

## INSIDE

**GRAFTON BUSINESS**  
ShopGraftonMA  
PAGE 6

**GERRY GAUDETTE**  
Extra Mile Award  
PAGE 10

**LIVING WITH LINCOLN**  
Who needs Santa?  
PAGE 15



## Resourcefulness sees BV Chamber through the pandemic

By Rod Lee

As Joshua Lee Smith passes the chairmanship of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce to Kevin Hayes, he does so with appreciation for having witnessed “an amazing metamorphosis, which has taken the BVCC from a small rural Chamber to one that is a national leader” in introducing programs and projects that other chambers across the country are now emulating.

Mr. Smith’s message was a highlight of the Chamber’s 43rd annual meeting and awards ceremony at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton on November 17th, as was the keynote address given by Gov.

Charlie Baker. In his remarks, the governor compared guiding the Commonwealth through the COVID-19 pandemic as “a three-act play” consisting of a scramble when the supply chain “froze,” implementing testing procedures and vaccination plans to deal with the virus when it hit full force, and helping the state reopen when it eased.

Both Mr. Smith, a land use and real estate lawyer for Bowditch & Dewey, and Chamber President and CEO Jeannie Hebert spoke of 2020-21 as “groundbreaking” in terms of how the organization had to “shape shifting ways” of ad-

ressing the needs of the businesses and municipalities it serves, as the pandemic took hold.

“The BVCC has been a steadfast partner throughout,” Mr. Smith said. “A guiding light and positive influence, meeting the challenges by keeping abreast of cutting-edge opportunities to keep businesses afloat and distributing information throughout the region and beyond.”

The Chamber never turned anyone away who was in need of assistance, in the Blackstone Valley, “or out of our quote ‘service area,’” he said.

Continued on page 8



“The dedication of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is limitless and the region of Central Massachusetts is better for it,” outgoing chairman Joshua Lee Smith reported to members on November 17.

## Christmas Messages from Blackstone Valley Pastors

By Christina Galeone

For the past several years, in this annual column, we’ve featured responses by Blackstone Valley pastors to a variety of questions. Their collective responses to sometimes complex questions have been clever, poignant and heartwarming.

But these times have been more complex and challenging than most of us could have ever imagined. So, this year, we asked the pastors to simply provide their Christmas messages to the Blackstone Valley. And, as in past years, their words carry the holiday’s hope, peace and joy to the area.

1. **Reverend Dr. Richard J. Robison**, Baptist Church of Grafton, BCG (bcg1800.org), located at 1 South Street in Grafton:

The old familiar carol asks, “Do You Hear What I Hear?”

Someone said: I heard the news tonight. It wasn’t very good. Then, I switched to another site, and the ads were popping up. Everything was on sale. Bring your coupon and store cash, and get an additional 30 percent off. All I heard was spend, spend, spend!

I heard some Christmas songs on Christmas radio! “Jolly Old

Saint Nicholas,” “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer” and “White Christmas.”

They asked some children what Christmas means to them. I heard one say, “Santa Claus has a white beard.” Another quipped, ‘My parents get all stressed about Christmas.’ Yet another said, “I wrote a letter to Santa. I asked him for a Moon Lamp, a Harry Potter LEGO set and a Nintendo Switch Light, but I don’t think I’ll get any of them.”

Finally, I went to church. The music I heard was quiet and calming, and I heard something more.

‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people’ (Luke 2:10)

And even more. I heard a song about the bells on Christmas Day, their old familiar carols play “of peace on Earth, good will to all.” Finally, I knew I had heard the voice of Christmas!

May you hear the Good News of Christmas, as though you have never heard it before!

*Have a Blessed Holiday Season,  
Pastor Rich Robison  
Interim Pastor of the Baptist Church  
of Grafton*



2. **Reverend Anthony Mpagi**, Saint James Catholic Church, www.stjamesgrafton.com, located at 89 Main Street in South Grafton:

‘The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise.’ (Jeremiah 33, 14)

Dear Friends in Christ,  
Two years ago, October 2019, I traveled to Uganda accompanying,  
Continued on page 2

**STOP AGING TODAY**

(508) 841-5037 | 307 Grafton St  
concergephysicaltherapy.com

**4 SECRETS TO WIN  
THE BATTLE  
AGAINST AGING**

scan code or visit  
bit.ly/3m3dLiv

**I’ve got my bank at my fingertips and my future in my hands.**

Tomorrow is already on its way, and our job is to help you make the most of it. With our on-the-go banking tools like Zelle®, Face and Touch ID and Mobile Deposit, you can safely send, receive and manage your money on your own terms.

**Unlock your potential**

Learn more at [bankHometown.com](http://bankHometown.com) or call 888.307.5887

Member FDIC | Member DIF

**The DEEP CLEAN SPECIALISTS**

*Inside and Out!*

**FREE Loaner Car with this ad**

**Worcester \* Westboro**

**508-755-5250**

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGES

**Continued from front page**  
my mother who was to be spending the winter at home. In Uganda, I providentially “run into” two people who made a lasting impression on me when I was growing up.

First, I randomly decided to pay an unannounced courtesy call to Father Larry Kanyike. Father Larry is Pastor of Saint Joseph’s Church Kyengera (Kampala Archdiocese, Uganda), but for a very long time, he was the chaplain of the Saint Augustine Community at Makerere University (one of the oldest and top universities in Uganda and Africa). Concurrently, he was and still is a faculty member at St. Mbaaga Major Seminary, where I was a student. Father Larry is an icon. He speaks with a very strong American accent; he studied at Notre Dame University for many years. He is very confident and personable, an all-round sportsman and

an academican. He is also a man of culture and the Letters.

His most lasting impression, however, on many students at the national university and in seminary was a strong Catholic life and Christian work ethic. He rebuilt the university chaplaincy from scratch. He celebrated Masses in student halls, organized faculty and student seminars, retreats, debates and outdoor picnics. He started a national television program called “Focus on Christian Faith,” in which he shared values and views with a Gospel perspective. He challenged us students not to be afraid; be a proud Christian and Catholic, most especially, after university. He educated many poor students, paying for their school fees himself.

After retiring from the university and seminary formation, he was given a new rural parish to build, and he has done an excellent job. With his contacts and

friends in the U.S., he has built a beautiful modern parish with a school, a convent next to it and much more. He is in his late seventies and suffered a stroke but is still going strong and teaching. He was happy to see me, and we caught up on the seminary days and a lot about America that he still visits every year. After lunch, he told me he was off to count the Sunday collections that will not even amount to two hundred dollars.

I also got a few days to go on a short retreat. I stumbled upon the Daniel Comboni Sisters Retreat Center in Namugongo. Saint Daniel Comboni was an Italian Missionary from Verona Italy. In the early 1900s, he started a missionary congregation to evangelize the African continent. Unlike many founders of congregations, Daniel Comboni’s mission was to “Save Africa with Africans.” His interest was to stop slave trade, educate the African people in Africa, and build

schools, hospitals, and train leaders, who will oversee the holistic transformation of the society – building on African values and the Gospel side by side.

I went to kindergarten in Our Lady of Africa Parish run by the Comboni missionaries. Our head teacher was Sister Gabriella, an Italian nun. I inquired where she was, if she was even still alive. To my shock and surprise, she was here! At this place I stumbled upon! Many of these missionaries have given themselves to the poorest of the poor. Sister Gabriella is now over 85 years old, but she has chosen to retire in Africa, where she has lived for more than 50 years.

We had a great time with the nuns who run the center (four Italians, one Spanish and one from Eritrea). I celebrated Mass for them and the postulants every morning at 7 a.m., and what singing and joy! It was powerful to see how these religious women (and men) have “pitched a tent” in unbearable conditions to give dignity, a voice and education to the poorest, that they too may know that God is not far away. ‘He is with us’ (Emanuel)

Both visits touched me deeply to this day!

As we gather this Thanksgiving, the season of Advent will begin. The Church prepares us in this special season, spiritually, for the birth of Christ. Christmas reminds us that God is with us. “The Word was made flesh and is dwelling among us. [John 1:14]” He has pitched a tent in our midst even though we may not realize it. We recall how through history and in our present daily living, through many people and events, God guided us by his grace. The future we will always enter confidently because of His grace.

Let us ponder God who has been present to us and be thankful, but most of all, let us be challenged this Advent season to tell the Good news of the child born in Bethlehem, with the witness of service to our neighbor. Let the grace of God not stop at your door. Share it with others. Look and find Bethlehem today in the poorest, the lost, the isolated, the despised and depressed, the fearful and the anxious; transform them with your effort, self-sacrifice and good example that they may know that the Savior of the world is here!

Happy Advent & a Blessed Christmas!

*In the Lord,  
Father Anthony Mpagi*

3. **Licensed Lay Minister Thomas Houston**, Emanuel Lutheran Church, <https://emanuelworc.org/>, located at 200 Greenwood Street in Worcester:

As we approached Christmas last year and were faced with the distress caused by the COVID-19 virus, I’m certain everyone was hoping and praying that things would be back to normal by Christmas 2021. And, while the vaccines have gone a long way in helping to modulate the effects of serious illness, the world remains in the grip of a global pandemic.

God’s people have been denied a great many of those things that have been previously taken for granted. Warm hugs and friendly handshakes have been replaced with fist and elbow bumps. Get-togethers among families and friends have taken place online via Zoom. Masks, social-distancing, and never-ending hand washing have become the norm. For most of us, these have amounted to nuisances, but for many others, the effects of the pandemic have been much more impactful.

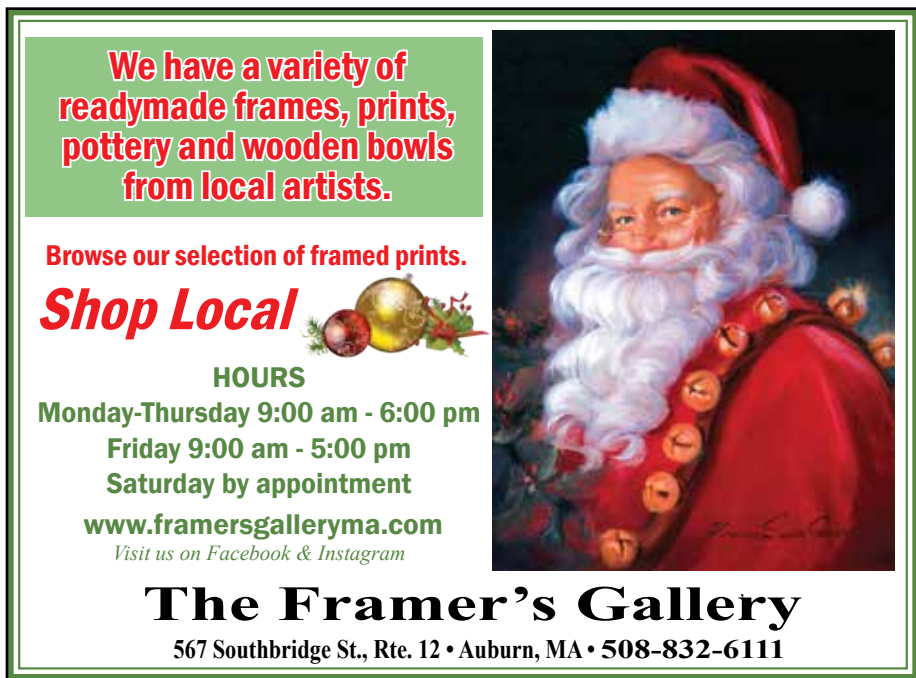
Frontline workers have been stretched to the limit, businesses are unable to continue to operate, and job losses and income reduc-

**Continued on next page**



**BIG KAHUNA CAR WASH TOUCHLESS**  
**WELCOME!**  
89 Southbridge St.  
Auburn, MA  
(across from Sword St.)  
Vacuums always 75¢

<b>BIG KAHUNA</b>	<b>\$18</b>
• BIG KAHUNA CARNAUBA WAX • UNDERCARRIAGE WASH W/ ROCKER BLASTER • x2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK • HIGH PRESSURE WASH • FOAMING POLISH • SHIELD "HIGH GLOSS TOTAL PROTECTANT" • SPOT FREE RINSE • LASERDRI	
<b>DELUXE WASH</b>	<b>\$14</b>
• UNDERCARRIAGE WASH W/ ROCKER BLASTER • x2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK • HIGH PRESSURE WASH • FOAMING POLISH • SHIELD "HIGH GLOSS TOTAL PROTECTANT" • SPOT FREE RINSE • LASERDRI	
<b>SUPER WASH</b>	<b>\$10</b>
• UNDERCARRIAGE WASH W/ ROCKER BLASTER • x2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK • HIGH PRESSURE WASH • SPOT FREE RINSE • LASERDRI	
<b>BASIC WASH</b>	<b>\$8</b>
• x2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK • HIGH PRESSURE WASH • SPOT FREE RINSE • LASERDRI	

