," she says. "Each individual is perfectly capable of success. There's a place at the table for everyone."

The Massachusetts TTW program offered through the Social Security Administration also serves individuals through Mass. Rehab. It is a voluntary program for individuals receiving SSDI and SSI benefits.

Income limits can be discussed with the TTW counselor. Individuals aged 18-64 are eligible for the TTW program. Sheltered workshops used to be the norm but as things have moved to inclusivity and integration

with all of society, so too has the TTW program evolved.

Ms. Lapworth has been with Life-Skills for many years and reveals that she too has a disability. Her awareness of what other others with similar challenges face makes her an excellent mentor for anyone wanting to become a part of the labor force.

She explains that the TTW goal is to help people get back to work full-time and to transition from SSDI and SSI benefits. Potential employees are guided and assisted with their resumes and with the network of potential employers that Ms. Lapworth has successfully worked with in the area, matches are quite fruitful. "If you have motivation, then the sky's the limit," she says. "With some of our clients, there is no end to their ambition. They want to get out there and do their jobs. They are willing to be diligent, ensuring their success. Additionally, with all that's gone on with COVID, employers are

now looking at and beginning to value all who we work with. Our potential employees have been very reliable."

"There are many individuals out there who would like to try to go back to work," she said, "but they worry about their medical insurance and if other benefits will be taken away. With the TTW program, however, there's all sorts of safety nets. If your job doesn't work out, you can still get your benefits back. The good thing is though that once you get out there, you'll find yourself becoming very self-sufficient."

Life-Skills also offers a Milestone Reward Program where monetary incentives are offered after one and three months to assist the employee with everyday expenses.

"If some employees choose to disclose their disability to their employers, it's up to them. Our goal is to help people apply for competitive employment opportunities just like everyone else. We do assist them in working with



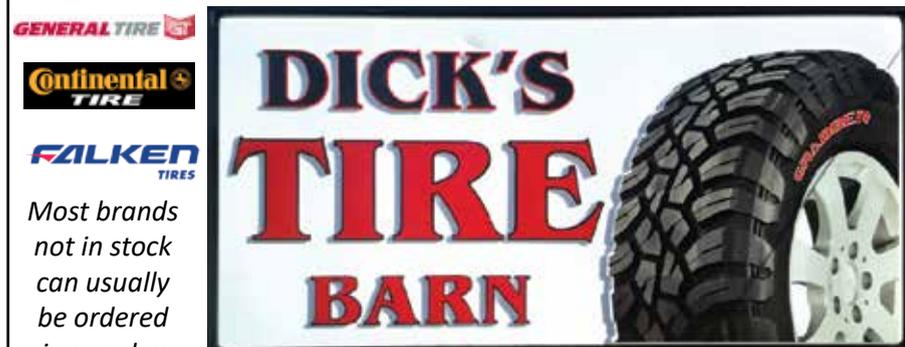
Kim Lapworth

job boards like Indeed.com so they're working just as hard as everyone else out there to find a job. Employers do receive a tax break and Federal employers are mandated to have a certain percent of employees from SSDI."

Kim will reach out to employers regarding the benefits of having a disabled employee on their payroll. She will brainstorm with the employer to assist in accommodating the employee. It's a win-win situation. "If someone has a career dream and is receiving disability assistance, give me a call. We'll work together to make your goals happen," said Ms. Lapworth. She can be reached from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Mon-Fri at (508) 943-0700, Ext. 2171.

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Thanks for the masks

Sincere thanks to the Dudley Womans Club and local community members who donated to the April Mask Drive to benefit the Webster-Dudley Food Share. 829 masks were collected for local distribution. Pictured from left are DWC Giving and Service Director Kathy L'Heureux, DWC member and Empire Travel Proprietor Mary Anne Fontaine, and DWC President Andrea Kane.



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By Keith Roach, M.D.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a very healthy 74-year-old male. I am not on any medications and enjoy normal blood pressure and great stats from my regular bloodwork. I weigh 140 pounds and have been exercising every day faithfully for decades.

A couple of years ago, I started getting cramps in both legs throughout the night. My toes would curl down and my entire leg would get stiff; the pain was horrible. I had a terrible time "walking it off," and very often when I finally got it to pass, as soon as I got back in bed the whole thing would start all over again. Sometimes I would go a few nights without having a problem, but there was always the fear that I would have another episode. I read online advice to get the weight of the sheet and covers off the feet. I took a strong cardboard box and sleep with my feet in the open end of the box. The first time I got in bed

with this rigged up, it felt very strange not having anything on my bare feet, but eventually I got used to it. The remarkable news is that I have not had a single episode since fabricating the box over six months ago. - G.K.

ANSWER: I appreciate your writing in. I have had many patients use a box during sleep for acute gout, where even a sheet on top of the affected toe can be exquisitely painful, but I had not heard this used for nocturnal leg cramps. Some patients have noticed that the symptoms do seem to be started or exacerbated by the weight of blankets.

Before resorting to that, I recommend regular exercise, even a few minutes of riding a

stationary bicycle before bed can help. Couple that with regular stretching of the calf and hamstring muscles and adequate hydration. Although

To your good health

many readers ask about it, I do not recommend quinine for most people, and it's quite rare for the cause to be disturbances of sodium, potassium, calcium or other electrolytes. B complex vitamins and magnesium are helpful in some people, but I restrict iron to people with proven iron deficiency.

If all else fails, prescription medications such as verapamil may be helpful.

Bladder tumors

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm getting low grade tumors in my bladder. I just had my second operation after the Bacillus

Calmette-Guerin treatment didn't work. I read that tumors can't grow in an alkaline environment. Should I eat vegetables, like broccoli and sprouts? Also, would vitamin E and selenium be helpful? - R.G.

ANSWER: It is true that having an acid urine pH is a risk factor for bladder cancer. Many fruits and vegetables make urine pH more alkaline, whereas meat and dairy make the urine more acid. Smoking also makes the urine more acid.

Eating more fruits and vegetables (and abstaining from smoking) will help reduce recurrence of bladder cancer, though I'm not sure it's through urine acidity. Please don't stop your doctor's recommendations, though, as diet alone is not adequate therapy for bladder cancer.

A 2012 study found no benefit in selenium and vitamin E on prevention of bladder cancer. It's unlikely to be significantly effective in treatment.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu. (c) 2021 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved

Summer yard sales

The Helping Hand summer yard sales schedule has been announced. The time of each sale is 8 am to noon. The dates include June 5 and June 19, July 10 and July 24, August 7 and August 21,

and September 11. The yard sales are held at Dodge Chapel, 81 Hammond Hill Road, Charlton. To donate call Deb 508-987-0708, Annette 508-347-7596, or Judy 508-248-5580.

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WCAC Head Start now enrolling; openings available for early education and care for birth to age five

SOUTHBIDGE/WEBSTER - Worcester Community Action Council's Head Start program is actively recruiting with enrollment now available for fall 2021 for children birth to age five. The center based preschool program for ages 3-5 is available in Southbridge and Webster, while a home based program serves expectant mothers and children from birth to age three.

Head Start offers a dynamic program to get young children ready for kindergarten, with a strong focus on language, literacy, social and emotional development. Breakfast, lunch and a healthy snack are served daily, with both full-day and half-day, year-round and school-year classrooms available. WCAC operates a total of ten classrooms - six located at 25 Cole Avenue in Southbridge and four at 116 School Street in Webster. All classrooms are nationally accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), with services provided at no charge to families meeting income-eligible guidelines.

The Early Head Start program provides comprehensive services within a family's home with developmentally appropriate activities, weekly home visits and group socializations to ensure a baby is achieving milestones. With a focus on involving the parent or the primary care giver in the education of their child, weekly home visits provide the opportunity for parenting support, education as well as

community referrals. Early Intervention services are provided when needed.

WCAC Executive Director Marybeth Campbell noted that the agency has been operating Head Start programs in southern Worcester County for more than a quarter of a century. "WCAC has a long history of providing high quality education and care for children and families. While many aspects of life remain uncertain due to the ongoing pandemic, we want the community - particularly families with age-eligible children - to know that we stand ready to continue to provide a dynamic curriculum wrapped in supportive and caring services, in a safe and nurturing environment," Campbell said.

WCAC Head Start Co-Director Kathleen Dow said, "WCAC Head Start and Early Head Start is a unique comprehensive, all-inclusive early education and care program, which offers meals, health and developmental screenings, referrals for special edu-

cation services and family support from prenatal to Kindergarten. We support families to reach for their own individual goals and achieve success."

WCAC's early education and care programs are presently operating at a reduced capacity for social distancing purposes and in adherence to all public health and safety guidelines. Forced to close in March 2020 when the COVID19 pandemic first struck, WCAC's classrooms reopened in June and have been serving approximately 100 children ever since. Depending upon the state's ever changing Early Education and Care guidelines, WCAC hopes to return closer to its licensed capacity of 203 come fall.

WCAC's program openings



are available for income eligible families residing in Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, Dudley, E. Brookfield, Leicester Millbury, Oxford, Spencer, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Warren, and Webster. WCAC's early education and care programs are licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Standing guard - protect what you've worked for

You've worked hard to provide for your family. Whether you're approaching retirement or recently retired, your focus may begin to shift from building your financial foundation to protecting the financial resources you've created for you and your family.

Standing guard: protect what you've worked for shares ways you can address key risks you may encounter and strategies to help prepare for the unexpected.

This program will be a webinar held via Zoom. The date is Wednesday, June 9, from 6-7 p.m. Speaker/presenter is Dennis Antonopoulos, Financial Advisor for Edward Jones (Auburn) and Attorney Brenda Rivard.

To register please call Karen Rieser at 508-832-5385 or email Karen.rieser@edwardjones.com by June 8, to receive the Zoom link. This is a part of a monthly webinar series held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.



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Samuel Slater Experience to host WDO Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting June 8

WEBSTER – The Webster-Dudley-Chamber of Commerce invites local businesses to attend its 2021 Annual Meeting, to be held June 8 from 5:30- 7:30 p.m. at the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster.

This will be the first public event hosted at the museum, which will open officially this summer. Attendees at the Chamber's Annual Meeting will be given preview tours of the interactive, 4-D, exhibits, which tell the story of Samuel Slater, known as the Father of the American Industrial Revolution, and the textile manufacturing

that made Webster a boomtown in the 1800s.

The formal Chamber meeting will be held outside in a tent on the lawn at the Samuel Slater Experience, allowing social networking while social distancing. The agenda includes a review of the past year by Chamber President Ross Lavoie, and the election of members of the Board of Directors for 2021.

To register, go to wdochamberma.org or email director John Milas at director@wdochamberma.com, or call 508-943-9700. Member fee is \$25, non-members \$30. Cash

bar and appetizers, catered by Samuel Slater Restaurant. Sponsors for the event are Webster Five and Aubuchon Hardware.

The Samuel Slater Experience is at 31 Ray Street, Webster.

About the Chamber:
The Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber of Commerce is an affiliate of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, giving WDO members of the benefits of the regional association.

About the Samuel Slater Experience:
Visit the website at www.samuel Slater Experience.org.