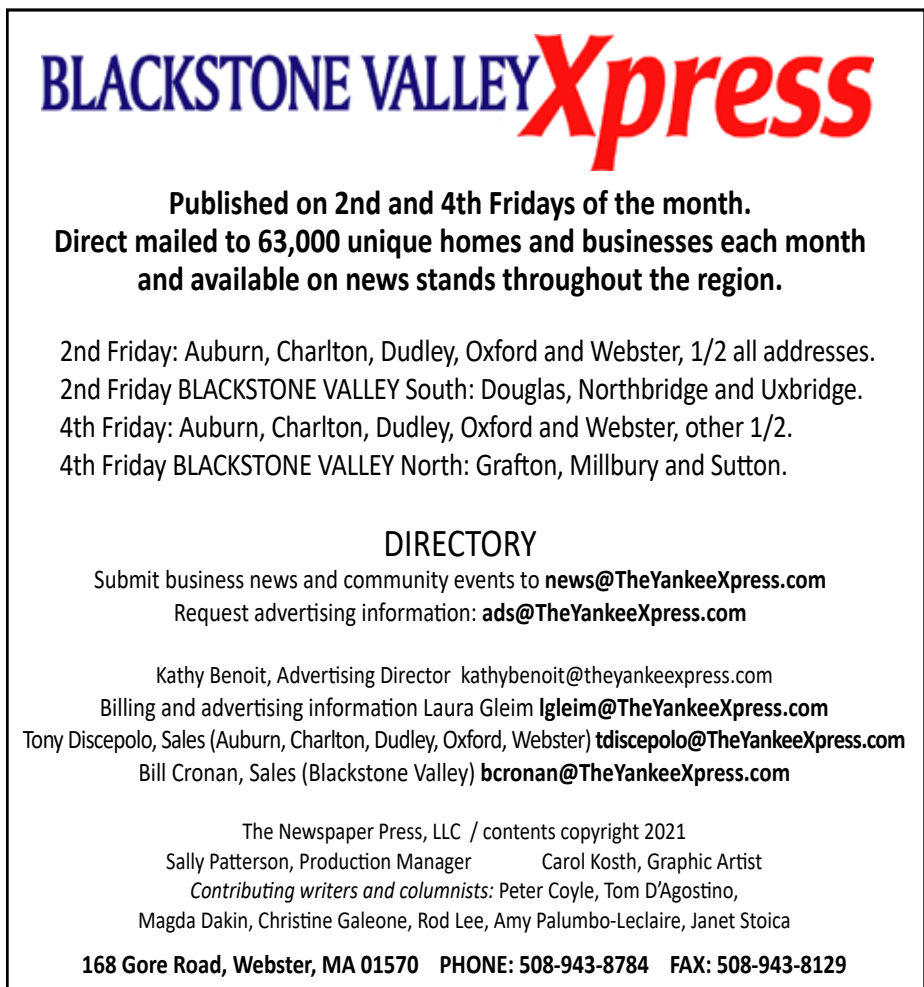


**We have a variety of readymade frames, prints, pottery and wooden bowls from local artists.**

Browse our selection of framed prints.  
**Shop Local**

**HOURS**  
Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Saturday by appointment  
[www.framersgalleryma.com](http://www.framersgalleryma.com)  
Visit us on Facebook & Instagram

**The Framer's Gallery**  
567 Southbridge St., Rte. 12 • Auburn, MA • 508-832-6111



**BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress**

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

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

**DIRECTORY**  
Submit business news and community events to [news@TheYankeeXpress.com](mailto:news@TheYankeeXpress.com)  
Request advertising information: [ads@TheYankeeXpress.com](mailto:ads@TheYankeeXpress.com)

Kathy Benoit, Advertising Director [kathybenoit@theyankeeexpress.com](mailto:kathybenoit@theyankeeexpress.com)  
Billing and advertising information Laura Gleim [lgleim@TheYankeeXpress.com](mailto:lgleim@TheYankeeXpress.com)  
Tony Discepolo, Sales (Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, Webster) [tdiscepolo@TheYankeeXpress.com](mailto:tdiscepolo@TheYankeeXpress.com)  
Bill Cronan, Sales (Blackstone Valley) [bcronan@TheYankeeXpress.com](mailto:bcronan@TheYankeeXpress.com)

The Newspaper Press, LLC / contents copyright 2021  
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



**MULHANE**  
*Home for Funerals*  
*Honoring, Remembering, Celebrating*

Owned and operated by the Mulhane Family for over 150 years.

*Stuart & Matthew Mulhane*  
508.865.2560 • [www.mulhane.com](http://www.mulhane.com)

**Christmas continued**

tions have been an enormous strain on a great many of our neighbors. And most importantly, so many of our friends and family members have been stricken by this insidious disease; severe illness, extended hospital stays, intubations, and, sadly, far too many deaths have been the result of life in the shadow of COVID, now impacting another Christmas season.

But we are Resurrection People! We have faith in the God who made us, forgiveness through the Savior who redeemed us and hope through the Spirit who sustains us. As we approach another Christmas with the spectre of COVID looming, we must always cling to the faith and belief that we do not face our troubles by ourselves. While it may often seem that we walk alone, we acknowledge that as people of faith, we place our trust in the One who travels the path of our lives with us. The God who cares deeply for all of humanity will prevail, and the scourge we face now will at some point be a distant memory.

So, let us turn our hearts and minds to the celebration of the Incarnation, the walking of God in flesh among us. The newborn babe in the manger is the reminder that

the joy of Christmas extends far beyond the tree, the lights, the presents and the department store crowds. The coming of the Christ-child into the world is the reassurance that, in spite of the chaos around us, we are the recipients of God's promises, promises that will not be broken.

The troubles of these times will be replaced with the glory of the risen Christ, when all will be made new, and God's Resurrection People will share in new life, free from pain, sorrow and the ills of this world. So be of good cheer, enter the Christmas season with joy and hope! Look forward to a new year, one that, by the grace of God, will herald a return to hugs, handshakes, and the warm gatherings of family and friends. Merry Christmas, and God bless!

*Minister Tom Houston  
Emanuel Lutheran Church,  
Worcester*

4. **Pastor Jamie Walton**, Cornerstone Church, cornerstonebv.org, located at 6 East Hartford Ave. in Uxbridge:

As you read this, I know you feel the burden of the last couple of years. Maybe it is the loss of someone you love, time spent in isolation, a financial burden you did not expect or something else

that has made life hard.

It was ironic that not long after my thoughts about the hope of Advent were printed in this newspaper last year, my family and I had to go into quarantine, because of the virus that has plagued all of us. It was a difficult time of feeling the weight of isolation and the weariness of sickness. It was also a time of deep reflection, because I didn't have much else to do. "Where is God in all this?" I asked myself. It felt dark and hopeless. Yet, it was then I remembered that it is in the darkest places, that the hope of the gospel at Christmas shines the brightest.

I remembered there was another man, a long time ago, feeling alone and depressed. His name was Joseph, and his soon to be wife was pregnant, and it was not his child. He was lying sleepless on his bed when an angel came and told him the boy was the hope of the world. "Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means God with us) - Matthew 1:23.

I was reminded that Christmas means God with us. In the deepest places of pain, in the darkest hour of regret, and in our worst shame imaginable, God came to be with us. Christ was born, Christ died for us, and Christ

rose again. This is the light that shines in the darkness.

Whoever may read this and be feeling lonely, or sad, or sick or desperate, please feel the message of Christmas. It is precisely in the darkest places that Christ shines the brightest. There is hope because God is with us. Spend this Advent praying, celebrating with whomever you can find and join in worship. Cornerstone Church would gladly welcome you to join us at any of our weekend services and on Christmas Eve as well. Just find a church, and join the chorus of people

who know that the hope of Christmas day is still the light we live by. God with us!  
*Pastor Jamie Walton,  
Cornerstone Church*

Clever, poignant and heart-warming still describe the pastors' responses. We hope that these messages will bring the love of Christmas to the Blackstone Valley.

**MA & ISA Certified Arborist**

# Full Circle

**T·R·E·E·C·A·R·E**

Insect and disease diagnosis and treatment #16339

**Specimen and ornamental tree and shrub care Since 1989**

**Dwight A. Bristowe**  
Office: 508-476-3258  
Cell: 508-523-9631  
[www.FullCircleTreeCare.com](http://www.FullCircleTreeCare.com)



# HOULDEN FARM

139 Old Westboro Road,  
N. Grafton • (508) 839-2409

- Christmas Trees
- Wreaths
- Christmas Greens
- Roping
- Cemetery Baskets

**Staying Open thru Dec. 23rd**

- Fruits and Vegetables
- Dairy • Baked Goods

(Off of Rte. 30 by Tufts)  
Hours: Monday through Sunday 10am-5pm



# Chuck's STEAK HOUSE

**PURCHASE \$100 WORTH OF GIFT CARDS GET A \$20 GIFT CARD FOR YOURSELF!**

\* Must purchase on premises. Offer good December only.

**SUPPORT ALL LOCALLY OWNED FAMILY RUN BUSINESSES**

The Lounge opens at 4 Tue - Fri.  
We start seating for dinner:  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday @ 4:30  
Friday @ 4 • Saturday & Sunday @ 2.  
On Monday we golf.

**10 Prospect Street  
Auburn, Mass.  
508-832-2553**

[www.chucks.com](http://www.chucks.com)



**Dream boldly**

with a Home Equity Loan from UniBank.

**Home Equity Loan Rates as low as 2.99% APR**

- No closing fees
- Apply at UniBank.com today!

**UNIBANK**

Connecting all offices: 1.800.578.4270  
[www.unibank.com](http://www.unibank.com)

Scan to apply!

Blackstone • Douglas • Grafton • Hopkinton  
Milford • Shrewsbury • Sutton • Upton  
Uxbridge • Whitinsville • Worcester

MEMBER FDIC/MEMBER DIF • UNIBANK NMLS #583135 \*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) effective as May 20, 2021 and is subject to change at any time. Offer of credit is subject to approval. Homeowners and Flood insurance (where applicable) is required for the life of the loan. Up to 80% Loan-to-Value (LTV) of the market value. Other terms, conditions, and fees may apply.



*Santa says... Make it easy for me this year, give gift cards.*

**COLONY FARMS**  
**OCEAN FRESH SEAFOOD**  
**(508) 832-2561**

- Maine Steamers
- Scallops
- Shrimp
- Tuna
- Fresh Swordfish
- Mahi Mahi
- Salmon

**Live Lobsters Steamed Free!**

Since 1994 OPEN 7 DAYS 9-6

508-832-2561  
 718 Southbridge St., Rte. 12  
 Auburn, Mass. 01501

**ART'S SERVICE STATION**  
 Since 1984  
 508-943-2051

**ART'S SERVICE STATION**  
 6 Oxford Ave., Dudley  
 508-943-2051

Full Service Repair & Complete Diagnostic Service  
 ATV and Motorcycle Tires • Front end Alignments • Propane Fill Station

**Propane REFILL Station**  
 We Fill Campers too!

**FULL INSPECTION STATION**  
 Commercial & Non-Commercial Vehicles • Motorcycle Inspections  
 D.O.T's and MA Inspections  
 Diesel and Heavy Duty

**Gift certificates available**

**ANGELO'S AUTOS**  
 SALES & SERVICE

823 Southbridge St., Auburn, MA  
**508-832-2866**

2014 Nissan Altima      2012 GMC Acadia      2012 Subaru Forester

**PAYMENTS AS LOW AS \$45 PER WEEK**  
[www.angelosautos.com](http://www.angelosautos.com)

like us on facebook

*Happy Holidays and warm wishes for the New Year*

**Gift Certificates sold in any denomination**

*Please call or visit us!*

ANNIE'S BOOK STOP  
 TODAY'S BOOKS - YESTERDAY'S PRICES

65 James St.,  
 Worcester, MA 01603  
 (508) 796-5613  
[anniesbooksworcester.com](http://anniesbooksworcester.com)

info@anniesbooksworcester.com

Feeders • Seeds • Bird Baths and More....

*Gift Cards - Bring a Little Nature into your Life!*

Available in store and online at [shop.thebirdstoreandmore.com](http://shop.thebirdstoreandmore.com)

4 Cedar Street  
 Sturbridge, MA  
**508-347-BIRD**  
[www.TheBirdStoreandMore.com](http://www.TheBirdStoreandMore.com)  
 follow us:

OPEN Mon-Sat 10-6

**The Bird Store and more...**  
*We have loads of products that are proudly made in the USA!*

**Loads of Gifts for Your Holiday Shopping!**

Since 1994 in the round building on Route 20

**Charlton LANDSCAPING & NURSERY SUPPLY, LLC**

Open Weekends in December for great gift ideas! Weather permitting

AMISH PATIO FURNITURE WITH 20 YEAR WARRANTY

PRIMITIVE FARMHOUSE DECOR

Gift Cards Available!

259 Worcester Road/Rt. 20, Charlton, MA • 508-248-9003

**Mexicali FRESH MEX GRILL**

**Our Gift to You!**

Purchase a \$25 Gift Card Get a \$5 Gift Card FREE!

Purchase a \$50 Gift Card Get a \$10 Gift Card FREE!

Purchase a \$100 Gift Card Get a \$20 Gift Card FREE!

Sundays 50¢ Wings All Day!

41 Worcester Road  
 Webster, MA  
**508-461-5070**  
 Sunday-Thursday 11-9  
 Friday & Saturday 11-10

[MexicaliFreshMex.com](http://MexicaliFreshMex.com)  
[Facebook.com/MexicaliFreshMex](https://www.facebook.com/MexicaliFreshMex)

**GENERATIONS**

*A place to nourish your body, mind & spirit*  
 Herbal Apothecary & Gift Shop

Enjoy stress-free shopping this holiday season as you browse our eclectic collection of gifts

Native American Goods ♦ Art ♦ Pottery ♦ Jewelry ♦ Crystals  
 Handblown Glass ♦ Singing Bowls ♦ Malas ♦ Essential Oils  
 Organic Herbs, Teas & Honey ♦ Gift Certificates and more

East Main Plaza - 129 East Main Street - Webster MA 01570  
 508-987-3310      [www.generationshealingcenter.com](http://www.generationshealingcenter.com)

**Gibson's Natural Pet Resort**

Lodging ~ Daycare ~ Grooming  
 Training ~ Pet Supplies

Hours:  
 Mon.-Thurs. 6:30am to 6pm  
 Fri. 9:30am to 4pm  
 Sat. 8am to Noon  
 Sun. 5pm to 6pm only

139 Upton St. (Rte. 140)  
 Grafton, MA • 508-839-1757  
[Grafton@GibsonsNaturalPet.com](mailto:Grafton@GibsonsNaturalPet.com)  
[www.GibsonsNaturalPet.com](http://www.GibsonsNaturalPet.com)

Gift Cards in any amount for the Holidays!

**Gift Certificates Available in Any Denomination!**

**New England Steak & Seafood**  
 11 Uxbridge Road • Route 16 • Mendon, MA 01756

*Casual Elegant Dining & Banquets*

Tel. (508) 473-5079 • (508) 478-0871

Find us on Facebook

email: [nesteakhouse@aol.com](mailto:nesteakhouse@aol.com)  
[www.nesteakandseafood.com](http://www.nesteakandseafood.com)

*It's the season for giving the perfect gift.....*

*Gift Cards  
and  
Gift Certificates*



**DJ's Sportscards**  
Baseball • Football • Hockey • Basketball MTG  
• Pokemon • Yu-gi-oh • Autos • Supplies

*Gift Certificates Available*

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

Hours: Tues.-Fri. 12-6 p.m. - Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Economy Canvas & Awning Co.**  
*Retractable & Stationary Awnings  
Boat & Truck Covers and Related Products*

**Pool Cover Repairs**  
*Over 38 years of service in the community*

- Full Awning Service - Installation, Removal & Cleaning
- Manufacture & Repair All Canvas Products

**HAPPY Holidays**

115 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA • 508-765-5921  
[www.EconomyCanvasAndAwning.com](http://www.EconomyCanvasAndAwning.com)

**HADDAD Auto Detail.com**  
*Henry says give a*

**DEEP CLEAN**

**GIFT CARD**

Worcester, MA 508-755-5250      Westboro, MA 508-366-6260

The Tastiest Gift You'll Receive All Season!

**J. Anthony's ITALIAN GRILL**

Private room for 30 to 260 people

Rts. 12/20, 917 Southbridge St., Auburn, MA  
508-832-9705 • [janthonysgrill.com](http://janthonysgrill.com)

**FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY!**  
**BUY A \$100 HARBRO GIFT CARD AND GET A \$10 ONE FOR YOURSELF.**

Gift card must be purchased before December 23, 2021 to qualify for offer.

**HARBRO** (508) 234-6767  
AUTO SALES SERVICE WWW.HARBROAUTO.COM

**ROBBINS**  
**GARDEN CENTER & Stove Shop**

Santa says... Gift Cards are the perfect present.

- ★ Bird Feeders
- ★ Bird Food
- ★ Bird Baths
- ★ Holiday Decor
- ★ Garden Starting Gifts

508-987-2700 • 508-987-2897  
Mon.-Fri. 8 to 4; Sat. 8 to 2; Sun. 9 to 2  
[www.robbinsgarden.com](http://www.robbinsgarden.com) • [www.woodpelletexperts.com](http://www.woodpelletexperts.com)

28 Sutton Avenue • Oxford, MA • Rte. 395 • Exit 7B

**Give the Gift of Golf**

Every \$25 gift card you purchase, You will receive a \$5 Bonus Card! Promo Starts on Friday Nov. 26th. Cards can be used for Indoor Simulators, Golf Course, Pro Shop & Restaurant (Offer Expires on 12/23/2021)

Pine Ridge Country Club  
28 Pleasant St.  
North Oxford, MA 01537  
P:508-892-9188

**Primitive Goods**  
146 Mendon Street  
Uxbridge, MA  
(508) 278-2700

**Customer Appreciation Day  
Sat., Dec. 18th ALL DAY**

- Outdoor Items • Garden & Patriotic • Furniture
- Antiques to Farmhouse • Village Paint
- Primitive & Country • Candles • Handmade

Hours: Thurs.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Look for more specials throughout the month and January

Gift Cards Are Always A Great Idea!!

**Give The Gift That Shines!**

**Fitzzy's Car Wash**  
OWNER OPERATED

**10% OFF All Gift Cards**  
With this coupon

**"Your destination for all things clean"**  
85 WORCESTER STREET, NO. GRAFTON, MA  
508-839-5250  
[www.fitzzycarwash.com](http://www.fitzzycarwash.com)



# Grafton's Business Scene

**By Christine Galeone**

Christmas is less than ten days away. Soon, children will be listening for sleigh bells. And love and good cheer will smooth over rough political divisions.

Despite everything there is to look forward to, some people may worry that it's too late to get certain things done before the holiday. But in most cases, it's not true. It's not too late.

In Grafton, it's not too late to shop for gifts for family and friends. And there's even still time to participate in Grafton's **ShopGraftonMA** challenge. Shoppers who visit at least 10 participating businesses through Dec. 24, have their frequent visitor cards stamped at each location, and drop off their cards at the Grafton Planning Department, Homefield Credit Union, Crossroads Nutrition or Off the Common Antiques by Jan. 8 will have the chance to win a \$100 gift certificate to a Grafton store.

Four of the many businesses that are participating are the **Grafton Country Store**, **Off the Common Antiques**, **Pecorino** and **Koopman Lumber**. The **Grafton Country Store**, the Grafton Common gift shop that sells

gifts, jewelry, décor and accessories, among other things, offers a vast selection of holiday gifts, ornaments and décor, and it has expanded its hours for the holidays. The shop is currently open Monday through Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday through Saturday from 10 to 7 and Sunday from 10 to 5. The shop also sells vegan and gluten-free chocolates. Nearby, **Off the Common Antiques**, the multi-artisan, multi-vendor shop that has many holiday hand-crafted and antique ornaments and gifts, has also expanded its hours for the holidays. It's now open Sunday through Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday through Saturday from 10:30 to 6. And some days, it has a pop-up chocolate shop with hand-crafted chocolates from **Anna Banana's Homemade Goodness**. Another shop that sells gifts, including a selection of handcrafted chocolates and other sweets, is **Pecorino** country cheese shop, located at 135 Westboro Road in North Grafton. The shop, which offers a variety of gourmet cheeses, spreads, preserves and wine recently started offering a limited availability of sourdough and artisan bread from **Grafton's Bread Guy Breads**. Elsewhere in North Grafton, **Koopman Lumber**, the hardware and paint store that also sells grills, other ap-

pliances and more, is having a sale on selected DeWalt tools, battery packs and other items. The deep discounts will be available throughout December, while supplies last.

Two other businesses that are part of the **ShopGraftonMA** initiative offer unique gifts for the cherished animals in our lives. In South Grafton, **The Saddle Shed** offers a selection of horse equipment, accessories, gifts and tack and has winter wear for horses and their riders. **Quite Fetching**, the bakery and boutique located on the Grafton Common, sells items such as specialty cakes for dogs, pupcakes, dog toys and accessories. It now has holiday items, and it sometimes has kitty cupcakes and specialty cakes for cats.

Although the supply is naturally limited, there might still be time to shop for a Christmas tree. In North Grafton, **Houlden Farm** (which is also part of the **ShopGraftonMA** initiative) is selling Christmas trees, fresh holiday greenery and other décor. It also sells firewood to keep homes cozy. This year, it will be staying open through Dec. 23.

In addition to completing holiday shopping, it's not too late to give back, in the spirit of Christmas. The **American Legion Post 92**, Delisle Goulet is holding its drive to benefit Veterans, Inc., an excellent nonprofit that serves veterans



Santa and the Grinch wave to their admirers. (Courtesy of Friends of Grafton Fire Department Facebook page)

and their families through housing, educational, employment and rehabilitation programs. They've been collecting men's and women's winter boots and accessories, shoes, underwear, personal hygiene and grooming products and bus passes for the homeless veterans residing at its shelter.

Finally, it's not too late to see Santa. On Saturday, Dec. 18, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. (weather permitting), the **Grafton Fire Department** will escort the jolly old elf and the Grinch through neighborhoods in Grafton. Tracking information will be available on that day.

Above all, it's not too late to reflect on what Christmas means to you. We wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy Christmas!

Contact Christine with your business news items at [cmgaleone15@gmail.com](mailto:cmgaleone15@gmail.com).

**NOW IS THE TIME TO PURCHASE OR REFINANCE A HOME!**

Get pre-approved for your dream home, or refinance to get a lower rate/term, get rid of PMI, cash out for home improvement, or more!

Call me today!

Mówię po polsku!



**Eva Kokosinska**

Loan Officer - nmls #19571  
508.847.0728  
ekokosinska@radiusgrp.com  
www.radiusgrp.com/evakokosinska

15 Midstate Dr., Suite 200, Auburn, MA 01501

Eva Kokosinska - Loan Officer - NMLS # 19571; Licensed in CT, FL, MA. Employed by radius financial group inc., NMLS #1846. CT 17213; FL Lender/Service MLD309/MLD1562; MA Lender/Broker MC1846 Equal Housing Lender

## Grafton Public Library ribbon cutting and dedication

GRAFTON - The Grafton Public Library hosted a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony on Friday, December 17. The general public was invited for speeches, tours, and a goodie bag.

Guest speaker included Doug Bowman, Library Planning and Building Committee; State Senator Michael Moore; State Representative David Muradian; Karen Traub, Commissioner; Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; Evan Brassard, Town Administrator; Peter Carlson, Chair; Select Board; Dana Wilson, Capital Campaign; Aaron Vandesteen, Chair; Board of Library Trustees; Beth Gallaway, Library Director.

The \$16.6 million dollar renovation project, partially funded with a grant from the Massachusetts Board of

Library Commissioners, expanded the Library's 94-year-old, 7,200 square foot building to a nearly 26,000 square foot facility with program space and outdoor patios for adults, children and teens; a divisible community meeting room and private tutor and group study rooms; a climate controlled historical archive; a state of art materials checkout and returns system; and the preservation of the Historic Reading Room and Friends ongoing book sale. Library parking tripled, and 4 electric vehicle charging stations are available. Signage, HVAC, lighting, phones, Wi-Fi, fire suppression, intrusion alarms, security cameras and other systems are up to code, and the building is ADA compliant. The Library is in process of completing a

LEED certification and hopes to achieve a Silver rating.

The building was designed by Kenneth Best, principal architect, Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. The project was managed by Mark Sullivan, DA Sullivan & Sons, Inc. while Clerk of the Works Andy Deschenes provided oversight and daily reports. The general contractor CTA Construction Managers executed the project. The Capital Campaign brought in significant community donations to implement naming of rooms and spaces, as well as out of scope projects such as landscaping and a green roof. The Library Planning and Building Committee kept the project on budget, the Historic District Commission provided oversight and signoff on various elements, the Building Department kept the permitting process smooth, Planning Board and Conservation Commission aided with land use and transfers, environmental issues and wetlands protection, and the Finance Committee, Select Board, Friends of the Grafton Public Library and Board of Library Trustees provided financial and moral support. This truly was a community effort and we thank everyone for their support and contributions.