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Tuesday 8:15-9:15 pm	All Recovery Meeting
Wednesday 6:30-8:00 pm	Recovery Yoga
Thursday 6:00 pm-6:45 pm	Workout with Rachel Adams at Fitforyou Studio
Thursday 7:00-8:00 pm	Loved Ones Support Group
Friday 6:00-7:00 pm	Recovery Art class
Friday 8:00-9:00 pm	"Vision of Hope"—NA mtg.
Saturday 7:00-8:30 pm	Music in Recovery

All of our activities are free of charge. Just need to talk with someone about your recovery or that of a loved one? Call Pastor Janice (PJ) at 508-330-8073. She can meet with you in person or by phone or arrange for you to speak with a peer recovery coach. Never hesitate to reach out!

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Dresser Hill Ice Cream goes for \$450,000 at foreclosure auction

By Rod Lee

As expected, the foreclosure sale of Dresser Hill Ice Cream and Seafood in Charlton took only a matter of minutes, after Auctioneer Paul Zekos disposed of the preliminaries on

the chilly and breezy morning of April 12.

In the half hour or so before the eleven o'clock transaction began, people with bid paperwork in their hands

stood around speculating on what the sale price would end up being. Only Tim Dugas, whose family owns and operates The Clambox in Brookfield (also on the auction block, later that day) and Teneille Chaisson of Dresser Hill Ice Cream and Seafood seemed not to share in the excitement that prevailed.

"I wish it wasn't going to happen," Ms. Chaisson said, as she paced back and forth in front of one of South County's most popular venues. Her equipment as lease holder of the property sat inside the building, which was closed. Her restaurant was known not only for ice cream but also

sandwiches—the Sailor's Special, the Bacon Buccaneer, the Philly Shipyard—and more.

The sale actually included all of the following: a two-story barn-style building with an arcade area, an automotive garage, a warehouse, overhead doors and upstairs office space; and the smaller structure, which functions as the ice cream and seafood enterprise at the top of Dresser Hill—with panoramic views looking west.

"I have interest in this property," Mr. Dugas said (he eventually wasn't a factor in the bidding, however). "I own and operate The Clambox and I have a lease there for the next three years. My whole family works for me in Brookfield. I own the lot next to [The Clambox, on South Maple St.] and will build a new place on that lot if it doesn't work out for me today.

"It's nerve wracking, waiting," Mr. Dugas said. "I feel bad for Teneille."

Shortly after 11:00, Mr. Zekos welcomed those in attendance—about twenty or twenty-five people—and launched into a reading of "The Memorandum of Sale" and then "The Legal Notice of Sale." He explained that a \$10,000 deposit would be required on the spot with another \$10,000 due "within forty-eight hours." A closing would occur within forty-five days, he said. There are taxes and "muni liens" to deal with too.



Paul Zekos of Zekos Group Auctioneers reads "The Memorandum of Sale" before bidding began for the Dresser Hill Ice Cream and Seafood property in Charlton on April 12.

"This is a nice income property and a landmark here in the town of Charlton," Mr. Zekos said, as an enticement to get his audience primed for a quick sale. The asking price started just below \$200,000 but quickly escalated. At one point early on Mr. Zekos reminded the crowd that "this property will not be here tomorrow." That immediately pushed bids to \$325,000, \$385,000 and \$400,000. When interest seemed to be waning as the price tag crept higher, Mr. Zekos said to one bidder "what the hell is another \$10,000," and to another "an ice cream cone costs more than that here!"

His strategy worked. Michael Madulka, who owns an ice cream shop on Lake Quinsigamond in Worcester, wound up registering the winning bid—at \$450,000. Madulka's, on Lake Ave., offers "ice cream, yogurt, soft serve, sundaes" and everything in between.

"He got a good deal," Mr.

Zekos said, as he put his clipboard away. He had described the auction in advance as "the opportunity of a lifetime for someone."

As he finished placing his deposit, Mr. Madulka was approached by a man from Gibson's Dairy Farm, who said to him, "I wanted you to know we supply the ice cream for Dresser Hill. I hope you'll think about keeping Dresser Hill going. The ice cream part of it is a lucrative business."

"Yes, what are your immediate plans?" Mr. Madulka was asked, as he considered a response to the inquiry from Gibson's.

"To come up with the rest of the money!" he said, laughing.

Then, hardly pausing, he said "I will keep it as ice cream. I think I'm going to call it 'Madulka's Ice Cream on Dresser Hill.'"

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

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Nichols College names Bryant University provost as its eighth president

DUDLEY – Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M., acclaimed international law and national security expert with experience in academics, law, and government service, has been named the eighth president of Nichols College. He succeeds Susan West Engelkemeyer, Ph.D., who will retire at the end of this academic year following a decade at the helm of Nichols.

Sulmasy comes to Nichols with 24 years in higher education, most recently as provost and chief academic officer of Bryant University. He will begin his tenure as Nichols president on July 1.

“President-elect Sulmasy brings a distinguished record of administrative leadership and academic achievement to Nichols. He is uniquely qualified to build on the success Nichols has experienced under President Engelkemeyer’s leadership and drive us further toward a position of greater regional and national prominence,” said John H. Davis ’72, chair of the Nichols College Board of Trustees.

“I am honored to join the Nichols College community as its eighth president,” said Sulmasy. “The Nichols reputation of offering a dynamic and results-oriented business and leadership education has grown measurably stronger under the leadership of President Engelkemeyer and is perfectly positioned to continue its trajectory. I look forward to working with the Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff to expand opportunities for Nichols students to learn, lead, and succeed...Discere, Ducere, Stabit!”

The appointment follows a six-month national search. Davis thanked the Presidential Search Committee, led by Trustee Randy Becker ’83 MBA ’96, for its thorough

and collaborative work. “The search for a new president of Nichols College drew an impressive pool of accomplished candidates, and the Committee worked tirelessly and efficiently to narrow the field, conduct interviews, and recommend the best candidate to the Board of Trustees,” he said.

Sulmasy has served as the number two official of Bryant University since 2015, with primary responsibility for managing undergraduate and graduate academic programs, curriculum, and chairing the Academic Review Board. He oversees more than 1,100 faculty and staff members and an operating budget of \$144

million. During his tenure, he initiated and implemented several academic programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Data Science, a Digital Marketing Program, a fully accredited Physician Assistant Program, a Graduate Certificate in Innovative Health Care Leadership and an online MBA.

He also successfully directed Bryant’s recent reaccreditation by the New England Commission of Higher Education, and 2019 reaccreditation by AACSB International, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Sulmasy has been a law professor at the U.S. Naval War College and the U.S. Coast

Guard Academy, where he led the Department of Humanities, and additionally was a lecturer at the UConn School of Law, Roger Williams Law School, UC Berkeley School of Law, and Harvard University. He is a visiting fellow at George Mason University School of Law.

In addition to lecturing extensively on the law of armed conflict, international law, and national security matters, he is widely published on national security matters, and serves as a subject matter expert/commentator. He has been featured in the Los

Angeles Times, on CBS News Radio, National Public Radio, CNN International, US News & World Report, the New York Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, Al-Jazeera America, MSNBC, Fox News, and numerous other national media outlets. He is the author of “The National Security Court System – A Natural Evolution of Justice in an Age of Terror” (2009) and co-editor of “International Law Challenges – Homeland Security and Combating Terrorism” (2005). Sulmasy was educated at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the University of Baltimore



Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M.

School of Law, UC Berkeley School of Law, and the Harvard Kennedy School.

He and his wife, Marla, have seven children and reside in Old Lyme, Conn.



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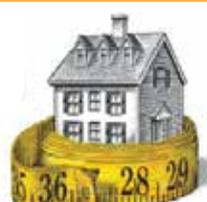
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Cardio to go program

Auburn Recreation and Culture will sponsor a program: *Cardio to go* mornings starting May 17, on Mondays and Thursdays 6:30- 7:30 am at the Dr. Arthur and Dr. Martha Pappas Recreation Complex, 203.5 Pakachoag Street.

The program lasts five weeks with two classes a week \$50 or drop in \$8. Please wear sneakers, bring a hand towel and water. Pre-registration required. Please email or call Kpappas@town.auburn.ma.us 508-755-3291.

Cardio to go is designed for all of levels of fitness and consists of functional movements choreographed to music. It is a great way to burn calories, increase strength, improve cardiovascular endurance as well as improve the ability to function throughout various ranges of movement.

Pati has a passion for group fitness that spans over three decades. Her goal is to motivate others to enjoy fitness as much as she does and make it a way of life. She is an ACE certified group fitness instructor with a background in STEP, PiYo, Group Power, Group Fight, Kick-boxing, Barre, HIIT, cardio aerobics, and indoor cycling.



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FOOD AND FUN PULL-OUT SECTION

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

PULL OUT SECTION



Over 20 shows already announced for 2021 season

WEBSTER - Indian Ranch unveiled its 75th Anniversary Season and announced a multi-year partnership with Mike's Hard Lemonade to present the Mike's Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series in Webster.

Five new shows have been added to 75th Anniversary Season including Marty Stuart and his Fabulous Superlatives on July 31, Tower of Power on August 15, Marc Martel on September 4, Kip Moore on September 26, and 38 Special on October 9 as part of the Mike's Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series. Tickets for these shows are on sale now.

"Mike's Hard Lemonade is excited to be the presenting sponsor of Indian Ranch live music venue. In their rich 75 year history, they have brought music, good times, and a friendly atmosphere to Massachusetts. We are optimistic that our partnership will only elevate the happiness this venue brings to our consumers, and we can't wait to see you at a show in the near future," said Doug Bailey, Mike's Hard Lemonade Regional Marketing Manager - Northeast.

In 1946, a local Native American promoter created a humble resort called Indian Ranch. He booked live entertainment which initially consisted of vaudeville acts, plays and hillbilly music.

The stage was taken from a showboat and patrons sat on wooden logs. In the 1950s and 60s, entertainment included

well-known TV personalities such as Rex Trailer and Bozo the Clown. In the 1970s, it started to focus on nationally known country music artists, later expanding its current repertoire of country, classic rock, pop, roots rock, blues, and acoustic music.

Over time the property was developed into a seasonal campground, a function hall was added for banquets and weddings, the Indian Princess was acquired for boat cruises, and most recently, Samuel Slater's Restaurant opened its doors in summer 2018.

The 3000-capacity venue offers music lovers a chance to see some of the greatest country, classic rock and pop bands steps from Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg. Nestled between pine trees, the amphitheater offers the ability to see the stage from anywhere in the audience.

"The 75th anniversary season will be very special. We're excited to get back to presenting live music and welcome Mike's Hard Lemonade to the Indian Ranch family for the upcoming concert seasons," said Suzette Coppola, president of Indian Ranch. "Indian Ranch has been a family business since it opened over seven decades ago. We have hosted country legends like Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and Charlie Daniels who played here 27 times. Indian Ranch has also been the launching pad for emerging country artists working their way to stardom including Toby Keith, Brad

Paisley, LeAnn Rimes, Keith Urban, Kenny Chesney, and Blake Shelton. In recent years, we've added rock and pop artists to the lineups including acts like Barenaked Ladies, Huey Lewis, Pat Benatar and fan favorites like The Mavericks and Get The Led Out. It's only fitting that we will be reopening with one of our biggest schedules ever."

The Mike's Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series at Indian Ranch will kick off with local showcases featuring Jediah with Brevity on May 1, and Mychael David on May 8. The season continues with, Chris Janson on July 10, Get the Led Out on July 24, Ziggy Marley on July 25, Jamey Johnson August 1, Justin Moore August 7, Grand Funk Railroad on August 8, ABBA The Concert on August 13, Yacht Rock Revue on August 21, Foreigner on August 26, Josh Turner on August 28, Local Countryfest on September 11, The Mavericks on September 12, Los Lobos on September 18, George Thorogood & The Destroyers on September 19, and the Pike Hair Fest on September 25. More shows will be announced soon.