# SANTA SAYS GIFT CARDS ARE THE BEST!

**Zorba's TAVERNA**  
97 Stafford Street, Worcester, MA  
508-796-5828



**WE CAN CATER YOUR OFFICE PARTY**  
Our van can cater right to your door!

**Zorba's Gift Cards make Great Gifts!**

Book your New Years Party

**Hours: Tuesday- Friday 4-9, Saturday 12-9**

## Car Trouble? We Fix Everything!

**OUR BENEFITS FOR YOU**

- FREE Loaner Cars Available
- FREE Rides to Work/Home
- FREE Vehicle Pickup & Delivery
- 6 Month Financing Available
- 3 Years/36k Mile Warranty
- Same Day Service on Most Repairs
- Free Digital Inspections with pictures for absolute transparency

**OIL CHANGE SPECIAL + FREE Check Up**

**\$37.97** synthetic oil change

For faster service, please call ahead for an appointment. Most cars/trucks. One time use. One per customer. Most cars/light trucks. Oil change includes up to 5 qts of motor oil and new oil filter. Some vehicles extra. Tax and disposal fee extra. Cannot combine with any other offers. Must present coupon at check-in. Limited time only.

**PRO Automotive**

**DUDLEY**  
199 Oxford Ave.  
Dudley, MA  
508.461.6591

**WEBSTER**  
626 South Main St.  
Webster, MA  
508.461.5535

**WEBSTER**  
8 Englewood St.  
Webster, MA  
508.504.9337  
508.506.9629

[www.ProAutomotiveMA.com](http://www.ProAutomotiveMA.com)

## Quaker Tavern

466 Quaker Highway • Rte. 146A Uxbridge, MA

**Gift Certificates Make Great Gifts**  
Ask About our Cash Deal

**TUESDAYS TRIVIA NIGHT**  
in the Lounge  
Reservations Recommended

**LIVE MUSIC Saturday Nights in the Lounge**

**OPEN Tuesday through Saturday Noon to 9pm**

**(508) 779-0901**  
WE ARE CLOSED 12/24 to 12/27

**Galliford's RESTAURANT & TAVERN**

**WITH EACH \$100.00 GALLIFORD'S RESTAURANT GIFT CARD PURCHASED, RECEIVE ONE FREE \$20.00 GIFT CARD**  
OFFER ENDS DECEMBER 24, 2021

**GIVE JOY**  
508.928.0928  
2 Southwick St. Mendon, MA

[www.gallifords.com](http://www.gallifords.com)

## SCHULTZY'S PLACE

Breakfast & Lunch

**Gift Certificates**

Available In Any Denomination

Hours  
Mon.-Sat. 5:30am-2pm  
Sundays 6:30am to 2pm

Winner of Worcester's Hot Dog Safari's Golden Hot Dog

3 Boston Road (Heritage Plaza) Sutton, MA • (508) 865-6777

Stop by this Holiday Season for a Gift Certificate for that special someone. Available in any denomination, bought in store.

**SPECIAL OFFER: Every gift certificate purchase of \$25 receive a \$5 gift certificate FREE.**

**\$5.00 off** Any purchase of \$30 or more.  
Exp. 12/31/21

**Scales SEAFOOD & MORE**

45 River St., Millbury, MA  
(508) 865-3377  
[www.scalesseafood.com](http://www.scalesseafood.com)

## Uncle Ronnie's Gift Certificates available in any denomination

**Uncle Ronnie's**  
Fine Food & Spirits Restaurant & Red Tavern

Kitchen hours:  
Wed. & Thurs. 4-9pm  
Fri. 2-9pm  
Sat. & Sun. 11:30am-9pm

2692 Victory Highway, Burrillville, RI • 401-568-6243  
[UncleRonniesRedTavern.com](http://UncleRonniesRedTavern.com)

## The Tole Booth

Treasures for the Home from the Heart

- ★ Dips
- Prints
- Angels
- Snowmen
- Ornaments
- Gift Certificates
- Battery Candles
- Candles & Potpourri
- Trees, Wreaths & Garlands
- Complimentary Gift Bag Wrap! & so much more!

**Gift Certificates may be purchased in ANY DENOMINATION**

129 Main St. (Rte. 122) Blackstone, MA • (508) 876-8900  
Wed.-Sat. 10-5 • Sun 12-5 • Please call for extended hours in December. Closed Dec. 25-28

## GARIERI JEWELERS

Fine Jewelers Since 1946

Bedrock Plaza  
139 Main Street  
Sturbridge, MA 01566  
508-357-9934  
GARIERI.COM

Gift Cards Available  
20% off Diamond Jewelry

## YAMA FUJI Japanese Hibachi Steakhouse

900 Victory Hwy., Suite 3, North Smithfield, RI  
401-597-0885 • [www.yamafujiri.com](http://www.yamafujiri.com)

**Gift Card Special**  
\$300 for just \$250 • \$100 for just \$85  
\$50 for just \$45  
Exp. 12/31/21. Not to be combined with other offers. With this ad.

**BLACKSTONE VALLEY CHAMBER**

Continued from page 1

In fact, “we never closed,” Ms. Hebert noted in her welcoming remarks, as she pointed the room toward in-place upcoming events including “our Home & Busi-

ness Expo on March 12, with a St. Patrick’s Day theme.”

That “business is back!” as Ms. Hebert put it, was reflected in her observation that “Prime Metals had a facility built during Covid-19 in Sutton,” in recognition of Indian Ranch for the entertainment venue’s seventy-five years as host to camping

and music and Clear Vision Alliance for fifteen years in operation, and with a salute to retiring officers and directors Daniel Crossin of Homefield Credit Union and Robin LeClaire of the Lampin Corporation.

Ms. LeClaire received the Women’s Success Network’s Exceptional Woman of Busi-

ness Award. Since taking on the role of president of Lampin Corp. four years ago, she has hired additional employees, incorporated new machinery and increased sales. During the pandemic, her team secured two Paycheck Protection Program loans that ensured Lampin would be able to continue

operating and secure jobs for her employees. While at Lampin, she also oversaw the purchase and integration of Johnson & Bassett and Howard Precision Products.

Hers is one of many of Lampin’s long-term employee retirements.

Kevin Hayes, a senior vice president of Millbury Federal Credit Union, is the Chamber’s incoming chairman, succeeding Joshua Lee Smith.

At the meeting, Christopher Robert received the Chamber’s Cornerstone Award for creating the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster, and Charlie Thompson received the Gerry Gaudette Extra Mile Award for his long and illustrious career as former executive director of the Whittin Community Center in Whittinsville.

Later in the program, Ms. Hebert pointed out that the Chamber’s work would not have been possible without the contributions of the region’s state legislative delegation. In presenting Sen. Michael O. Moore, Sen. Ryan C. Fattman, Rep. Paul K. Frost, Rep. David LeBoeuf, Rep. Joseph D. McKenna, Rep. David K. Muradian Jr., Rep. Brian W. Murray and Rep. Michael J. Soter with the Chamber’s Economic Development Award, she said “they were invaluable to us.”

No better example of the Chamber’s commitment to serving its members and the Chamber “did it,” Ms. Hebert said. “These groups,” like the Food, Beverage and Hospi-

tality Network, and the HR and Business Roundtables, “still exist and meet on a regular basis,” Ms. Hebert said. “We strengthened the work of our committees, the Valley Business Network and the Women’s Success Network through greater outreach, taking the lead on funneling grant applications from MGCC, CARES Act, PPP and ARPA funding, LRRP funds to our municipal partners, EIDL info and connecting our banking and Central MA Regional Planning Commission partners to help aid in the process.”

From drop-in zoom meetings and e-blasts “to inform our businesses and the community at large of financial opportunities, grants and concrete assistance” available to them to facilitating and assisting with applications for help to creating “industry-specific peer groups (open to the public),” the Chamber “did it,” Ms. Hebert said.

“These groups,” like the Food, Beverage and Hospi-

Continued on next page

# Hear For The Holidays!



Enjoy the sounds of the season  
Give the gift of hearing to yourself or a loved one this year.  
TV transmitters and Companion mics make great gifts.

We are here to help!

[www.hearjoyaudiology.com](http://www.hearjoyaudiology.com) for online booking

HEAR JOY IS AN INDEPENDENT PRACTICE



## HearJOY AUDIOLOGY

PRECIOUS SOUNDS, LIFE'S PLEASURES



Dr. Mary Ellen Rancourt

43 Main Street  
South Grafton, MA  
Call 774-293-1515

Dr. Rancourt has over 30 years of experience as an audiologist, serving newborns to elders.

**WCCC**  
Fitness. Family. Community.

# Winter Meltdown OPEN HOUSE

FREE Guided Tours Available!

**ONE DAY ONLY, JAN 3rd**

**Save 25%** When you pay for a NEW membership in full or by monthly draft, receive 25% off the 2021 rates in addition to no joining fee!

Register online or in person at the Member Services Desk!

Whittin Community Center  
60 Main Street, Whittinsville MA 01588  
[www.WhittinCommunityCenter.com](http://www.WhittinCommunityCenter.com)

NOTE: The membership promotions listed above cannot be combined with any other discount or promotion. Corporate rates, Tufts Health Insurance discounts and Black Friday Gift Certificates are not eligible for these membership promotions. Other exclusions may apply.

Call today for your **FREE In-Home Consultation**

**SUPER WINTER SALE**

Block that damaging SUN

**Save 20%** on all sliding door treatments

**Save 25%** on all Honeycomb and Solar/Roller Shades

Cannot be combined with any other coupons or offers. Offer valid until 12/31/21

Independently Owned & Operated by Sue Adams

**Local: 508-865-9300**

- Home Grown Meats for the local community
- Seasonal Produce
- Fresh Eggs
- Local Products

**64 Williams Street**  
**Upton, MA**



**Continued**

region during the pandemic can be cited than “the important work of the BV Ed Hub, never missing a beat to provide important workforce training in tune to the needs of our manufactur-

ers,” Ms. Hebert said. Collaboration with the Worcester County Sheriff’s Department, remake, MassHire, Grafton Job Corps, state apprentice programs and with superintendents and local high schools pointed students

toward a viable career path while also providing companies with skilled workers “so desperately needed across the Commonwealth,” she said.

In her message, Ms. Hebert reminded members that the Chamber is “the region’s oldest and leading economic development and business advocacy organization. Everything we do, from our involvement in government af-

fairs, education, destination marketing, community leadership, membership services and business expansion initiatives is to create a climate where business can grow and thrive, where a skilled workforce is available and where residents want to live and work.”

Contact Rod Lee at [rodlee.1963@gmail.com](mailto:rodlee.1963@gmail.com) or 774-232-2999.

**Clothing swap**

The Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church in Whitinsville will host a clothing swap on Saturday, January 15, from 9-11 a.m. They accept donations of gently used men’s, women’s and children’s clothing, shoes and accessories. No rips or stains please.

Donations can be dropped off on Friday, January 14, between 6-7 p.m. or the morning of the swap. Please use the driveway between Dominos Pizza and the law office and come in through the back of the church.

You don’t have to donate to take something home and you don’t have to take something home to donate. Everything is free and open to the public. Whether you’re looking to clean out your closet or refresh your wardrobe, this is the event for you. Any questions, please call Christine at 774-262-6415 or email [edalyne@hotmail.com](mailto:edalyne@hotmail.com).



“Keep calm and let the governor handle it!” Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Jeannie Hebert said, in assisting Gov. Charlie Baker during a Q&A just before presenting him with a commemorative shirt at the close of the organization’s 43rd annual meeting and awards ceremony at Pleasant Valley Country Club.

# Chamber's Gerry Gaudette Extra Mile award goes to "Mr. Whitinsville"

By Rod Lee

Residents of Northbridge and surrounding towns in the Blackstone Valley have pet nicknames for two of the region's most revered institutions.

The Whitin Machine Works, a manufacturing powerhouse for many years until closing its doors in 1967, is still reverently referred to by locals as "the Shop."

Similarly, the Whitin Community Center, which opened across the street from the Shop in the early 1920s and which today boasts more than five thousand members, is often simply called "The Gym." This in homage to G.W. Whitin, treasurer and CEO of the Whitin Machine Works from 1886 to 1920, whose vision for a community recreational complex was carried forth after his death by his daughters Elsa, Katharine, Lois and Elizabeth.

In presenting Charlie Thompson with the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's "Gerry Gaudette Extra Mile Award" at the organization's 43rd annual meeting at Pleasant Valley

Country Club in Sutton on November 17, Lee Gaudette added another.

Mr. Thompson could very well be thought of as "Mr. Whitinsville" for his near-lifelong devotion not only to the Whitin Community Center as its former executive director, but also to the town where he was born and raised, Mr. Gaudette, president of Gaudette Insurance Agency, said.

To those who know the Gaudette family, bequeathing of the honorary title Mr. Whitinsville is an especially significant gesture, given that Lee Gaudette's father Gerry Gaudette is frequently thought of as having earned that designation himself.

Gerry Gaudette, who died in 2003, was a founder of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce and an enthusiastic champion of all things Northbridge and Whitinsville, including the Whitin Community Center. The "Gerry Gaudette Pavilion" in Whitin Park is named for him.

Gerry Gaudette's wife, Barbara Gaudette, who

died in 2020, was, like her husband, committed to the community and civic life. Barbara Gaudette served on various town committees and dedicated many hours to the Northbridge Planning Board, beautification efforts, the Mumford River Walk and a host of other betterment initiatives.

Lee Gaudette is carrying on his parents' work.

Mr. Thompson is a logical choice as the latest recipient of the Gaudette award for being the face and heart and soul of the Whitin Community Center, Lee Gaudette said. A 1969 graduate of Northbridge High School who went on to Westfield State where he earned a degree in U.S. History and obtained certification as a secondary education teacher, Mr. Thompson took a part-time job at The Gym and within a year was named executive director. He retained this post from 1974 until his retirement in 2007.

"Charlie oversaw my splash party when I was in the second grade," Mr. Gaudette said. "Charlie was

always there." This included his role as scoutmaster of Troop 155 and for always finding the best Christmas trees to sell during the holidays.

Mr. Thompson was largely responsible for The Gym's remarkable growth during the 1990s. Under his watch, a facility that had survived serious financial challenges and a devastating fire in 1959 suddenly realized its full potential with the addition of a state-of-the-art fitness center, classrooms, child care, a new lobby, an elevator, racquetball courts, restoration of the Main St. facade, improvements to Whitin Park, expanded parking and upgraded tennis courts.

In 1996, under Mr. Thompson's watch, ground was broken for a new competition-sized swimming pool, prompting references from old-timers to Alice Bridges of Uxbridge who placed second in the 100-meter backstroke in the 1936 Olympics after training at The Gym.

Mr. Thompson remains firmly connected to the Whitin Community Center as a volunteer with the its Board of Directors. He also serves on the Development Committee and is active with plans to renovate the original pool and gymnasium as the WCC's centennial year approaches.

He also serves on the boards of the Whitinsville Water Company, the Whitinsville Social Library and UniBank, and chairs UniBank's Blackstone River Valley Greenway Challenge. The Challenge celebrated its twentieth year in 2021.

In addition to a parting chairman's report from Joshua Lee Smith, Year in Review remarks from Cham-



Charlie Thompson, center, former executive director of the Whitin Community Center, is joined by Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Jeannie Hebert and Lee Gaudette of Gaudette Insurance after receiving the Chamber's "Gerry Gaudette Extra Mile Award."

ber President and CEO Jeannie Hebert, and recognition of Indian Ranch's Suzette Raun Coppola on the popular attraction's seventy-fifth anniversary, the Chamber's Cornerstone Award went to Christopher Robert for his development of the Samuel Slater Experience.

Another highlight of the meeting came when Robin LeClaire, retired president of the Lampin Corp., was presented with the Chamber's Women's Success Network Exceptional Woman of Business Award for her work raising the profile of the employee-owned manufacturing company during her four years at the helm.

The Blackstone Valley's entire legislative delegation was saluted with the Chamber's Economic Development Award. "They were invaluable to us," Ms. Hebert said of Sen. Michael O. Moore, Sen. Ryan C. Fattman, Rep. Paul K. Frost, Rep. David LeBoeuf, Rep. Joseph D. McKenna, Rep. David K. Muradian Jr., Rep. Brian W. Murray and Rep. Michael J. Soter.

In his keynote address as guest speaker, Gov. Charlie Baker praised the Legislature and all involved for guiding the Commonwealth through the COVID-19 pandemic—"a three-act play," he said. There was the initial "scramble" in March of 2020 when the supply chain froze, followed by the manufacturing sector's transition to the production of gowns and gloves and masks along with the introduction of comprehensive contact testing, and finally "creation of a plan to reopen," the governor said.

The sixty days it took for the reboot to occur "felt like sixty years," he said.

"By fall we were so much better prepared, and then came the vaccine rollout and we quickly established the highest vaccination rate," Gov. Baker said. First "4.9 million and now 5.4 million have had at least one shot."

In a surprise twist, the audience sang "Happy Birthday" to Gov. Baker, who just turned sixty-five.

Contact Rod Lee at [rodlee.1963@gmail.com](mailto:rodlee.1963@gmail.com) or 774-232-2999.



**World-Class Substance Abuse & Mental Health Outpatient Treatment**

The Counseling Center offers a full range of treatment for adults and adolescents in a serene and comfortable atmosphere with flexible scheduling during day and evening hours.

**CALL NOW (508) 785-4990**

**HAWK HILL ORCHARDS**

Open for Last Minute Shopping & Gifts Saturday & Sunday Dec. 18 & 19 11am-5pm Thursday & Friday Dec. 23 & 24 11am-5pm

- Apples
- Fruit Pies
- Dessert Breads
- Apple Dumplings
- Gifts • Jams/Jellies
- Cider • Maple Syrup
- Our Own Honey
- Assorted Baked Goods
- Specialty Sauces and Salsas

83 Carleton Rd., Millbury, MA 508-865-4037



Come visit Kent Stowe this weekend to grab one of his delicious pies and shop his holiday wares at Hawk Hill Orchards, 83 Carleton Rd., Millbury.

## Commerce on the Common - Networking and shopping

GRAFTON - On November 3, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's Women's Success Network held a "Commerce on the Common" event, sponsored by Millbury Credit Union. Members of the community gathered together at the Grafton Common to treat themselves to some appetizers and beverages, while they simultaneously supported women-owned businesses and got some holiday shopping accomplished.

The night started at the Townhouse Tavern. Everyone

in attendance was given raffle tickets for giveaways from three different local shops, as well as the Tavern. Appetizers and desserts were provided by Whittier Farms and the bar was open for refreshments. Attendees mingled and shopped at The Grafton Country Store, Quite Fetching and Off the Common Antiques; all women-owned businesses with something for everyone - even our furry friends.

All in all, there was a sense of joyfulness and holiday spirit as everyone was able to come together for a fun evening of

networking, shopping and women supporting women.

Visit the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce website at [www.blackstonevalley.org](http://www.blackstonevalley.org) to learn more about the Women's Success Network and to view the Chamber's

list of upcoming scheduled events. The mission of BVCC Women's Success Network is to unite women to achieve their vision of success by creating a community of support and inspiration in their personal and professional lives.



## Millbury Senior Center news

MILLBURY - The Millbury Council on Aging, 1 River St., has listed its calendar of events.

Senior work-off program for eligible seniors 60 or older who are residents of Millbury, receive up to \$1,500 per year that can be used to pay real estate property tax in return for voluntary service at a town department. For more information or to pick up an application please call the center at 508-865-9154.

COVID-19 booster vaccine appointments - We will assist Millbury senior residents if you do not have access to a computer and need help scheduling an appointment for the booster please call the center at 508-865-9154.

Fraud prevention class Thursday, Jan. 6 at 1 p.m. Officer Piscitelli will be presenter, Learn about different scams that target seniors. Please call the center if interested in attending.

Senior Center light exercise classes Mondays and Fridays 9:30-10:15 a.m. free.

Tai Chi - Tuesdays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. (class is \$3)

Yoga all new starting Dec. 16, Thursdays 9 - 10 a.m. (class is \$3)

Senior Center activities - Wii bowling, Mondays at 12:30 p.m. Mahjong Mondays at 12:45 p.m.

Blood Pressure Clinic every Tuesday from 9 - 10 a.m. Cribbage Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

Social bingo, Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Bring your pennies.

Dull Men's Club, Thursdays at 10 - 11 a.m. No reservations required for any of our activities or exercise classes.

Lunches are served Monday through Friday 12 p.m. at the Senior Center. The menu is available on the town website, [www.townofmillbury.org](http://www.townofmillbury.org) or at Millbury Senior Center Facebook page. A 48 hour reservation is required.

Millbury Senior Center transportation is provided for Millbury senior residents Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We travel one town out in each direction including Sutton, Grafton, Auburn and Worcester. A 48 hour notice is required for scheduling rides (business days). Rides are free until July 1. For more information or to schedule transportation call the center at 508-865-9154

Memory Cafe Tuesday, December 21, 2 - 3:30 p.m. This month we will be decorating ornaments. A Memory Café is a monthly gathering for people with memory loss/challenges and their care partners. It is a time to socialize, make new friends, and have a good time. Fourth Tuesday of each month, refreshments will be served. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with this program. Outreach worker, Julie Fitzgerald, is happy to answer any questions, call to RSVP 508-865-9154.

Millbury Friendly Visitor Program is now being provided by telephone. Volunteers call clients to check in with them, chat and hear a friendly voice. For more information on coordinating a Friendly visitor call the center at 508-865-9154.

Snap applications (Food Stamps) appointments are on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Call for an appointment and required documentation 508-865-9154. This project has been funded at least in part with Federal Funds from USDA. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. The SNAP Logo is a service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA does not endorse any goods, services or enterprises.

# SENIOR FRAUD HELPLINE

## 800.297.9760



Family Services OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS  
An Affiliate of Seven Hills Foundation

Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging, Inc.



## Landscape & Masonry Materials

# WINTER SPECIALS!

2677 Broncos Highway  
Nasonville, RI  
401-769-4286

- Fire Pits • Ice Melt
- Concrete and Mortar Pellets
- New England Wood Pellets
- Chimney Supplies • Presto Brick
- Snow Shovels • Roof Rakes

Delivery Available

Homeowners & Contractors Welcome!

UNILOCK Authorized Dealer

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

**BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress**  
CROSSTOWN ADS AND BUSINESS NEWS  
formerly The Yankee Xpress

For advertising:  
[ads@theyankeeexpress.com](mailto:ads@theyankeeexpress.com)  
For news:  
[news@theyankeeexpress.com](mailto:news@theyankeeexpress.com)

## Healthier baking in the Blackstone Valley

### This no-bake treat is a healthy treasure

By Christine Galeone

Normally, I don't make no-bake treats. And it might be somewhat unexpected to find a no-bake recipe in a healthier baking series. But like unexpected gifts, they can be a welcome treasure.

This particular recipe might be especially treasured by people who need

to put together a last minute hostess gift or a Christmas gift for a loved one with a sweet tooth. These dark chocolate walnut clusters are fairly quick and easy to make. And they're delicious!

Everyone knows that eating too much candy is never healthy. But, in moderation,

the ingredients in these dark chocolate walnut clusters can be beneficial. They are particularly beneficial to your hearts and minds.

The cacao in dark chocolate has heart-healthy antioxidants, flavonoids, magnesium, iron, fiber, zinc and copper. Walnuts, which are

certified by the American Heart Association's Heart-Check mark, contain more omega-3 fatty acids than any other nuts. They're also a bad cholesterol-lowering source of antioxidants, magnesium, Vitamin E and selenium, and they might reduce inflammation. Additionally, Dr. Daniel G. Amen, the clinical neuroscientist, psychiatrist and brain imaging expert, has stated that he considers both cacao and walnuts brain super foods.



#### Dark Chocolate Walnut Clusters

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of dark chocolate chips
- 1 cup of chopped natural walnuts (Non-GMO, if possible)
- 1 tsp. of olive oil

Directions:

- In a double boiler, mix together the dark chocolate chips and olive oil.

- Keep stirring the mixture until the dark chocolate chips are completely melted.
- Remove the mixture from the heat.
- Fold in the walnuts immediately.
- Drop heaping teaspoons of the mixture into individual mini-cupcake liners, or drop

them onto parchment paper.

- Let them cool and harden.
- Refrigerate in an air-tight container to preserve them longer.\*

• Enjoy giving them to loved ones or eating them as a delicious holiday snack! Makes about 40 clusters

\*These clusters don't need to be refrigerated, but they'll last longer if they are.

Unexpected, simple and delicious is generally a winning combination. And that combination can produce a treasured recipe. But whether or not you give this easy no-bake recipe a try, we hope that your Christmas season is even healthier, sweeter and more treasured!



## Christmas Dinner To Go!



**New England Steak and Seafood**  
11 UXBRIDGE RD., MENDON, MA

**Announces**  
**ROAST PRIME RIB OF BEEF**  
Cooked or ready to cook with reheating and cooking directions.  
YOUR CHOICE

**LET US DO THE WORK FOR YOU!**  
**508-478-0871**

<p><b>Full Boneless PRIME RIB</b> Feeds approx. 14 people. <b>INCLUDES:</b> Mashed Potatoes Au Jus and Dessert <b>\$499.99</b></p>	<p><b>Half Boneless PRIME RIB</b> Feeds approx. 7 people. <b>INCLUDES:</b> Mashed Potatoes Au Jus and Dessert <b>\$259.99</b></p>	<p><b>Pumpkin Bread</b> <b>\$15.99 dz.</b> <b>Cinnamon Rolls</b> <b>\$15.99 dz.</b> <b>Onion Rolls</b> <b>\$15.99 dz.</b></p>
--	---	---

BONELESS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE Includes Prime Rib Cooked or Uncooked. Mashed Potatoes Au Jus and Dessert

ALL ORDERS MUST BE IN BY DEC. 22ND AND PICKED UP ON DEC. 24TH BETWEEN 1PM & 3PM  
"NOTE PLEASE ORDER EARLY"!!!!

# Shop Local for Quality Cards and Gifts!



This holiday season, order your cards from a trusted, local vendor. Our Town Publishing now offers holiday cards, prints, photos gifts and more!