All shows in the 2021 Mike's Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series at Indian Ranch will follow state and local guidelines in place at the time of the event regarding capacities, social distancing, and other safety measures. Indian Ranch continues to monitor the changing guidelines and will provide continuous updates regarding these policies

for each event.

Tickets for the Mike's Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series at Indian Ranch are available online at www.indianranch.com, by calling 1-800-514-ETIX (3849) or at the Indian Ranch Box Office. Tickets for Marty Stuart and his Fabulous Superlatives on July 31, Tower of Power on August 15, Marc Martel on September 4, Kip Moore on September 26, and 38 Special on October 9 go on sale now. The Indian Ranch Box Office is currently open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. All events are rain or shine. No refunds. Indian Ranch is located at 200 Gore Road in Webster. For more information, visit www.indianranch.com.



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Restaurant review

Mykonos Café & Bakery is a dream come true

A & D Pizzeria and Pub kicks it up a notch and renovates

By Janet Stoica

A short trip to Millbury could be your most rewarding 2021 adventure since we've all started to wander out of our homes lately.

The first stop might be the recently opened Mykonos Café & Bakery on Elm Street, possibly the most spectacular bakery in the area.

This unique, relaxing place takes you into its arms with the heavenly aromas of freshly baked croissants, rolls, and muf-

ins and scores of American, Greek, and Italian pastries, that make it difficult to pick just one. Of course, you cannot and will not pick just one...please, have two, or even take some of these delectable confections home to your family and friends.

Also look for the spanakopita (spinach pie), the baklava, spinach and feta calzones, cheese pies, koulouria (sesame and honey sweets), kataifi (walnuts served in a finely stranded pas-

try), saragli (rolled baklava with spices and nuts), sizeable cinnamon rolls, fruit macaroons, cannolis, cheese pies, cheese-cake rounds, eclairs, and Danish, altogether the wonderful display of an artful bakery at its finest.

Bagel varieties are plentiful from plain to sesame to French toast with or without butter or cream cheese varieties.

For breakfast, try the avocado toast, which is made with

fresh-sliced avocado, one or two eggs on your choice of bread (my choice was a flaky croissant), and, if you like, bacon or sausage. The bread is lightly drizzled with olive oil and sprinkled with hot pepper flakes, just enough to give it a kick. You are in flavor town heaven, make no mistake about it.

For lunch, try one of the several daily soups, perhaps their signature Greek lemon soup.

Mykonos Café & Bakery presents a neat, clean, and charming environment for their customers to enjoy. Sure, take your laptop or iPad here to work, play, or read and settle into one of the high-back chairs by the large front windows, the comfy upholstered chairs, or a centered table.

I haven't seen a bake shop like this since the days of Lederman's and Widoff's on Water Street in Worcester, which brings me to Chris Andrianopoulos, owner of A & D Pizzeria and Pub, located across the street from Mykonos Café & Bakery and husband of Mykonos' owner, Sonja Andrianopoulos.

It seems that Chris, who was born and brought up in Worcester, used to visit the Water Street bakeries when



Chris and Sonja Andrianopoulos

he was a kid. As a tribute to his vivid recollections of those aromatic and delightful emporiums, Chris now bakes wonderfully soft and light bulkie rolls on the weekends for his wife's bakery. He also includes rolls, breads, bagels, spinach pies, and stuffed grape leaves while in his baking zone.

But the full-time bakers here are the rock stars of Mykonos Bakery: Sonja's parents, Natasha and George Andrea. They operated their own bakery in Greece before emigrating to the USA. This energetic duo has combined their exceptional talents to bring color, variety, and flavor to our area and you really do have to see their creations

to appreciate their art. Sonja Andrianopoulos is a financial bank adviser who works full-time at a Boston banking institution. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in math and computer science and an MBA from Clark University. She is currently working on her PhD in finance.

Sonja and Chris met at a dance held by St. Spyridon Church in Worcester. Married since 2004, they have two children in high school.

All along she's had a vision: "This bakery has been my goal for the last 10 years. I grew up in my parents' bakery in Greece and it is a pleasure to have my

Continued on next page

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Continued

dream realized.”

“This used to be a drinking establishment,” Chris said. “When the former owner wanted to sell, I knew this would be a good opportunity for Sonja. When we purchased the property last year, we completely renovated the building, putting in floor-to-ceiling windows at the building front, skylights, walls, painting, tile work, and fixtures.”

Mykonos has been open since January 23. “We’re still looking at our menu offerings and operations,” says Sonja. “Soon we hope to have a grand opening but not until we feel it’s right. We’re letting our customers decide what their favorites are, and we will focus on those choices.”

Catering for corporate functions and parties is on the menu too.

And the name? Daughter Sophia picked the bakery name as it is one of the Greek islands they all hope to visit in the near future. Their son, George, once

had the task of peeling a 50 lb. sack of onions. George’s lesson in hard labor left an impression on him.

“This bakery is an option for our children’s future,” explained Sonja. “I wanted to bring something from my homeland here. This is a passion for me and my parents and, frankly, I want to teach my children work ethics and want them to see what manual labor is like.” Chris further stated, “We don’t want them to take everything for granted. We want them to know where they came from. Teaching them life lessons is so important.”

Chris also described how A & D Pizzeria and Pub was recently renovated. “We updated and redecorated our restaurant and bar area., We’ll have a new pub-style menu, but the bar area is not open yet. We’re waiting for the COVID situation to stabilize and hope to re-open soon. We finished putting the final touches on the bar area a few weeks ago and will contin-

ue to make a few more updates, including hiring more staff. We also have a very nice function room that can accommodate 75 patrons. Our ideas came from many sources, including visits to Boston’s North End and Federal Hill restaurants.”

The new bar is u-shaped, includes a seamless granite countertop, along with mahogany wood flairs, and unique pendant cylinder lighting over the bar seating area. The pizzeria’s restaurant is bright, orderly, and well-lit with several booths available for diners. Its menu is filled with appetizing selections, including cocktails, soups and salads, calzones, gourmet pizzas, specialty subs and clubs, burgers and wraps, beef and chicken, pasta and seafood, desserts, plus a kids menu. “We still serve up our prime rib special on weekends,” says Chris, “and weather-permitting, our outside patio is very popular.”

The couple has given back to the town too by sponsoring local baseball and basketball



Chris Andrianopolous at the newly refurbished pub bar.

teams, and delivered complimentary pizza and subs to the local police, fire, and emergency personnel. They are generous to many worth causes in town and the surrounding area. Mykonos Café & Bakery, 49

Elm Street, Millbury; phone: (508) 917-8127. Hours: 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Mon-Sat; Sunday 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. www.mykonosbakery.com FB: Mykonos Café & Bakery. A & D Pizzeria and Pub, 60 Elm Street, Millbury.

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UNICEF Club organized can/bottle drive

CHARLTON - The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy UNICEF Club held a can/bottle drive, a green environmentally conscious and friendly way to fundraise for UNICEF USA. The can/bottle drive was simple and helped the

earth while cleaning up the local landscape and taught the UNICEF Club a bit more about responsibility.

According to UNICEF Officer Isabela Boateng of Manchester, CT "UNICEF keeps increasing its efforts to reach

the most remote villages and communities all over the world, to ensure that all children have adequate education in the pandemic."

The UNICEF Club members are thrilled and enthusiastic to be a part of projects such as the distribution of solar-powered radios in conflict-affected areas to vulnerable households and listening groups. Boateng adds that the solar-powered radios "deliver an educational support for those who might otherwise be cut off from traditional classroom due to conflict and the COVID Pandemic."

UNICEF club member Brianna Laforest of Webster, said that a tremendous amount of gratitude goes to UNICEF club advisor Professor Cheryl Cahill "for her creative fundraising ideas during this pandemic." According to Laforest, "Professor Cahill made it easy for us to help UNICEF even



with the many barriers we faced with social distancing, and not being able to fundraise like we normally would."

To date, the UNICEF Club raised over \$500. The can/bottle drive naturally injects a community service element into fundraising efforts, and they perfectly complement the UNICEF Club's focus on community and global living, leadership, and building awareness.

St. Andrew Bobola's new family Mass

Saint Andrew Bobola Catholic Church, 54 West Main Street, Dudley, will now celebrate Holy Mass on Sundays at 10:30 am for children and families. The Mass will be short, not much longer than 30 minutes. The church seeks to provide a safe, welcoming environment where children and families can pray, worship God, learn, practice and witness their faith. Church pews are sanitized after each Mass. We practice safe social distancing with every other row blocked-off. Visitors to the church wear required facial coverings. For more info, please call the rectory at 508-943-5633. Please join us for this weekly family Mass as we thank God for all His blessings and give Him praise, honor and glory. God bless you and all your loved ones and we look forward to seeing your family there.

-Nancy Vajcovec

Winfried P. Sommerfeld Photography Exhibit

The Auburn Historical Society and Museum is proud to be hosting the Winfried P. Sommerfeld photography exhibit created by Fred Miriani, from the Photographic Preservation Center in Cambridge.

Winfried P. Sommerfeld emigrated from his native Germany in 1945. Following his tour of duty in the US Army, he settled in Auburn. When stationed in Texas he photographed his army buddies who, impressed with his photographic skills, encouraged him to pursue a career in photography. Sommerfeld returned to Auburn and established Sommerfeld Photo Film on Southbridge Street. He traveled New England's country roads, photographing the vernacular architecture of motels, restaurants, and the rapidly growing automobile industry.

His photographs were printed as postcards and as advertisements and publicity. The Photographic Preservation Center which, with support of Mass Humanities, The Dr. Arthur Pappas and Dr. Martha Pappas Foundation and the Auburn Historical Museum is preserving over 1,000 of Sommerfeld's historic photographs.

Many of these photographs will be on display at the Museum at 41 South Street. Admission is free to the public on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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Chief's corner

Issues regarding surrender of license to drive

By Chief Steven J. Wojnar
Dudley Police Department

The decision to give up a driver's license, particularly for seniors, is a very difficult one. Family members, medical professionals, and police officers are often involved in these cases. This is one of the most difficult aspects of my job; filing a petition to take a person's license away. One possible option to consider is the voluntary surrender of a license. I was asked a question about this very subject. There are several reasons why this is a good option for people, and I wanted to provide some further information about this program.

The two greatest concerns that I hear when it comes to voluntarily surrendering a license is (1) not having a valid government issued ID, and (2) if personal circumstances change, being unable to regain their license once it is turned over.

The positive is a person who gives up their license voluntarily, can reapply. They will be most likely asked to provide medical documentation stating they are competent to receive a license. The Registry may also require a road test if the situation warrants. Therefore, a voluntary surrender of your license is not permanent unless it is necessary. Further information can be found by logging on to the Registry web site at <https://www.mass.gov/>

orgs/massachusetts-registry-of-motor-vehicles or at any RMV branch.

As far as the concern of having no formal identification, there is an answer for that as well. Since this is needed for medical care, banking, and other functions, it is important to maintain a proper ID. According to the Registry, anyone who voluntarily surrenders their driver's license can receive a Massachusetts Identification card free of charge. A person can complete what is called a Voluntary Surrender Affidavit form located at any Registry branch or online at <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/03/21/MAB110%20-%20Voluntary%20Surrender%20Affidavit.pdf>. By completing this process, a person who voluntarily surrenders their license, is entitled to a free identification card. They will have a valid, state issued ID. Two important reminders. Many AAA branches handle a variety of Registry functions. Unfortunately, they do not provide this service. It will need to be done at a Massachusetts RMV location. Also, with the COVID-19 restrictions, an appointment will be necessary. More information on this process can be found at the web sites listed above. If you live in Connecticut, or other states, check with those

departments for similar programs.

People who have difficulty driving face the tough decision of giving up their license. This is not easy, as people sacrifice a great deal of freedom when this privilege is lost. Many people need to self-assess their ability to safely drive a motor vehicle. This is especially true as we age and if medical restrictions are present. No one wants to be a danger to themselves or others while traveling on the roads. If a person has any apprehension about maintaining proper identification without a driver's license, they have this valuable program to assist

Scholarship recipient

The Oxford Board of Selectmen announced that Tianna Welcome is a recipient of the 2021 Hannah Harwood Fund Scholarship. This scholarship is given to Oxford students pursuing degrees in medicine and allied health fields. The fund was established through the 1902 will of Charles Harwood in memory of his late mother, Hannah.

Tianna is a student at Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy and achievements include: Candidate National Technical Honor Society; certified Mental health First Aid (National Council for Behavioral Health); Certified Dementia Care; member UNICEF Club, member Mock Code Team; attendee Vital Signs:

them in making the decision to surrender their license, just a bit easier.

As the pandemic continues, we ask everyone to stay safe and continue to take the necessary precautions to protect yourselves. Vaccination information can be found at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling 508-949-8036. Hopefully, the end of this pandemic is in sight. We, at the Dudley Police Department, greatly appreciate the support we receive 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.



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- 3 LBS. HAMBURG OR 1 1/2 LBS. SIRLOIN TIPS
- 3 LBS. CUT UP CHICKEN OR 1 LB. BACON
- 3 LBS. BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST OR 1 PKG. (1 1/2 LBS.) MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST OF YOUR CHOICE
- 1 PKG. (1 LB.) SAUSAGE OF YOUR CHOICE OR 1 PKG. (1 1/2 LBS.) COOKED CHICKEN WINGS OF YOUR CHOICE

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- 2 1/2 LBS. NEW YORK SIRLOIN STEAKS OR 1 1/2 LBS. DELMONICO STEAKS
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- 3 LBS. BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST OR 1 PKG. (1 1/2 LBS.) MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST OF YOUR CHOICE
- 3 LBS. BONELESS SPARERIBS OR 2 LBS. RACK BABY BACK RIBS
- 2 LBS. HOT DOGS OR 1 PKG. (1 1/2 LBS.) COOKED CHICKEN WINGS OF YOUR CHOICE
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Living with Lincoln

I'm only human

By Amy Palumbo-LeClaire
My house is not the same. I sit out on the deck to write, to remember him. The birds chirp and call to each other beneath a pale blue sky. They sing songs of spring and life and new beginnings. A neighborhood dog barks from a few houses away. Something is missing. I sit awkwardly and wait for Lincoln to lift his nose to the flutter of life around us. Satisfied, he'll collapse by my side to do what he always does in April—wait for the bunnies to appear. But he's not

here and, instead, I'm left with all that's left, his memory. My heart aches. Simple joys have been my winning lottery ticket for the past ten years while living with Lincoln. Now it's time to go on living without him. How did this happen?

His presence, like shreds of petal swirling through the air, are close enough to touch. His passing is a fresh wound. I want to grab our time together, clutch it in my hand and bring it back to life like a genie from a bottle. I want my dog back.

Alas, I've gone dark. I'm supposed to honor Lincoln's spirit and focus only on the good parts (he and I are optimists) but I'm human. I know we've been blessed. I know he had a good life! "I just miss you so much," I whisper, and in my mind's eye, he faces me with his "professor-serious"

expression. Then he breaks into that easy, boxy smile. "I'm with you. I'm okay. But go ahead and tell your story, Mom."

Lincoln defied an ultra sound report that he only had one to three months to live back in October, 2020. Pardon the male dog expression, but he chose to grab life by the balls and live each day as though it's his last. All winter long he played outside like a child on a snow day. He played Bury & Find with his ball, lapped up cups and cups of farm-fresh goat's milk, and hiked along trails in Sturbridge. He took his final swim at Wells State Park during an exceptionally warm Saturday in late March. He sniffed the shoreline, felt the water with a knowing paw, and waded

in. His best friend, Bruno, watched him swim with the indulgence of a dog whose full name, Lincoln Veto, means lake and love. "Look at him go!"

Winter drew to a close and along came a mild spring. The days became warmer and longer while Lincoln's panting grew more pronounced. We discussed summer plans for keeping him cool and healthy. We would get him a kid's pool for the yard, make up an "apartment" for him in the cool finished basement, and continue to cook his favorite beef stews, salmon, and steak dishes. We arranged another vet appointment to discuss more possibilities. We had plans for Lincoln. He knew how much we loved him and he loved us right back with zero complaint about

his health. The decline in his breathing (more panting, more hacking, more discomfort) seemed overshadowed by his thirst to go on living. He still climbed the stairs to greet us with his human smile, grabbed our socks, wiggled with joy when we came home, and played fetch in the yard. Then something happened a

few weeks after Easter Sunday.

We couldn't allow Lincoln to play ball anymore. Mild breathing issues worsened. Small sessions of play led to heavy panting and, more recently, wheezing. That's when we knew. He wouldn't choose to stop on his own. Taking away a game of ball felt

Continued on next page



My dog



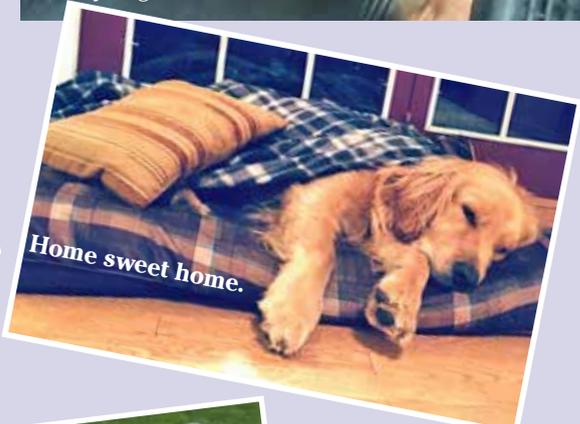
Lincoln's last car ride, following an April snow storm



Family love.



Largest male of the litter.



Home sweet home.



Bruno adores his cousin, Lincoln



Early car ride days with Mom



Happiness is a ball



Lincoln goes camping



Saying good-bye.



Soccer days



Relaxing after my last walk

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like murder. But we had to do what was best for Lincoln.

A neighborhood walk foreshadowed all of this. The truth passed through me like a lump of cold ice cream midway through the walk, one that began as it usually does, with off-the-leash time followed by my favorite routine: Lincoln lost track of time while distracted by his favorite grassy smells. Meanwhile, I walked ahead of him for, say, fifty feet before he realized that we had been separated. He lifted his head and froze to the sight of me. Then, as though we'd been apart for an eternity, he raced back to me, full-speed, to reunite and sat at my heels, smiling wildly. We are the greatest team ever!

I've since read The Rainbow Bridge poem, a replica of this experience to help explain to dog owners what it's like to cross over to heaven and reunite with our dogs "to never be separated again." I felt like I had experienced heaven on earth every time we walked the neighborhood.

His final sprint led to the final stretch of our walk. I leashed him back up and, understandably, his pace softened to a leisurely stroll. We stopped at the corner of Cedar Hill Road and McClellan. "You want to turn around and go home, Lincoln?" He sat, thought about it, and tugged me forward. "Let's go." We strolled past the field where the apple orchard used to be. He paused as he always does, recalling days past, when he'd nose through rows and rows of thick field and fallen apples. We kept going. But something was different. The truth hit me. This would be our last walk.

A driver appeared behind us suddenly, shaking his head in frustration, obviously in a hurry. I tugged Lincoln to the side of the road so that the driver had more space to pass. The irony that we'd come full circle to my first column written (Why I Like Dogs More than Humans) settled

cruelly in my chest.

I wiped tears from my cheeks. My thoughts addressed a driver now gone. "You don't understand. This is Lincoln. He sprung from the ground like a dolphin to catch a fly ball only weeks ago. He's just not himself. This is the dog in the paper. He's just feeling—"

Tears blurred my thoughts. I pressed on. "You coming?" Lincoln glanced back to check on me. "Don't worry about him. He's human. This walk is so much fun! Let's just be happy!"

I unleashed him for a second time at the edge of our neighborhood. He visited Sonoma, a friendly yellow lab, then found an old faded tennis ball in the Campbell's yard, one I didn't have the heart to throw back. A squirrel erected itself from a patch of woods, and stared up at us. Lincoln froze. A familiar outdoor friend! Ball in mouth, he launched forward for a quick, yet tired chase. "Good boy, Lincoln!" He trampled back to me, thoroughly proud of himself. "Still got it."

More days passed. I fought with my intuition. Maybe it's not the end? Maybe there's something I'm just not seeing. His love for life, his will to go on, was so strong. I reached out to dear Golden friends and invited them over for a visit. Please. Just tell me he's going to be fine. Talk me out of what's happening. You know more.

The skies produced a rare snowstorm on Friday, April 16, a mirror to the day he was born on December 26, 2010. He laid vulnerable in the foyer upstairs; paws outstretched amid heavy breathing. He needed help. Panic pressed against my forehead while I made phone calls. Everyone was busy, booked, overwhelmed. Everyone except his former veterinarian, Dr. Golden of Sutton Animal Hospital. She was available

at 12:30. Finally. A bright light.

My husband got the car started. Lincoln grabbed his ball, waited for me to grab my pocketbook and tap danced to the prospect of going for a ride. His eyes were bright with enthusiasm. We're going for a ride! He could hardly wait.

Due to COVID restrictions, the office staff banned us from attending the preliminary exam. "Please," I begged. "His condition is critical. He will get stressed and won't be able to breathe." My over-the-phone request was declined.

He was led on a short leash from our backseat. My husband and I held on. We could barely breathe ourselves. Within minutes, Lincoln arrived back at the car, gasping for air. He collapsed in a slush puddle, panting and smiling like a wolf, paws forward. "He's far too distressed to come in," the vet tech said. I swallowed the bitter taste of "I knew that" and opened the back door for Lincoln to jump back in. Home. He pasted his eyes to mine and struggled to calm down. But he was relieved. That much I was sure of. We're together again. Raw, blustery wind and rain rushed into the car. Dr. Golden appeared at the passenger window within minutes. She told us what to expect.

I sit in the backseat beside Lincoln. He's calmed down nicely. He lifts a big, strong paw for me to hold. Our eyes lock. I cannot find words. Fresh tears rain and rain down my face. My dog, my dog. Why this? Lincoln licks away a steady stream of tears. "I'm okay, Mom. I'm so happy we're together. This is the right thing."

"I'm not ready, Lincoln. Please. Please, hold on." My pain is excruciating, irrational.

"Thank you for loving me always. Thank you for understanding me and taking me for rides and pouring me goat's

milk. I'm okay, Mom. You are the best. I feel so relieved to be with you right now." He rests his head on my lap and calms down to a peaceful awareness. The dark of our plight recedes back like a wave at the shoreline, breaking then unfolding to an intense beauty. I pet his soft head while he rests comfortably on my lap. "Lincoln can come too," I speak his language. I repeat the phrase over and over again. He listens, raises a sleepy eye. "Lincoln can come too. Where do you want to go next? You are a good boy." All that's wrong crumbles around us like a falling tower while the two of us, kindred spirits, rest in final moments of peace and I'm blessed a thousand times by my dog's unconditional love. Lincoln goes to sleep.