Go to  
[ourtownpublishing.com](http://ourtownpublishing.com)  
to get started today!

## Our Town PUBLISHING

74 Main St., Suite 16 • Medway, MA 02053  
508-533-NEWS (6397) • ourtownpublishing.com

## From the desk of the Douglas Library director

Happy Holidays from the Simon Fairfield Public Library. Giving Tuesday was a few days ago. I opened my email inbox with trepidation that morning to find every non-profit I've ever interacted with clamoring for my attention. I decided not to make the Library a part of that, instead opting to make a short social media post reminding our patrons that the Library is here to give things to them, provided that said things end up back at the Library eventually.

Giving is a big theme during the holiday season. Even when making entirely selfish purchases, advertisers spin it as "giving yourself the gift of..." As long as we're on that topic, there isn't much better gift you can give yourself than reading yourself a book. But back to the main point, libraries are giving institutions. Or at least sharing institutions. One of the greatest joys of the profession is seeing a young child light up when they find a book they are really excited about and bring it to the circulation desk so we can give it to them to take home.

Kids get especially excited when they find out we have Nintendo, Playstation, or Xbox games. We don't have many and most of them are old, but even what we do have will send children bouncing out the door because we gave them something they didn't think was within their means to experience. Many less-privileged children have inherited game consoles or handhelds but don't have access to games to play on them because old games are hard to find and new ones are too expensive.

Gaming can be just as much of a literary experience as reading. Games have all the elements of stories: world-build-

ing, heroes, villains, plots, etc. They also connect in a very visceral way since the person playing a game is an active participant in the unfolding narrative rather than a passive observer. I would like to add more games to our giving collection. So as the giving season unfolds and new gifts supersede old ones, please consider donating any unused console or handheld games to your local library. That way we can give them to more people—even back to you if you have a library card.

*Thanks for reading,  
Justin Ray Snook, Director  
Simon Fairfield Public Library, Douglas*





**American  
Heritage  
Museum**

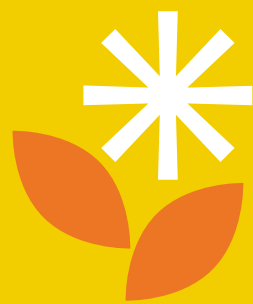
**“WOW”**



**Museum Open  
Wed. - Sun.  
10 AM - 5 PM**



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



**Blackstone  
Valley  
Cannabis**

**Best. Gift. Ever.**

**We'll help you up your holiday game**  
**79 River Road in Uxbridge, MA**  
**bvcannabis.com**

**Please Consume Responsibly.** This product has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). There is limited information on the side effects of using this product, and there may be associated health risks. Marijuana use during pregnancy and breast-feeding may pose potential harms. It is against the law to drive or operate machinery when under the influence of this product. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. The impairment effects of edible marijuana may be delayed by two hours or more. In case of accidental ingestion, contact poison control hotline 1-800-222-1222 or 9-1-1. This product may be illegal outside of MA.

**Paws corner**

# Beware holiday foods, ornaments, plants

By Sam Mazzotta

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** Please remind your readers of how important it is to keep their pets away from holiday foods. Some foods, like chocolate, can be deadly poisonous to dogs, while rich foods and ingredients like onions or raisins can be dangerous for cats and dogs. – Jessica

**DEAR JESSICA:** You told them, and thank you! The holiday season, with plenty of parties, family and food, can be hectic for everyone, but it's important to monitor pets and make sure they're kept away from potentially harmful items. Many foods, not just choco-

late but onions, grapes and raisins, nuts, avocados and other holiday foods can cause house pets great harm. Store them well out of reach, and keep pets out of the kitchen when cooking and away from serving tables. A more extensive list of common foods that can be poisonous to pets is available from the Humane Society of the United States ([www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org)).

Christmas tree ornaments also can potentially be harmful. Cats love knocking down glass ornaments and may accidentally ingest tinsel or other shiny strands. Dogs may

gnaw on interesting packages or break into gift boxes of candy or fruit.

Even plants need to be kept out of reach: poinsettias, for example, are toxic to cats.

To minimize risk, place breakable ornaments higher on the tree and put plants well out of reach. During parties or dinners, place your pets in a separate area of the house with bedding, food and water, and check on them occasionally. (This also is helpful in keeping pets' stress levels down.)

**The best leash-collar combo for your dog**

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** I'd like to upgrade my Lab's collar and leash, because he's pretty powerful and tugs against his collar all the time until he starts to choke. What do you recommend? – Sara B.

**DEAR SARA:** I'm a fan of harnesses, especially for dogs that like to pull at the leash. A harness fits around a dog's front legs and torso, and has a top strap with a clip ring for the leash located between the dog's shoulders. It's secure and sturdy, it stays on your dog, and he won't injure himself trying to pull away from you. (You can also keep

his collar on, mainly so his license tag is always visible.)

Some dog harnesses come with a sturdy handle sewn onto the top strap. It's not so much for picking up the dog but is an additional point of control if you're worried about your dog bolting or jumping up on other people.

For the long term, of course, your Lab needs to improve his basic obedience skills. He should never tug at his leash, but should walk next to you. Putting him into a harness will give you more control. Dogs tend to respond more often to a tug on the har-

ness, which applies pressure at several points rather than just around the neck. Those multiple contact points disperse pressure around the dog's torso so that he remains comfortable and uninjured, reducing anxiety and hopefully making him more receptive to training commands.

Harnesses are not as cheap as collars, but they're well worth the investment, especially when dealing with a strong, independent thinker like your Lab.

*Send your questions, tips or comments to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com). (c) 2021 King Features Synd., Inc.*



**PERFECT PAW**  
46 Providence Road, Northbridge

- Family Owned
- Award Winning Groomer

**(508) 779-7448**  
Theperfectpaw.net  
facebook.com/ThePerfectPawMA

**FOR YOUR PERFECT PET**

**THOMPSON**  
Landscaping & Construction

**COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL SNOW PLOWING**

- Leaf Clean-Ups • Lawn Mowing & Yard Work
- Tree Work • Excavation

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

## See an Expert in Cosmetic Dentistry

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

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






**Whitinsville family dentistry**  
(508) 234-8107  
12 Prospect Street  
Whitinsville, MA  
[www.DrTubo.com](http://www.DrTubo.com)

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

  **@dr.jasontubo**

**Real People. Real Results.**  
See more of Jen's case and more REAL Before and After cases actually done by Dr. Jason Tubo at [www.DrTubo.com](http://www.DrTubo.com).



## Living ON with Lincoln

# Who needs Santa?

By Amy LeClaire

Lincoln was a socialite. He loved the old and young, the plump and thin, the dark and light, the tall and small. He loved unconditionally and unabashedly. "You are the coolest person ever! Let's celebrate you! Allow me to play with your gloves!" He would gallop around our front lawn with a new friend's gear, thoroughly pleased with his sudden luck. A person had arrived! A typical Golden, Lincoln was social by nature—but there was one exception.

He didn't care for Santa Claus. The discovery announced itself, rather darkly, at PETCO in Auburn, a public pet store created for all things doggie. December Christmas shopping, I had thought, would be even more fun this year. "Lincoln can come, too!" I spoke his language and he responded with a wiggle and search for the closest ball available, just as he had on the final day of his life. Like a leopard's spots, joy was a part of who Lincoln was. A tumor, tragedy, or illness would fail to take this quality from him. He found a way to concentrate on all that was good in his life. He wore rose colored glasses and, in doing so, kept pain at bay. Amongst all that I admire about Lincoln, his ability to choose joy over pain is what I'll treasure the most.

"You have to be easy." I put the car in park and reviewed the shopping rules. He stared out the window at the store front then shot a glance back to me, as though needing more detail. "We're going to see the other doggies." A dirty towel hung from his mouth like an oversized mustache while he celebrated his good fortune and did the math. A parking lot, a store front, dogs. Life couldn't get

any better than this.

"Santa!" Somehow, it got worse.

"Look, Lincoln – it's Santa!" Lincoln did not want to look at Santa, let alone take a picture with him. "Let's just get one picture for Daddy." Lincoln's Daddy, my husband, had never cared about dog pictures with Santa. Yet I found myself clinging to empty promises like a frayed mother with a toddler. "You look so handsome." I pulled him towards a hired Santa whom, I must confess, was not overly gleeful. He sat stiff and angular, coupons resting upon his lap while Lincoln hid his face between my legs. I pulled him forward. His head flattened like a deflated tire while he stiffened in protest and tried to free himself from a loose collar.

"Let's just get one picture, Lincoln." He turned his head away from me. "Dislike." I can't recall exactly how I managed to pull my largest male of the litter to Santa's side, but I'm thinking junk food may have been involved. "Say – Happy Holidays!" The photog-

rapher stayed the course and did his job. By virtue of being a dog (they smile when nervous) Lincoln cooperated and smiled with a tongue hang-



Joyful to be with Daddy

ing out. The camera's flash captured the odd couple that became us, Anxious Dog and Proud Mom. "One more in portrait mode?"

My mind conjured the image of a confident Lincoln pictured within the perimeter of an 8 x 10 frame, a twinkle in his eye while he looked down

on us from the fireplace mantel. I pet his head softly. My pedigree was so handsome. He lifted his chin, looked up at me, and revealed a harsher truth. "I'll be joyful, but I cannot stand this man."

I needed to get Lincoln out of there, and fast. An 8 x 10 portrait for only \$7.99 felt suddenly selfish. "Thank you so much but we're going to pass." Had Lincoln sensed a phoniness in Santa that kids, drawn to the prospect of presents alone, had failed to discern? Or was it a beard that sagged a few inches shy of reality that turned him off?

"You're such a good boy, Lincoln." In any event, the incident became a distant memory as we found ourselves immersed in his favorite aisle. I laid out a colorful row of balls, all different shapes and sizes. He sniffed. He browsed. He perked.

An extra-large neon-bright tennis ball captured his attention. He nuzzled it with cautious curiosity, as though a bird may have been nestled inside the ball. "I don't think I've ever seen a ball this big." He pawed it, rolled it forward, then covered it with big paws, as though protecting a baby.

I knew before I knew. The neon ball was cheap and hollow. Given Lincoln's fierce grip on the ball's flimsy shell, this one would not stand a chance. He'd crack it open like an egg, just as he had so many others. I picked it up.



His gaze followed my hands. "What are you going to do with that ball?" Entranced, his eyes followed my hands. "I promise this time I'll protect the ball. I'll just hold it. I won't break it. I'll just hold it. I'll go easy. Can I just play with that ball, please?"

"Do you have a card with us?" The cashier wore a festive Santa's hat with bells. "That will be eight dollars and seventy-five cents."

She bagged the ball while Lincoln sat charmingly patient. (He adored cashiers).

"Is that the dog in the paper?"

Here you go, Lincoln!" His status earned him a few extra treats. He gulped and chewed while I ripped the tags off of the ball so that he could play in the car. He trotted by my side and followed the ball's journey. We settled in. I started the car and handed him an early Christmas gift. He wedged it between his paws, looked up at me and broke into his typical joyful smile, a gift to me.

Who needs Santa?

Tell me your Christmas dog story. Write me at amyklaire@hotmail.com



Joyful about going to sleep

WWW.TLCPETHAVEN.COM

Over 30 years in Business  
Denise and Bill Jones

**TLC**

Dog and Cat Grooming & Boarding  
Luxury Suites Available  
Doggie Daycare  
In-Home Services Available

**PET HAVEN & Mobile Groom-In-Vans**  
68 US Route 146, Sutton MA • 508-865-3180

154 Riverlin St.  
Millbury, Ma. 01527  
508-865-8155

- Grooming
- Daycare
- Boarding

by Kelly Hauk

**BARK-N-BUBBLES**

**BEST OF CENTRAL MASS**  
Best Pet Groomer 2016 & 2017

www.barknbubblesmillbury.com

**Gibson's Natural Pet Resort**

Lodging & Daycare & Grooming  
Training & Pet Supplies

Hours:  
Mon.-Thurs. 6:30am to 6pm  
Fri. 9:30am-4pm  
Sat. 8am-noon  
Sun. 5pm - 6pm only

139 Upton St. (Rt. 140), Grafton, Ma 01519  
Phone: 508-839-1757 Fax: 508-839-1736

Grafton@GibsonsNaturalPet.com  
www.GibsonsNaturalPet.com



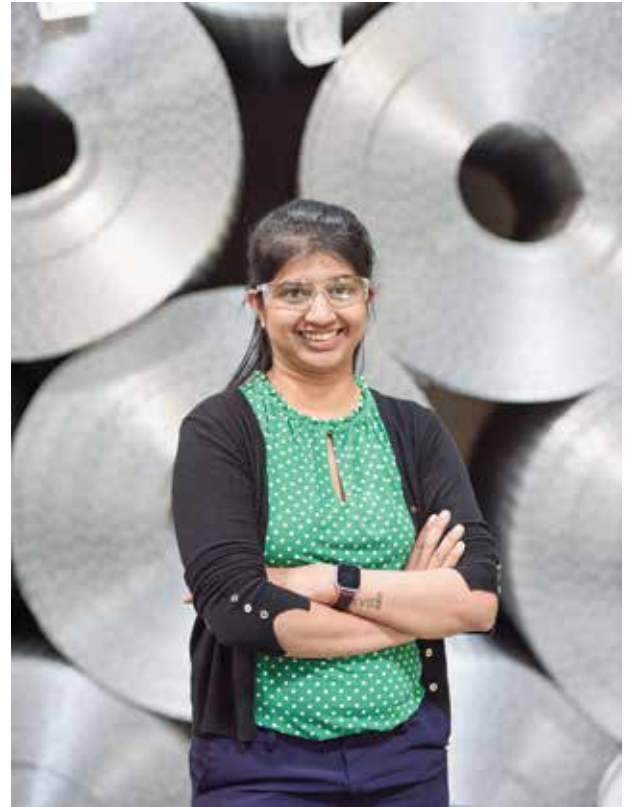
## Riverdale Mills team talks manufacturing with students

Representatives of Riverdale Mills Corp. recently visited the Grafton Middle School to celebrate Manufacturing in America and to teach the students about wire, welding and widgets.