Lincoln never asked for much, only to be together. Like me, he was always up for adventure. I'm so honored and proud to have given him exactly what he needed, over and over again. I'll go on Living with Lincoln in my heart and writing about him in honor of so many who loved him and saw their own dogs through a story told in the voice of a true Dog Person. He was the first pick of the litter, the largest male and last surviving pup, son of Sox and Tickers of Twin Beau D Kennel. I imagine him crossing over to miles and miles of glistening lake and baseball fields of rich greens and golds. I imagine that someday he'll freeze to the sight of me, only this time he'll find me seated on the ground, arms wide open. He'll race towards me until we meet again. Then I'll fold my arms around him, collapse and, this time, he'll lick away tears of joy.

Stay tuned for Lincoln's upcoming book, a compilation of columns (first published here!) that have made you laugh, cry, and nod your head knowingly. Please write to me at amy@leclaire@hotmail.com.



LINCOLN VETO LECLAIRE
December 26, 2010 – April 16, 2021
"Live Life to the Fullest.
Love Openly. Grab a Ball."

For Amy

When tomorrow starts without me

When tomorrow starts without me,
and I'm not there to see;
The sun will rise and find your eyes
All filled with tears for me.
I know how much you love me,
As much as I love you,
And each time that you think of me,
I know you'll miss me too.
But when tomorrow starts without me,
Please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name
And petted me with her hand.
I thought about our lives together;
I know you must be sad,
I thought of all the love we shared,
And all the fun we had.
So when tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart.
For every time you think of me,
I'm right there in your heart.

-Author unknown

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Dudley Womans Club 2021 scholarships

The DWC has announced its 2021 Scholarship Award recipients, who were introduced at their April club meeting.

Bay Path senior Ivy Ballou has been accepted to several colleges and plans to study pre-med with a goal of becoming an orthopedic surgeon. She has played soccer and lacrosse at Bay Path, was a member of the student council and National Honor Society, while earning honor roll each year.

Bartlett High School senior Gabriela Piwowarczyk has

also been accepted to several colleges. Gabriela plans to study business and marketing with a goal of earning a Master's in business and landing a job in a "big company" where she hopes to make "a positive difference in the community and society." She is an MIAA student ambassador at Bartlett, who led food pantry and sock drives.

Bartlett senior Kathryn James, who like her peers, has been accepted to several colleges. She plans to study computer science and game

programming because it fits her interests in math and technology. Kathryn's goal is to become a game-play programmer. At Bartlett, she serves as class president, team captain of cross-country and track and plays piano in the music department.

All three of our scholars hold community service in their hearts and will no doubt make our communities better through service. We wish them health, happiness and success.



Ivy Ballou



Gabriela Piwowarczyk



Kathryn James

Suddenly in command

Boating Safety Course offered on Thursday, May 20, 7 - 9:30 p.m. (\$5)

Imagine you are out on the water when the boat's captain somehow is incapacitated or falls overboard and can't swim back to the boat. Are you prepared to take basic actions to get help, stop or start the engine and take the helm? A little knowledge could save lives and make you feel more comfortable boating when you're not generally at the helm.

Misfortunes can and do happen while on that fishing, diving, adventure, or party charter. Being out on your own boat with that significant other at the helm, or going out on a friends' pontoon boat can also turn to horror if the skipper is suddenly out of commission.

This is a boating safety primer for those not generally at the helm but would like to know what to do, to be better prepared.

The local United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing a special boating safety class through the Zoom video conference

platform due to COVID-19 restrictions. Registration is managed through the Milford Community School Use Program, Spring-Adult-Boating, at <http://mcs.milford.ma.us> or (508) 478-1119, register by May 17; keeping in mind that availability is limited and you will receive course materials prior, covered by the registration fee. Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied online

by a registered parent/guardian. For additional USCGAux. information: phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or (508) 478-3778.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org

Community drumming

AUBURN - Community Drum Circle with Tim Kane will be held Tuesday, June 29, from 6-7 p.m. at the Dr. Arthur & Dr. Martha Pappas Recreation Complex, 203.5 Pakachoag Street.

Drumming is proven to improve health. Connect with others in a fun and relaxed atmosphere and a COVID-safe, socially-distant environment while we explore world beats and make music together. All ages welcome and no experience is necessary. Pre-registration recommended by emailing: tim@kanedrums.com. We'll provide sanitized hand drums for up to 20 people.



Personal drums are also welcome. Please bring a lawn chair. This program is supported in part by a grant from your town's Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. www.massculturalcouncil.org.

Tim Kane, a native of Auburn where much of his family still resides, is a member of the Drum Circle Facilitators Guild, American Federation of Musicians, and Percussive Arts Society. Visit www.kanedrums.com to learn more. Rain date is Tuesday, July 6, 6-7 p.m.

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Pictured l-r: Kenny Kudzal Chaplain, Victor Jankowski Commander, Ron Prest Sr. Vice Commander, Jim Brinker Sergeant-at-Arms, Joe Sendrowski Veterans Council Military Honor Guard Chaplain, Stephen Rogerson Jr. Vice Commander, Bob Guenther Treasurer. Not Shown: George Bibeau, Past Commander of the VFW Post 654 who swore in the new officers.

W-D Veterans Council installs officers

On Wednesday, April 7, the Veterans Council of Webster and Dudley held installation of officers for the upcoming year. The Veterans Council is an organization which coordinates with other military service organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans and the Polish American Veterans in Webster and Dudley. The Veterans Council synchronizes the events which all organizations take part in as one unit such as the Honor Guard for military veterans, the parades, and the maintenance and upkeep of the military monuments, and various other activities.

This organization is instrumental in maintaining communication and order between all the differing organizations in our community.

mental in maintaining communication and order between all the differing organizations in our community.



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Pictured left to right: Joe Altavilla, SNE District Sales Manager; David Fayard, Sales Consultant; Carrille Dionne, Sales Consultant; Stephen Geer, Sales Manager; Scott Barry, Long Subaru Dealer Principal; Angela Stefanik, Accounting; Marie Costa, Accounting; and Abigail Granville, Service Advisor.

Long Subaru Shares the Love

The Subaru *Share the Love* event ran from Nov. 19, 2020 - Jan. 4, 2021 and combined with donations from Long Subaru Service and Sales departments generated a \$20,000 donation this year to Long's hometown charity, Boys & Girls Club of Webster Dudley.

This is the fourth year that the BGCWD has participated in this event with Long Subaru and checks presented total \$81,160. Long Subaru also supports the BGCWD through their Back-a-Kid program, the annual Fill the Forester event, and more.

Kathryn Megraw takes over as SVP, Chief Information Officer at Webster 5

WEBSTER - Webster Five Cents Savings Bank has hired Kathryn Megraw, Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer. Kate will be providing strategic leadership, direction and management oversight for the Operations department, including the Information Technology, Business Systems, and Deposit Operations departments. Kate will join the senior management team and deliver technology-based solutions that will continue to drive innovation and operational excellence throughout the organization that will benefit Bank customers.

From 2018 until beginning her new role at Webster Five, Kate served as the Chief Information Officer and Chief Operating Officer at New Valley Bank & Trust overseeing their Deposit Operations, Retail Banking, IT/IS and Mar-

keting departments. In addition, she played a significant role in strategizing the digital banking and technology plans for New Valley's expansion. Prior to her time at New Valley, Kate worked as VP/ Director of Technology Planning and Portfolio Management at United Bank and was responsible for day-to-day operations within the technology department along with managing and facilitating the planning process for enterprise strategic projects.

"We're very excited to have Kate join the Webster Five team," stated President and CEO, Don Doyle. "Kate brings an innovative vision to the Bank and will work to position technology and operations to meet the current and future needs of Webster Five and its customers. Kate's wealth of knowledge in technology and



Kathryn Megraw

operational excellence will strengthen our Operations department and bring an insightful perspective to our senior management team."

"I'm thrilled to join Webster Five. I've found that the clarity of the Bank's vision is remarkably compelling and the Bank's sense of culture and commitment to its customers is paramount and integral to the bank's success. I look forward to collaborating on new ideas and working to foster an innovative and high-performing infrastructure for Bank operations." stated Kate Megraw.

"Blooming" by Dudley Womans Club

Let's have some fun this spring. Bring a smile to participants and passersby alike and support the charitable giving projects of the DWC. We will "Bloom" your friends, family or anyone you choose in Southern Worcester County or Northeastern Connecticut. Twenty vibrant Sunflower pinwheels will be placed by DWC members on the lawn of the chosen for \$20. Bloom as often or as many people as you'd like. More lawns... more smiles. An optional extra \$5 gets you a personal message delivered with the blooms. You can also remain anonymous. Placement of the flowers will be done by 7 p.m. (unless otherwise specified), remain on the lawns for two full days then be automatically removed. Placement of the flowers may be on a date and time of day you specify or we will place them on the first available date. Purchasing the DWC 'insurance policy' for \$25 guarantees your yard



will not be bloomed. To set up a Bloom or buy the insurance, go to <https://www.dudleywomansclub.org/bloom->

ing. Keep an eye out....we start soon with the Dudley Town Hall.

Nancy Vajcovec

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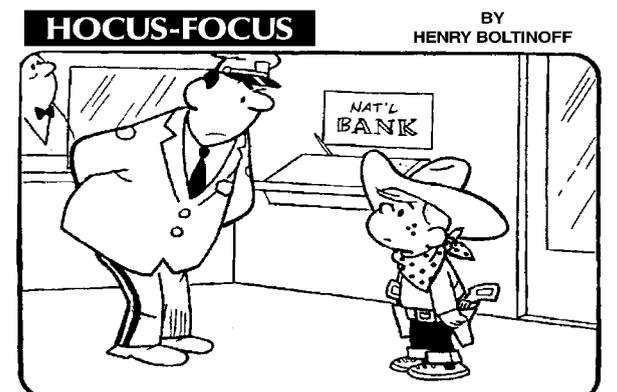
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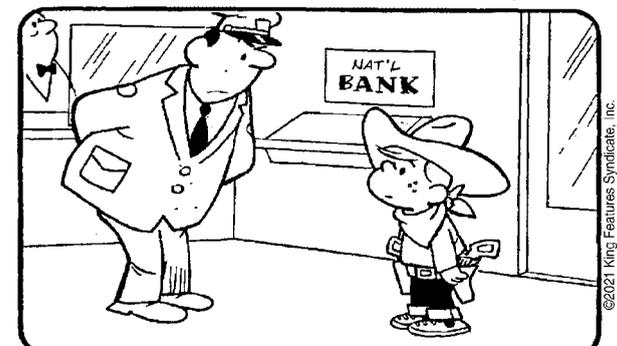
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Annual church flea market is returning

This year the Millbury First Congregational Church on 148 West Main Street will hold its annual Flea Market outside on Saturday, May 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please organize your treasures and Call Jeri Stead 508-865-5371 for a reservation. A reservation will be a 10 feet square plot on the lawn. You will need to provide your own tables. Wearing a mask is required, 6 feet of physical distancing, and hand sanitizer needs to be available. A reservation will cost \$20.

Unfortunately, the usual hot dogs will not be available this year, but there will be a bakery table of well-wrapped items for sale.