Kevin Christopher (quality control manager), Kathy Tata (business manager), Ron Ellis (production supervisor), Anisha Kulkarni (engineer) and Bonnie Cook (HR director) talked about their careers in manufacturing, the process of making wire mesh, the industries using Riverdale wire mesh products, and the history of the company.

The Riverdale team brought panels of the company's world-renowned Aquamesh product, which the company invented in 1980, for a hands-on approach to working with wire mesh. Each student constructed his or her own Aquamesh birdhouse!

Aquamesh is used to construct about 80% of all the lobster traps in North America and is just one of the many wire mesh products made by Riverdale Mills for the marine, construction, security, agricultural and horticulture industries.



Grafton Middle School students get a hands-on education in manufacturing and wire mesh from representatives of Riverdale Mills Corp. Anisha Kulkarni, an engineer with Riverdale Mills, assisted students in the career development learning experience.



### SHREWSBURY Marble & Granite, Inc

## GIVE THE GIFT THAT LASTS!



# \$39<sup>99</sup>

Installed

Minimum 40 square feet

**Biggest selection of  
marble, granite and quartz.**  
*ALL MARBLE & GRANITE SLABS ON SITE*

620 Boston Turnpike (Rt. 9), Shrewsbury  
1/4 Miles East of Home Depot. (BIG BLUE BUILDING)

508-842-9800

Mon.-Thurs. 8-4; Fri.-Sat. 9-4; other times by appt.

WWW.SHREWSBURYMARBLEANDGRANITE.COM

**BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress**  
CROSTOWN ADS AND BUSINESS NEWS  
formerly The Yankee Xpress

For advertising information contact  
ads@theyankeeexpress.com

# Happy Holidays

Many thanks to our all our advertisers, who make print a part of your marketing strategy. Warm wishes for a healthy 2022 to all our faithful readers, who keep us on deadline.

From our staff



## The Yankee Xpress

BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress



## Tales from beyond

# The unfortunate Hannah Robinson

By Thomas D'Agostino

The story of Hannah Robinson is one of love, tragedy and a haunting. It is one of New England's most famous and endearing legends. To this day a small park, tower, ledge and rock bear the name of the young unfortunate Hannah Robinson.

Rowland Robinson, born in 1719, was the oldest son of Governor William Robinson. A wealthy farmer and member of the local government. Robinson, though portly, stood tall and erect, with a clear blonde complexion and light hair. He was known to be fair in temper and manners, having the disposition of an old country gentleman.

On December 3, 1741, Rowland married Anstis Gardiner. They had three children: Hannah, born in 1746; Mary, born in 1752; and William R., born in 1759. Mary and Hannah grew to be exceedingly beautiful, especially Hannah, who stood above medium height possessing a clear complexion, with a delicate tint of rose that only served to complement her dark hazel eyes. Her auburn hair fell in ringlets about her, and her speech, manner and carriage made her all the more irresistible to the gentry both near and far.

In her youth, Hannah found a place where she could sit and contemplate, or just enjoy the scenery of the Narragansett Bay. The area, known as McSparran Hill, was steep and bore forth a rock ledge that admitted a clear view of the bay. Hannah spent many hours looking out over the beautiful scenery the ledge afforded her.

The Robinson family spared no cost in the education of their children. Hannah was placed in the care of her aunt in Newport, where she attended the finishing school of Madame Osborne, a well-respected and widely known instructor of politeness and grace for young ladies. It was during her studies with Madame Osborne that Hannah

met M. Pierre (Peter) Simons, a young tutor under the employ of Osborne. From the moment they met, a certain affection ripened between them and before long, they were in love.

Both were well aware that a person of his station in life would certainly not meet the expectations of her father as a proper suitor. Two books—*Recollections of Olden Times*, by Thomas Robinson Hazard and Willis Pope Hazard from 1879, and *The Robinsons and Their Kin Folk*, by the Robinson Family Genealogical Association, written in 1906—tell the tale with very little variance. The 1906 version reads:

"Fortune seemed to favor the young people. Hannah's uncle, Col. William Gardiner, educated his children at home, and in looking about for a private tutor, engaged Pierre Simons to go with him to his Narragansett home and occupy that position in his family. The lovers enjoyed many opportunities of seeing each other, especially as Col. Gardiner, who was of a kind and easy disposition, on becoming aware of the love which existed between his beautiful niece and her former tutor, sought rather to promote opportunities for interviews between the lovers than otherwise.

The mother's suspicions were aroused, and Hannah confided to her the secret of her love.

After trying for months, in vain, to persuade her child to discourage her affianced lover, and finding that nothing would induce her to dismiss him, Mrs. Robinson forbore further opposition.

Thus encouraged by the mother's tacit consent, if not approval of his suit, it was mutually arranged by the lovers that Pierre should occasionally walk over from Col. Gardiner's of an evening, and upon the appearance of a signal light in Hannah's window approach the house and secrete himself in a large

lilac bush which grew beneath it, where love messages might be easily passed. In fact, so emboldened did the lovers become by the unbroken success that attended their stratagem, that they finally arranged for occasional meetings in Hannah's room; her mother lending her presence and countenance to the dangerous adventure, rendered all the more critical because of its being the undeviating practice of Hannah's father to bid her "good night" before he retired, even if it required his going to her own room or elsewhere. It was necessary to have a convenient place in which Hannah's lover might retreat on untoward occasions such a place—a cupboard—was in the room."

One evening, Rowland happened to step outside the home and saw Hannah reaching out her window to the young Simons. He recognized the man right away as the music teacher employed by his brother-in-law, William Gardiner. He gave chase to Simons, flailing his cane at him, but was unable to catch the fleet-footed young wooer. From that moment on, Hannah's every move was watched—if she walked, she walked with spying eyes. When she rode, a servant accompanied her. Her father became obsessive in keeping her under his watch at every waking moment. It became the whisper around town that many would like to see the young woman be with her love and began to prepare for an elopement, especially her mother and aunt, Mrs. Ludowick Updike, sister of Rowland.

A great ball was planned at the Updike home, now known as Smith's Castle. It was arranged that the two sisters, Mary and Hannah, would attend the ball and stay overnight with the Updikes. Rowland had no idea it was a plot to bring his daughter into the arms of Simons.

Hannah went about her way in a composed manner until it was time to leave for the ball. The Robinsons and their Kin Folk notes:

"On Ridge Hill, a thickly wooded spot, Hannah and her companions encountered the lover with a closed carriage, into which the affianced bride hastily stepped and was driven rapidly away, on the road to Providence, in spite of the frantic appeals of Prince, the attendant. Miss Simons—Pierre's sister—assisted Hannah with a necessary wardrobe, and with the aid of the pastoral services of a minister of the Episcopal Church, the lovers were married."

When Mr. Robinson learned of his daughter's elopement, he became angry beyond comprehension. He offered a reward to anyone who would come forth with any information on those who assisted in her escapade. Much to his disappointment, no one ever came forth.

Simons and his bride moved to Providence. From that point, the story takes on two separate lives. One version paints Simons as a greedy money grabber. As time passed, Simons began to realize that Hannah would

never see a penny of her family's fortune. This caused him to become passionless to his wife's affections. He began to have affairs, became reckless in his habit and eventually turned a complete cold shoulder to her.

Hannah, already unstable in spirit, took a turn for the worst. She became gaunt, pale and her beauty began to fade.

Her father, upon hearing of her rapid decline in health, rode to Providence in the hopes of bringing her home, but under his terms. If Hannah would tell him who was responsible for her elopement, she could come back to the warmth and care of her family home. Hannah was honorable but also possessed the same stubborn streak as her father. Hannah refused his wishes, causing Mr. Robinson ride away in a huff.

Then came the day that Mr. Robinson finally agreed to let Hannah come home. When he entered her chamber he beheld his daughter, frail, white, and almost lifeless. He began to cry like a baby and completely dismissed the thought of asking Hannah to divulge the accomplices of that fateful evening. Instead, he held her cold,

bony hand and promised to take her home. Mr. Robinson had Hannah placed in a carriage carried by hand, called a litter, for safe travel back to Narragansett.

The carriers, called "chairmen," lifted the litter with Hannah inside and set out for home. When they reached Old Ridge Hill, where Hannah had met with her lover that fateful night, she covered her eyes and cried. As they passed McSparran Hill, Hannah begged for them to stop so she could see the ocean once more. There on the ledge, just past a great square boulder, Hannah rested, staring out at the bay just as she did many times in her youth. The chairmen rotated the litter so that she could get a glimpse of every angle afforded to her from her traveling bed. A servant plucked some flowers growing alongside the great rock and handed them to Hannah, who held them close to her breast.

*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](http://www.tomdagostino.com).*

**Choice 100 Graphics**  
508-949-2024

**YOUR #1 CHOICE FOR CUSTOM:**

**T-Shirts  
Banners  
Lawn Signs  
Coffee Mugs  
Embroidery  
Business Cards  
Canvas Prints  
And MORE!**



505 S. Main St, Webster, MA  
Info@Choice1Graphics.com  
www.Choice1Graphics.com



430 Main St., Oxford, MA

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

- Commercial and Residential -

Visit our display by appointment

Sales • Service • Installation

800-605-9030 508-987-8600

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



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

Many new styles and colors to choose from.

## Merry Christmas: Amy bruises her BMW - Fuller Automotive buffs it out

By Amy LeClaire

The holidays are upon us. We're supposed to be merry. Yet everyone seems miserable. Servers are (reasonably) grinchy with "the whole world being short-staffed" and parking lot drivers continue to rage over (what seemed) a mutually available parking spot. Gas prices rise, food prices inflate and, meanwhile, Amazon capitalizes on the merriest part of all—shopping from home. Sigh. We've all been there. Welcome to the holidays!

Holiday hullabaloo or not, kindness still exists, simplicity is still possible, and people (some of them) are still as warm as a cup of hot cocoa. Take my holiday story. It's living proof that such exists.

My garage has been problematic. Don't get me wrong. I'm grateful and blessed to own one, especially as a non-rugged New Englander whose

idea of cleaning off my car is to run it for thirty minutes and allow the snow to melt and drizzle from its exterior. The problem, more practically, involves physics. The garage, or at least the square part of it designed to house a vehicle, is simply too small. There hasn't been a vehicle able to withstand its confining perimeter. The hatchback trunk door of my former Honda Pilot took a screechy hit when it rose to kiss the garage door one unfortunate night. Now my new BMW is on the chopping block.

I drive straight. I drive sober. I drive with patience. I back out slowly. Yet, somehow, a cursed garage door, on multiple occasions, has frozen one quarter of the way up, stopping in its tracks, spookily high enough to betray a full picture in my navigation

window. My back view appears clear, a few leaves dancing atop the driveway pavement while I slowly back up. Bang. Off comes my back windshield wiper. Seriously? Nothing is more awkward and wrong than busting up the body of a new BMW. I sit in my bruised, parked car and feel sorry for myself. I work hard for that car! I tear up for a moment then collect my thoughts. I wasn't going fast. Time to inspect the damage. Miraculously, the only thing needing a fix is the plastic attachment of the back windshield wiper. Renewed, I tuck myself back in and sigh, relieved. That hit could have been so much worse.

Fast forward three weeks.

The frozen garage door syndrome has forced me to take proper measure. I activate it's opening from the far wall now,

watching it rise to full potential like a bouncer checking a fake i.d. I climb into the driver's seat and take an additional look behind me, just in case I'm spooked. All is calm. All is bright. I back out slowly. Another habit, another errand to run, another day of driving. Screeeeech. The sound of my front end smooching the dented frame of the garage chills me to the bone. This can't be happening! I creep out of the garage, my foot barely on the gas pedal. I must bear the sound of a residual squeal, as the front end of my vehicle divorces from the garage frame I regain composure, exit my car, and survey damage. Scratches and more scratches. No dents, but deep, ugly scratches that add ten years to my new car.