The church flea market table will be the only table inside. It will contain many interesting items that have been accumulating while cleaning out homes during this past year.



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Community yard sale - spaces available

AUBURN— Spring cleaning? Don't throw that good "stuff" away. Recycle it by selling it to someone who needs it. Do you have an accumulation of things that are too good to throw away but you no longer need? Don't have enough to hold your own yard sale? Join us on the lawn of the First Congregational Church, Saturday, June 12, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., for our annual Community Yard Sale/Plant Sale. This is a rain or shine event.

After having to cancel the 2020 yard sale we are excited to say we are back for this year. Because we have all been so restricted in what we could do this past year we anticipate even more people setting up to sell their "treasures" as well as a larger turnout of people looking for that special bargain or those out to get a feel for a return of normalcy. Masks will be required and all COVID guidelines will be enforced.

We also will be having our Plant Sale. There will be a large selection of annuals and perennials. Those who have been buying plants from us return year after year and see how each year we have more and more to offer. This year should be no different.

Spaces are available for a \$25.00 fee; a limited number of tables may be rented for \$5.00 each. We'll do all the advertising, both print and digital, and will post plenty of signs the day of the event at key locations in town. Depending on the COVID restrictions in place at the time we hope to have coffee and pastries, and hot dogs and soda available for sale.

Due to our central location and previous yard sales (26), we expect a large turnout. Don't delay, reserve your space now by calling Cindy Dube at 508-832-6646, please leave message, or the church office at 508-832-2845. You may also text 774-238-0260.

— Cindy Dube



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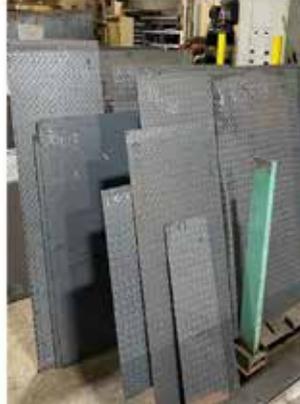
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Cruising scene 2021

Paul Newman's Hole In The Wall Gang Camp Car Show 2021 season launch

By Jim Weicherding

Paul Newman's Hole In The Wall Gang Camp Car Show 2021 season launch was a great success. To write that this car show had a big turnout would be an understatement.

This new cruisin' season car show, hosted by the Tri-State Cruisers, was unbelievably busy from 1 p.m. until sunset. The weather was absolutely gorgeous with bright sunny

skies and warm temperatures for this Saturday car show and cruise night. It was very windy but that didn't seem to bother any of the nearly five hundred show vehicle owners and almost one thousand spectators attending the event. The show was filled to capacity with classic cars and trucks. So many show vehicles arrived that the parking volunteers had to di-

rect drivers over to the adjacent parking lot on the opposite side of Pizza 101, on Route 101, in Pomfret, Connecticut. The owner of Pizza 101 fired up the outdoor grills and sold every single hamburger and hot dog he had available.

I have been a part of the Tri-State Cruisers Car Club car shows and cruise nights since they first began in Connecticut twenty-seven years ago.

Dick Salvas and his dedicated crew have been helping to raise funds for many charities including The Hole In The Wall Gang Camp for very sick kids to give them a place to play and enjoy themselves while forgetting about their medical conditions for at least a little while. Their facilities were devastated by fires last winter and they really could use our help and support to rebuild their facilities for kids to enjoy again.

The Tri-State Cruisers were able to raise \$1,000 with their very first car show of the season and that's a trend we would all love to see happen until the end of September. This single event turnout was the largest vehicle display in the history of Tri-State Cruisers car shows. Donations are welcome at the entrance of every one of their car shows this year and the 50/50 helps out also, so please try your luck and support the cause. If you would like to donate online please visit their website and make that happen: www.holeinthewallgang.org. Thank you for your support, it's appreciated.



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Q & A with The Car Doctor

John Paul is AAA Northeast's Car Doctor. He has over 40 years' experience in the automotive business and is an ASE certified master technician. He will answer reader's questions each week. You can find the Car Doctor podcast at www.johnpaul.podbean.com or other popular podcast sites. Email your car questions to jpaul@aaanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnpaul and friend him on facebook [mrjohnpaul](https://www.facebook.com/mrjohnpaul).



Q. I was wondering if you would have any advice for me. I am looking to purchase a compact SUV, and I am trying to decide between the Hyundai Tucson or Lexus 250 UX-hybrid. The Lexus is a hybrid which I thought might be a good move considering the way gas pricing seems to be going and for the future as I am figuring this very well could be my last car. Any advice you could give me would be greatly appreciated. Thank you and have a wonderful day.

A. They are both good vehicles. The Hyundai has been redesigned for this year and is nicer inside and out – but not quite a Lexus. The Lexus UX-hybrid is a compact luxury SUV, something the Hyundai is not. The Hyundai is also a bit larger both inside and out, which depending on what you are looking for, might be better or worse. The Lexus will likely hold its value longer but as far as reliability I would put them about the same. Certainly, fuel economy is important, but you need to factor in the additional cost of the Lexus (\$5000) over the Hyundai. This \$5000 premium would buy about 1600 gallons of gas. If you drive about 10,000 per year you won't see any fuel saving for about four years. They are both good vehicles. You need to see which one fits your needs the best.

Q. I have had four dead batteries in our 2019 Subaru Outback. Subaru blames me, the owner, for inadvertently leaving things on, or the vehicle not being driven enough. All empty excuses as far as I'm concerned. I am 82, my husband and I had numerous cars over 60 years and never had a dead battery in a newer car. What is wrong with my Subaru and Subaru in general?

A. The fix for earlier Subaru vehicles was to reprogram the charging system profile. To save fuel, the alternator does not charge the battery continually like older cars did. Many people have also added a larger battery that has more electrical reserve power to offset the electrical drain on the vehicle. These cars have dozens of computers that use a little bit of electricity all the time, even when the car is shut off. Add this to limited driving and the battery never gets fully recharged. Some people make the mistake of just starting the car and letting it run. This will not help. The car needs to be driven. Replacing four batteries in two years is certainly unusual and something you should continue to discuss with the dealer and Subaru of America.

Q. I have a 2014 Honda CRV that frequently has a one-to-two second loud engine rattle when I start it from a cold start. I was told it is the VTC actuator. I am also told it is an expensive repair. Can it cause damage if I don't have it repaired?

A. The noise you describe is typical of a failing variable valve actuator. The repair will take about two hours to complete and the part, depending on where it comes from, costs from \$75-\$200. Over time I'm sure there could be some damage to the engine, but there are thousands of these Honda engines driving around and the failure rate is very low – from what I can tell. Although if it were my CRV and I was going to keep it for a long time I would have it repaired.

Q. I have a 2002 Toyota Tacoma 4-cylinder truck. Will it run with gas that has been in the tank for nine years or do I need to add an additive (like Seafoam) to the gas tank? Are there other things I should be looking at to get this truck going?

A. When a vehicle sits unused for this long there are several items that need to be checked. I wouldn't take a chance with nine-year-old gasoline. I would drain the tank, flush the fuel system, replace the fuel filter and if needed the fuel pump. Gasoline starts to sour after six months and turns into varnish after a year or two. Then you need to look at the engine oil, cooling system and most importantly the brake system. If this is a DIY project look at every system individually and repair one at a time. If you are relying on a repair shop, let them know how long the truck sat unused, give them an idea of your budget, and have the truck towed to the shop.

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Tales from beyond

Nineveh Falls

By Thomas D'Agostino

The Hamonassets were a peaceful tribe that lived along the shores between the Agciomock River and the Connecticut River in Killingworth, Connecticut. Their Sachem was known as Sebaquanch,

"the man that weeps." Uncas, the famous Mohegan sachem married his daughter, thus inheriting the Hammonasset land. He then sold a generous parcel of real estate to George Fenwick ESQ. of Saybrook.

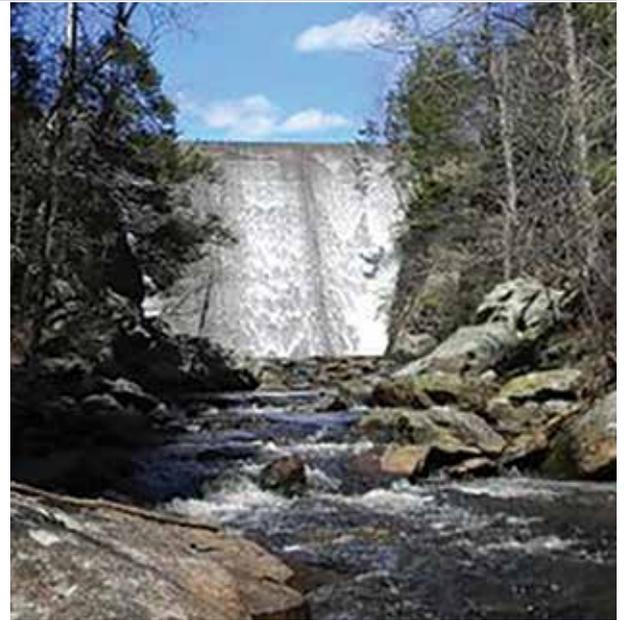
On November 26, 1669, Uncas sold the rest of the land to the residents of Killingworth. The remains of an Indian village are located about a half of a mile north of Route 80 near the junction of Roast Meat Hill

Road and Wolf Meadow Road. The village consists of several rock shelters where Indian artifacts have been found. A place called Nineveh Falls sits not too far from the village within the Killingworth Land Conservation Trust near Lake Hammonasset.

The falls have a haunting legend concerning an Indian maiden whose betrothed was a warrior who went to battle with a promise of marrying her upon his return. Sometime after his departure, false news arrived of his death during battle. Heartbroken and distraught over the loss of her beloved, she went to the falls and threw herself into the rapids. The brave returned to find that his lover was dead and in an attempt to join her, jumped into the same rapids as she.

Now, when the full moon casts a blanket of light upon the land, witnesses can see two ghostly figures walking along the edge of the falls, hand-in-hand in eternal wedlock.

There is another forlorn tale of a beautiful young woman



who fell in love with a local farm boy. The young farmer was the sole provider and caretaker for the farm as well as being in charge of looking after his aging mother. According to legend, the young man did not care for the girl and resisted her affections towards him. This caused the jilted lover to throw herself from the cliff into the rapids below. The place has become known as Lover's Leap.

by these two hideous creatures without a cessation of goods from their carts. If they refused, the carts would mysteriously topple and all of their cargo would be lost.

Ghosts also lurk in the woods around the falls. Who they actually are is probably forever lost to antiquity, but they have been blamed for many abominable occurrences that have taken place in the area over the centuries. One such tragedy took place at the end of the 19th century when a woman was approaching the falls in her horse drawn chaise. Something supernatural suddenly spooked the steed and he started bucking before breaking into a sprint at a Godspeed pace down the hill towards the bridge. The woman tried in vain to pull the reigns and halt the horse as he dashed straight through the wooden railing and off the bridge sending the surrey and all into the river below. Needless to say, the woman and the horse did not survive the "ghostly" encounter.

Another legend associated with the area involves one of the early settlers most feared entities: witches. Yes, even Killingworth has a history of those who were in league with the devil. These old hags were said to frequent the Nineveh and Chatfield Hollow areas, brewing their concoctions and casting spells on unsuspecting undertakers passing by the wicked realm where they held consort with the most evil one. A few of these hags were Goody Wee and her daughter Betty Wee who traveled back and forth from Killingworth to North Madison casting their spells on people for goods and profit.

In a 19th century book called "The History of Middlesex County," neighbors claimed that the Wee witches had the power to curdle their finest cream so it could not be churned into butter. It is written that no farmer could pass

Thomas D'Agostino and his wife Arlene Nicholson are seasoned paranormal investigators, authors, and co-organizers of Paranormal United Research Society. You can find out more about them by visiting www.tomdagostino.com.

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Music and Movement, first Friday of every month at 11 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, and Miss Deb has been. No Facebook account is needed for this free program. Just point your browser to <https://www.facebook.com/crawfordlibrary> to access the video.

Drug take-back a success



On Saturday, April 24, the Dudley Police Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), conducted another prescription drug "Take Back" event. For the seventeenth time in Dudley, the public had the opportunity to provide for safe disposal of expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. The service was free and anonymous. This was a well-attended event. Over 45 people dropped off a large quantity of prescription medications. A total of 7 boxes were turned in for disposal. It was another successful event, and the Dudley Police encourage everyone to take advantage of these programs in the future. The next one is tentatively planned for the Fall of 2021.

Seed exchange throughout May. Have leftover tomato seeds you don't know what to do with? Want to try growing flowers? Changed your mind about that kind of squash? The Pearle is hosting a seed exchange during the month of May - take some seeds to try, leave the seeds you don't need, and get gardening. Exchange boxes will be placed in the library and all are welcome to contribute flower or vegetable seeds or take some seeds for growing in your own garden.

Understanding your cat, Thursday, June 10 6:30-7:45 p.m. Join us for a presentation by Dr. Rachel Geller, certified cat behaviorist, as she shares insights into what makes cats tick and discusses the typical cat behavioral issues that she encounters in her work. Have a question about your feline friend's

behavior? Dr. Geller will help you see what makes your cat tick. Considering getting a cat or kitten? Dr. Geller can help you decide which cat is purr-fect for your family. Questions are encouraged during this interactive Zoom program. Free. Open to all ages, but registration is required. Registered participants will receive a link for the Zoom program 24 hours before the event.

Summer reading kickoff event: Tails and Tales with Jungle Jim Monday, June 21 3 p.m. Join us on Zoom for our Summer Reading kickoff event with returning favorite magician Jungle Jim! Free, but registration is required. Registered participants will receive a link for the Zoom program 24 hours before the event. Sponsored by Hugh W. and Harriet K. Crawford Endowment.

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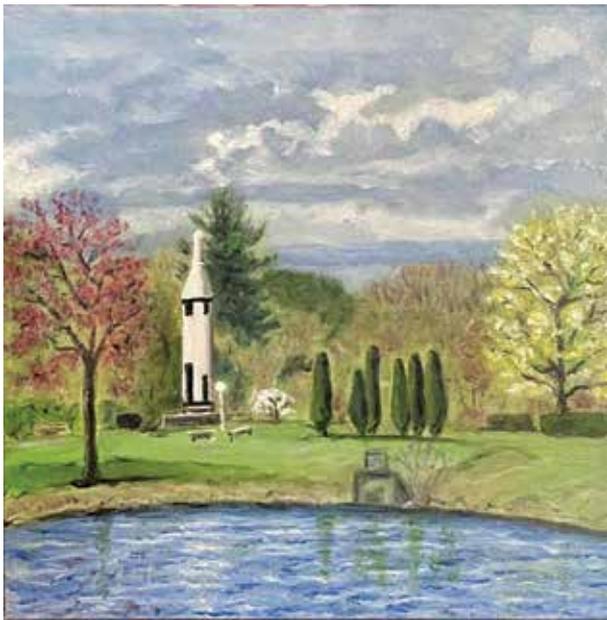
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Painting outdoors



Auburn Recreation and Culture is offering Plein Air - painting outdoors, \$20 per session, \$110 for 6 sessions May 19 - June 23, Wednesdays 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., rain date Thursdays. Pre-registration is required and payment info contact kpappas@town.auburn.ma.us 508-832-7736 or 508-755-3291.

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Supplies included in cost: acrylic paint, brushes, canvas, table easels, and palette paper pad. Students bring: jar of water, paper towels, newspaper, or rags, old cookie sheet (to hold palette paper) and table and chair.

Instructor Jayne Sarkisian is an art enthusiast and a lifelong resident of Auburn, enjoys painting landscape, sunrises and sunsets, and paintings that reflect nature. She pursued her talent by completing two degrees in Fine Arts at Leicester Jr. College and The Worcester Art Museum. While raising two boys, she completed her Bachelor's degree in Education, and worked in the auto insurance field. In 2014, Jayne started a part-time business, Sarkisian Studios. She teaches acrylic painting and crafts to small private groups and to large groups raising money for charities. Jayne has recently retired, is now fine-tuning her painting skills, expanding her paint business, and selling her artwork on Etsy and The Discerning Kaleidoscope. Jayne's teaching is a way of giving back and sharing her love of painting and the arts. jaynesark@aol.com, 508-414-2486, facebook.com/Sarkisian Studios, etsy.com/shop/Sarkisian Studios.

- Kristen M. Pappas

Photographer's love of water



WEBSTER - "Water - The Stuff of Life," photography by Don McCallister, is on display and for sale May 1st-29 at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, Webster, during regular business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5. For more information call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com.

Artist's Statement: Years ago I read the book "The Immense Journey" by naturalist Loren Eiseley. In it he wrote "If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water." It was also around this time that I began my own forty-plus year journey as a photographer and I did not realize how often water would be a key element in my images. In reviewing my archives this past winter, the idea of building a collection based upon the theme of water took hold. Memories of some of my favorite images came back and I dug through boxes of old Kodachrome slides to find some of these pictures. Melding the old and the new resulted in dozens of candidates that I whittled down to this final collection. Looking forward and back, I hope these images inspire people to look for beauty in our natural world and in that most common of everyday things, water.

Thanksgiving in April

The Bartlett Indians and the Southbridge Pioneers met for the 101st time at McMahon field on Monday, April 19. It might be months after Thanksgiving but the excitement and anticipation were evident in the players and few fans who were lucky enough to attend the game. As always, the two teams leave their hearts on the field and stats mean nothing for these two rivals. They played hard and fought tough in another nail biter game. Great play by all and the Indians came back to Webster with a 22-12 victory. Congratulations.



Sam Kontoes dives for a first down following this catch from Alex Nunez. See more photos on the Yankee Xpress Facebook page.



Zack Latuga blocking for QB Alex Nunez to get the pass off.



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Peter Coyle



School sports "wedge season" filled a void

The high school "wedge season" is complete and the MIAA hit a home run by following their plan and they deserve credit.

The kids got a half season in games played in football, soccer, and field hockey and they gave all of us hope and

enthusiasm after COVID-19 that paralyzed us since February 2020.

The breakout wedge season from COVID was courageous for anyone who was involved in the day-to-day process. Good job to student athletes, coaches, officials,

and all frontline staff from ticket collectors, groundskeepers, etc.

The upper athletic field on Ray Street in Webster was in terrific shape thanks to the work of Ken Pizzetti and his staff. Getting any field ready to play by mid-April during a normal year for baseball and softball is a challenge. Trying to get a football field ready for games in March is unbelievable and Pizzetti pulled it off. Kudos to Pizzetti again.

A lot of curiosity was spiked from a January story in this space about the removal and disappearance of the grandstands at the Memorial Field in Webster. Safety reasons forbade any further seating in those bleachers and that's the reason they were disassembled and removed.

After this "wedge season," it's sad to say that public seating isn't needed anymore. Spectators are non-existent at high school contests. Purchasing public seating for 40 people attending a football game is an economic waste.

Thanksgiving Day games draw 250 people so what is the sense of purchasing expensive bleachers that have to pass a safety code every year at the town's expense.

After a year of being pent-up because of COVID-19, the Bartlett at Southbridge foot-

ball game on Patriots Day only attracted 200 fans. Sad times in front of us old timers who rarely followed the football as spectators. It was all about what the other players were doing on that specific play. If you don't understand that, please don't try. Just ask someone over 60 about blocking and tackling. It's a lost skill. Colliding into a runningback gets the applause today.

Back to no bleachers and no fans attending games these days it is because iPhones and iPads and live streaming allows any fan to sit at home and watch a high school sporting contest.

The dinosaurs are fading fast, meaning old school beliefs and traditions do not exist anymore. The millennial era is here to stay. Saw it coming like a tsunami.

Congratulations to the Oxford High School football program as they finished the wedge season at 4-1. That 4-1 record got Head coach Jeff Clarkson and his staff a complimentary breakfast at Carl's Diner.

Pirate alum Gordon Cook and head chef at Carl's will prepare the meal and even deliver the fixings to his old school. Cook is a favorite of this address and learned from the best while at Oxford in the late 70s in the likes of Roger Bacon and the late Joe Moran and also from Paul "the Bear" Brissette who greeted Cook at the front door every morning back in the day. After Cook passed inspection with Brissette, it was on to John Mullen's classroom for a quick rendition of the Pirate fight song and a lesson on semper fidelis.

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BHS head coach Dane Laboissonniere (right) addresses his team following the win over Southbridge in the postponed Thanksgiving Day football game. He noted that the seniors have the distinction of beating their rival for all four of their high school years. This was his final on-field talk with the team as he has decided to retire. Good luck, coach.

Brad Smith, BHS legend

The recent passing of Brad Smith, a great friend to many and the ultimate teammate, who had an easy sense of humor, has saddened all who knew him.

Brad lived his life to the fullest and enjoyed any and all opportunities to compete and he excelled on the biggest stages as a Bartlett athlete.

He accomplished more championships-six-than any other athlete in the history of Bartlett athletics.

This space is challenging any athlete statewide ever to match Brad's six biggest stage championships. More on that later.

Brad's Bartlett High School athletic resumé has appeared in this space many, many times over the past 35 years as the all time benchmark of exactly what a teammate, leader, and winner should be.

The spirit of the Bartlett Athletic Hall of Fame never recognized their six highest and ultimate accomplishments from 1979 through 1981, with the individual common denominator being Brad Smith, until 2018. Brad was a great teammate and leader on all his Indian basketball teams and expressed many times that it was all about his teammates and timing.

Brad was proud to wear that Bartlett uniform and put it on in front of so many venues across the state in six championship games. Brad was one the best advertisers that Bartlett could have ever hoped for. Nobody ever advertised the green Bartlett uniform on the biggest of biggest stages more than

Brad Smith during his years at Bartlett from 1978 to 1981. No Bartlett graduate has ever accomplished what Brad Smith accomplished as a starter and a statistical leader during these milestones.

Basketball State Champion 1979, Clark Tournament Champion 1979, 1980, and 1981, and Basketball District Champion 1979 and 1981. Six for six. Perfect. That's six championships of the highest level of competition that Bartlett could ever qualify for.

No Bartlett student athlete in the history of Bartlett High School ever did what Brad Smith did as a starter on all these six championship teams.

Let's keep in mind that Brad didn't get inducted in the prestigious Bartlett Hall of Fame as an individual athlete until 2018, but he was most proud of the 1979 state championship team being inducted in 2002. The 1978-79 basketball team coached by Bob Paranto was inducted 2002.

Brad's additional accomplishments were Telegram and Gazette Super Team member, Border Conference All Star, member of the prestigious Best of 48 state-wide All Star game, and a member of the 10 best Central Mass team of basketball players.

Brad averaged 26 points his senior year and was a 1,000 point career scorer and played on a border conference championship team in basketball. Adding the border conference championship team totals Brad's championships to seven overall. But, those six championships on the highest of highest stages



will never be duplicated again at Bartlett.

Brad also started at short-stop in baseball a couple of years for the Indians.

He went on to start in basketball at Southeastern Mass University for three years.

Brad's brother Bruce has been on the waiting list on the Bartlett High School Athletic Hall of Fame committee's table for a long time and Bruce's athletic achievements as an Indian include being a three sport starter for three years and he excelled in football as a tightend and linebacker where he earned a full scholarship to Division One Northeastern. Bruce played on a Class B Central Mass Championship team for coach Joe Lucido and scored 988 career points in basketball.

The Smith brothers should have been in the Bartlett Hall of Fame a long time ago and imagine if they went in together... No, that would have made too much sense.

Thank you, Brad Smith, for spreading your good will smile to all whom you considered friends and we know you are looking down at your brother Bruce who deserves a place at the Bartlett Hall of Fame table.

Peter Coyle

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Tips on financial planning



Dennis Antonopoulos
The COVID-19 pandemic may have unsettled many aspects

What to expect from a financial review

of your life – including your financial situation. Even if your employment and earnings were not directly affected, you might have concerns about whether you've been making the right investment moves in such a stressful environment. The pandemic is, hopefully, just a once-in-a-lifetime occurrence, but different events can rattle financial markets. And changes in your own life

also can affect your plans. To prepare yourself for whatever tomorrow may hold, you may want to get some professional help – but what, really, can you expect from a financial advisor?

A financial advisor will look holistically at your life – your family composition, your career, your hopes and dreams, your instincts about saving and spending money, your

risk tolerance and other factors. So, during your initial meeting, and at subsequent reviews afterward, here are some of the key areas you'll discuss:

- Feelings about your financial situation – Numbers are important to financial advisors, but what's most meaningful to them is understanding what's important to their clients. Are you confident about your overall financial outlook? Are you worried about your cash flow? Are you distressed over volatility in the financial markets? Do you have concerns about your career? By getting at the answers to these and similar questions, a financial advisor can gain a clear sense of who you are and what matters to you. You can then follow an established process to build your personalized strategies and take the specific actions needed to achieve your goals.
- Progress toward your goals – It takes patience and discipline to achieve long-term goals, such as helping send your kids to college or enjoying the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned for your-

self. As you save and invest for these goals over the years, you'll want to...measure your progress regularly. If you seem to be falling behind, your financial advisor can suggest moves such as increasing your investments or adjusting your investment mix.

- Changes in your family situation – Marriage or remarriage, the arrival of new children, the departure of children for college, caregiving responsibilities for older parents – any and all of these events can make a big difference in your goals and, as a result, your investment plans. During your reviews, your financial advisor will consider these changes when making suggestions or recommendations. (Changes in your family's status may affect your estate plans, so you'll also need to work with your legal advisor or other estate-planning professional.)

- Changes in your retirement plans – As you near retirement, you might decide that your original plans for this time of your life no longer suit you. For example, you might have once thought that, when

you retired, you would stay close to home, volunteering and pursuing your hobbies. But now you've been thinking how much you would enjoy traveling, or perhaps even living abroad for a while. To accommodate your change in plans, a financial professional may recommend certain moves, such as working a couple of years longer or adjusting the amount you eventually withdraw from your 401(k), IRA and other retirement accounts.

As you work toward your goals, you may find it challenging to navigate the financial markets and respond to the changes in your life – but you don't have to go it alone. And knowing what to expect from a financial advisor can help smooth your journey.

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



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RE: Real Estate



Mark Marzeotti

Not only does the house you're selling have a fresh coat of paint you changed out the light fixtures in the bathroom and upgraded the stove. But is it enough to impress the home appraiser who's come to assess your house's value? There are quite a few factors that go into a home appraisal.

What does a home appraiser look for?

A home appraiser's role is to determine a home's value by investigating the property's location, square footage, condition, number of rooms and any renovations or additions. They'll also look at recent sales of similar homes in the neighborhood.

So, what are some of the key external factors they'll consider? Like many parts of a home appraisal, much of this is beyond your control:

- The location. Everything from the quality of the school district to the proximity to employment opportunities gets factored in here. An appraiser will also consider things like entertainment (is there a movie theater or restaurants nearby?) as well as likelihood of any impact from a natural disaster (say, if it's in a flood zone).

- Land use. If you look at the neighborhood, is it suburban, rural or urban? What percentage of the land is used for homes vs. businesses? Are there a lot of wide open spaces (parks, etc.) or is it very dense?

- The size of your lot. Do you have space to expand? A backyard? Room to grow? This can affect your appraisal amount.

- Access to public utilities. Everything from water to sewage—a home appraiser will want to know if hookups are available.

- Parking. This applies to the quality of the driveway (is it paved? dirt? something else?) to the size of your garage (or lack of one, if that's the case).

- The year your property was built. The age of your property is something a home appraiser considers, but his or her assessment can be affected by maintenance.

- The roof and foundation type. Newer homes typically utilize newer materials. Same applies to your home's siding, windows and doors (anything that's more energy-efficient will give your home an automatic uptick in value).

- Square footage. Also, the number of bedrooms and bathrooms.

- Basement and attic features. Do you have a finished basement and attic? Can it be turned into a playroom? Or is it more of a crawl space?

- Recent renovations. They'll particularly look at kitchens and bathrooms.

While the buyer's bank typically chooses the home appraiser, it's worth noting that the person they select is someone who has to be certified in your state, which means they have to adhere to the Appraisal Foundation's Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice. Your REALTOR can guide you on this. A good way to think of a home appraiser is to consider them a neutral party. Their number one goal is to confirm that the price of the home is fair to everyone—the buyer, the seller and the bank.

The appraisal happens after

What hurts a home appraisal? 6 common factors to consider

an offer is made, but before that deal has closed. And if the home appraisal comes in and the price is off the mark? If the appraised value is higher than the offer, then there's typically no issue in terms of the loan, but if the appraisal is lower, this can be tricky since the lender will only loan money up to the appraised amount. The impact for the seller is that the buyer could pull their offer. This is where your REALTOR can help you with the additional negotiation to keep this deal on track.

Home appraisal factors you can control

There are quite a few factors that you have the power to change ahead of an assessment by a home appraiser. Yes, things like your home's location or recent sales in the neighborhood play a part, but you can control any renovations you've done or will do to your home. For instance, if you've built an addition like another bedroom or turned a dingy basement into a gorgeous rec room, this should raise your home's value.

Make sure you hold onto any records of renovations you've done and keep in mind that what you paid for these renovations may not boost your home's value dollar for dollar.

Other factors you can control:

1. A leaky roof.

One of the worst things you can do is delay on necessary maintenance. It's that leaky roof or the deck repair you've neglected for years—over time they'll become much more costly or extensive problems.

2. Dated finishes or appliances.

Things like worn-out countertops or bathroom tiles that need to be re-grouted all have an impact on the final assessment of your home

before a sale. So take the time, and put in the money to fix these things before putting your home on the market.

Just be mindful that you don't over-improve (go too fancy or too niche with your design choices on hardware or bathtubs, etc.) since you want a look that will appeal to the maximum number of buyers. (One man's walk-in wine cellar is another man's giant headache.)

3. Obvious repairs.

Let's say you had someone in to assess that roof repair and you're on it—your REALTOR will make it clear to your home appraiser that this will be done by the time of the sale, so that they don't take that amount off the final value of the home.

Make sure to also honestly consider any renovations or changes you've made for the worse—particularly any amenities you've removed. For instance, if you've torn down a wall to prioritize an open floor plan, but eliminated a bedroom in the process or removed a jacuzzi from the backyard, this could detract from your home's appraised value. Think long and hard before you remove

any features from your home.

OK, so how about the things you can't control? Most of this comes down to your home's location:

1. The value of nearby listings.

Like we said, it's not just the internal factors of your home that make a difference—a lot is tied to how your home measures up against other listings in your area. (In the real estate world, this is referred to an assessment of comparable sales.)

In this sense, an appraiser will consider your house's square footage and number of stories in comparison to similar models. This applies to amenities, too. Let's say your home has a two-car garage. What are other homes with these types of features selling for nearby?

A good appraiser will consider multiple properties and be weary of outliers. (Say, that bargain listing right across the street from the highway off-ramp.)

2. Market conditions.

This is about supply and demand. If your home is in an area with decreasing prices or vacancies and foreclosures, this could negative-

ly affect your home's value. But if sales are on the rise and the future trajectory of your area looks positive (growing employment and a home inspector—ahead of time

That said, if you're fielding multiple offers on your property, your REALTOR will let your appraiser know. (That could be a testament to not just value and future value, but also improving market conditions.)

3. A busy street.

If your home is off a freeway or

near a bustling shopping district with loads of outdoor restaurants, that can lower the final appraisal. Bottom Line: Consult your agent—and a home inspector—ahead of time

A REALTOR is trained to foresee potential problem areas. Have a conversation with them about any anxieties you have, but also do a walk-through to talk through the obvious changes you can make ahead of a home appraisal—all to ensure you get the top dollar you deserve.

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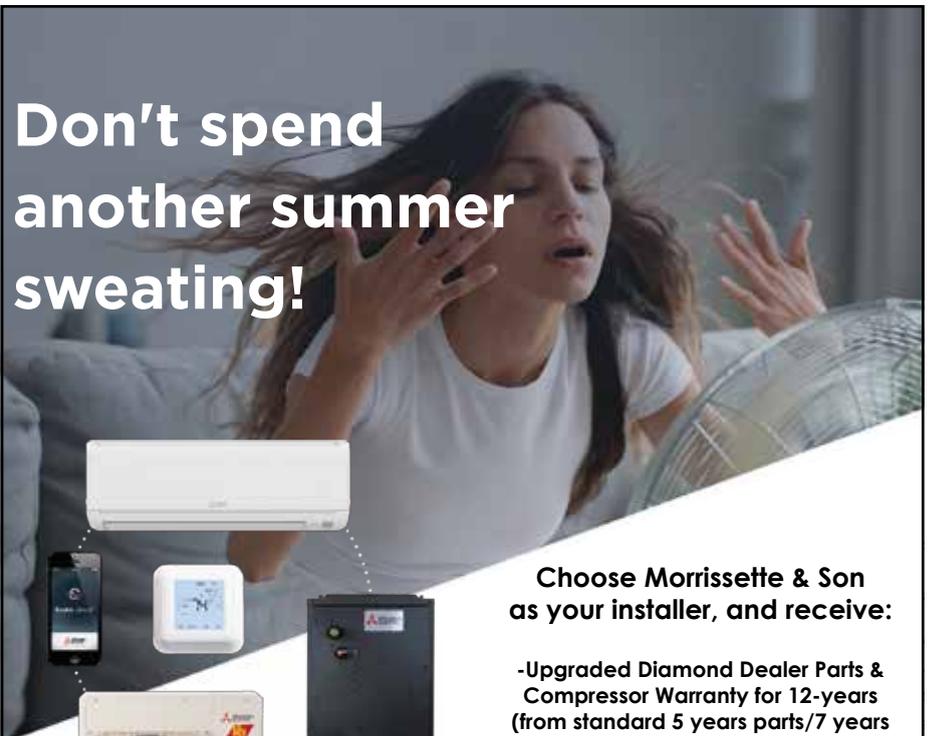
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