"I think you need to start parking outside, Amy." My mom's voice is calm and caring. "That's exactly what I'm going to do," I huff back. Little did I know—I would not need to park outside at all. Little did I know—an easy solution more joyful than an angel dropping straight out of the sky was about to find me.

"We can easily buff those



Chris and Josh Fuller.

out for you." Josh Fuller, co-owner of Fuller's Automotive in Auburn, tells me this from his Collision Center, where he was able to take a quick peek without a scheduled appointment or without offering me forty pages of paper-work. His mouth produces the melody. I imagine him singing Hark the Herald Angels.

"You can buff those scratches out?" I can barely believe my ears. This has never happened to me. Typically, my fender benders have led to body work measures more complex than a calculus problem. William Nunez, the mechanic assigned the polish job, appears on the scene. He

is enthusiastic, cheerful and articulate in letting me know exactly what he'll do to erase the scratches. "It will just take me a few minutes."

I sit in the waiting room, and ponder my good fortune. I have somehow managed to create and erase a problem with the ease of a wet cloth wiping away ink from a whiteboard. How did I get so lucky?

"It looks pretty good now." William shows me the result of his work. He has breathed life to my car and has made it new again. I feel a sudden urge to buy for him this Christmas. He has given me hope that mistakes are just that, mistakes. An area that appeared more scratched than an over-ripe onion now glistens with a color I'd title New Car White. I dig into my pocketbook for payment. I'm overwhelmingly grateful. Josh Fuller waves me away. "You're all set."

I back out of the Collision Center ever so slowly but my heart skips with the flutter of a problem solved with ease.

"This is how it used to be," I think to myself, and I can hardly wait to pay forward what I've just experienced. The holidays are supposed to be kind. Just like this.

Visit Fuller's of Auburn - Automotive & Tire Center, 505 Washington Street, Suite 3, Auburn (508) 832-0900.



William Nunez of Fuller's Collision Center polishes with cheer

## Samuel Slater EXPERIENCE



### Samuel Slater Experience open during the holidays

Come get a preview of the Samuel Slater Experience during the holidays. The museum will be open to the public for tours on Monday, December 20, and Monday, December 27.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and tickets may be purchased at the box office or on the website at [samuel Slater Experience](http://samuel Slater Experience). Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$10 for seniors, \$7 for kids.

The gift shop will also be open.

Museum memberships are available.

Samuel Slater Experience brings to life the travels and technology of Samuel Slater, known as the father of the American Industrial Revolution and the founder of the thriving mill community of Webster. It's all brought to you with 4-D digital media to create an immersive experience.

For more information go to [samuel Slater Experience](http://samuel Slater Experience) or email [admin@samuel Slater Experience](mailto:admin@samuel Slater Experience).

### Three BVT students commended for National Merit scholarship



Riley Holt



Noelle McDonald



Thomas J. O'Leary

UPTON - Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School Seniors Riley Holt of Uxbridge (Engineering & Robotics), Thomas J. O'Leary of Millbury (Electronics), and Noelle (Ellie) McDonald of Grafton (Construction Technology) have been named Commended Students in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. A letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®), which conducts the program, was recently pre-

sented to these scholastically talented seniors.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2022 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2022 competition by taking the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

"Those being named Commended Students have dem-

onstrated outstanding potential for academic success," commented a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their school play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

**Herbert E. Berg**  
FLORIST INC.

**We are also offering all silk arrangements in store 50% off.**  
Stop on by and shop our holiday décor!

**Order your Christmas Centerpieces, Boxwood Trees or New Year's Celebrations**

**19 Blackstone River Rd., Worcester, MA 01607**  
(Conveniently located - Exit 19 off Rt. 146 - five minutes from Millbury)  
Call Sally Jablonski, owner, family resident of Millbury for over 60 years  
Sandy Michalak, office manager, Sutton resident for over 55 years  
**508-755-5888 or 1-800-383-Berg**

**Mention this ad and receive 10% off your order.**  
(Not valid on wire out orders)

## 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.johnfpaul.podbean.com](http://www.johnfpaul.podbean.com) or other popular podcast sites. Email your car questions to [jpaul@aanortheast.com](mailto:jpaul@aanortheast.com). Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on facebook mrjohnfpaul



**Q.** I have a 2010 Ford Explorer limited with the V-6 4.0 liter engine with 158,000 miles on it. My ignition key is always getting stuck in the ignition. I can turn the truck on and off but the key will not go into the off/lock position so I can take the key out. I have been having this issue for about two years and when it first started, I would pull up the center console and press the button on the bottom of the gear shift and the key would turn and come out, but this method doesn't work anymore. The only way I can get my key out now is to disconnect the battery. Do you have any suggestions or anything that can help me?

**A.** The key removal inhibit solenoid which is part of the ignition switch receives battery voltage from the junction box through fuse number eight. When the shifter is moved to in and out of park, the circuit is completed and prevents the ignition switch from being turned to the off position and the key removed. The issue could be the solenoid, ignition switch, wiring or even debris keeping the solenoid from working properly.

**Q.** I got a new evaporative vapor canister and purge valve installed in my car. Would using fuel additive such as Lucas, Heet or Techron damage the elements inside? What are symptoms of bad fuel? Also, can a fuel issue cause rough shifts?

**A.** Evaporative fuel systems that trap fuel vapor so it can be reburned when the engine is running become most often damaged from overfilling the fuel system. When the fuel nozzle shuts off don't try to round up more than a few cents. Overfilling the fuel system can force liquid fuel where only vapor is designed to be, which will damage the system. In other cases, mud, dirt and even spider webs can cause a problem. Bad or contaminated fuel can result in poor running, reduced fuel mileage and hard starting. Yes, a poorly running engine in some cases can result in poor shifting.

**Q.** My car, a 2004 Toyota Camry, has a gas smell. What could be wrong and what will it need to repair it? Would I be better off to sell it and get a new car?

**A.** The fuel smell could be a leaking fuel line, rusted gas tank, leaking fuel filter or any other part of the fuel system. If you can find a shop with an exhaust gas analyzer, these tools are great at sniffing out fuel leaks. Regarding cost, if the gas tank needs replacement the total cost could be \$1000. Should you have the car fixed or sell it. You can only make that decision once you know what is wrong with the car as well as evaluating the overall condition. With limited vehicle inventory and high car prices, if your car is in decent shape spending \$1000 to keep it running safely for a few more years could be money well spent.

**Q.** We have a Honda Odyssey, and it burns oil. The Honda dealer told us it will cost \$5000 to repair it. Would an independent shop be cheaper and what can I do until I can afford to fix it?

**A.** Some Honda engines, the 3.5 liter in the Odyssey, Ridgeline and Pilot had an issue with pistons and piston rings. There was a class action lawsuit that extended the warranty for eight years with no mileage limit. I would call Honda customer service directly and depending on the age of the vehicle the repairs may be covered. Until you get use to the rhythm of the oil consumption, check the oil often and add to it as soon as it is one quart low. Even if the repair is not covered under warranty, you can buy a lot of oil for \$5000. By keeping the oil full you can drive this vehicle for a long time.

## Yellcom Computer Services

Sales • Installation • Maintenance • Repair • Training



**When disaster strikes, count on Yellcom.**  
We support computer users at home and at work.

**OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- Cybersecurity protection services
- Encrypted and verified desktop backups with virtual desktop continuity within minutes
- Managed eMail services - restores, filtering...
- 24/7 Help Desk services - phone, text, email
- Comprehensive cybersecurity assessment
- Encrypted and verified server backups with virtual server continuity within minutes
- Disaster recovery planning
- Network monitoring and management



**(508) 320-2356**

[www.yellcom.net](http://www.yellcom.net) • [Sales@Yellcom.net](mailto:Sales@Yellcom.net)

## QUALITY BUILDING MATERIALS FOR ALL YOUR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING NEEDS!

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE • FREE DELIVERY • ESTIMATING

Lumber & Plywood • Windows • Doors • Millwork • Roofing • Insulation • Decking

Rail Systems • Siding • Hardwood • Fasteners • and Much More!



Family Owned And Operated Since 1952.

124 Main St., Millbury

[cslumberco.com](http://cslumberco.com) • 508-865-4822

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



**KEARNS**  
COLLISION  
Repair  
FREE ESTIMATES • QUALITY SERVICE  
1734 Providence Rd., Northbridge, MA • 508-234-5211  
Thomas F. Colonair Jr.  
[www.kearnscollision.com](http://www.kearnscollision.com)

  
**Colin's Property Maintenance**

- Tree Removal
- Tree Trimming
- Bobcat Work
- Storm Damage
- Clean Outs
- Trash Removal

Fully Insured **774-230-9080** Free Estimates  
CHARLTON, MA  
~ Servicing Worcester County ~

  
**COMPLETE AUTO GLASS SPECIALISTS**

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

  
**MOBILE AUTO GLASS SPECIALIST**  
Insurance Company Preferred Shop.

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

201 W. Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571  
800-479-7697 • 508-949-1327  
Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm • Saturday 8am to 12pm  
**Visit Us at [roysautoglass.net](http://roysautoglass.net)**

## Rep. McKenna named to Autism Commission

BOSTON – House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr. (R-North Reading) is pleased to announce his appointment of State Representative Joseph D. McKenna (R-Webster) to the state Autism Commission.

Established by the Massachusetts Legislature in 2014, the Autism Commission is charged with making recommendations on policies impacting individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), including Asperger's syndrome and Smith-Magenis syndrome. The Commission is responsible for investigating the services and supports that are available to individuals

with ASD and recommending improvements when necessary. This includes public and post-secondary education, job attainment and employment, housing and independent living, social and recreational opportunities, and behavioral and mental health services among others.

As part of its duties, the Autism Commission files an annual report with the Governor, the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, and the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. This report details the services, supports and treatment available to

the state's autism population, along with recommendations for legislative and regulatory actions needed to improve these services and address any unmet needs.

"I am so excited to deepen the work I can do to help individuals with autism and their families in Massachusetts," said Representative McKenna. "I have developed many relationships and friendships throughout the ASD community, so I have learned a great deal already about the challenges, big and small, of day-to-day life. I look forward to this opportunity to further the great work that has

already been done in MA to break down those challenges and to increase access to all necessary care and services for everyone in this wonderful community."

"Joe understands the difficulties that individuals with autism and their families often face when trying to access services, and he has been an advocate for breaking down those barriers," said Representative Jones.

Representative McKenna is currently co-sponsoring House Bill 1203, which would expand health care options for individuals with autism by allowing them to remain covered under

their parents' health insurance beyond the age of 26. He also previously co-sponsored legislation requiring training for law enforcement and correction officers on how to engage in appropriate interactions with persons on the autism spectrum who are victims or witnesses to a crime or are suspected or convicted of a crime.

A member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, McKenna also serves as the Ranking Minority Member of the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, and is a member of the House Com-

mittee on Steering, Policy and Scheduling, the Joint Committee on Revenue, and the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Businesses.

McKenna was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2014. He represents the 18th Worcester District, which consists of Webster, Douglas, Sutton, precincts 1 and 4 in Oxford, and precinct 1 in Uxbridge. He also serves on the Board of Directors for The Last Green Valley, Inc. the non-profit stewardship organization serving the Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor in MA and CT.

**NOW OPEN**

**CAPITAL CANNABIS**  
COMMUNITY DISPENSARY



**EXTENSIVE PRODUCT MENU ONLINE AT**  
**CAPITAL-CANNABIS.CO**

774-302-WEED (9333) • 93 DAVIS STREET, DOUGLAS, MA 01516



The Discerning Kaleidoscope is an online curator of beautiful art produced by local artisans. Each piece is handcrafted by talented creators, using a variety of media. TDK provides you with a wonderful opportunity to support local artists/businesses while shopping from the comfort/safety of your own home. We have 13 different collections with many choices just clicks away.

**LOSE YOURSELF IN THE EXTRAORDINARY!**  
**(508) 276-9761**  
**thediscerningkaleidoscope.com**

### Resource directory ads@TheYankeeXpress.com

#### home

**CAPITOL SIDING & HOME IMPROVEMENT COMPANY, INC.**

Custom Exteriors • Vinyl Siding  
Replacement Windows  
Roofing • Seamless Gutters

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

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



#### automotive

290 Providence Rd.  
S. Grafton, MA

Kris Sutton  
kris@streetcarsolutions.com



**STREET CAR SOLUTIONS**  
StreetCarSolutions.com  
**508-839-7071**

#### wanted

**GI Joe Figures & Vehicles Wanted**

From the  
1980s and  
1990s



**Please call 860-933-5549**

**CLEAN OUTS**  
DONE BY  
**MrCleanest.com**  
WE DO EVERYTHING!!  
"Better than the rest" - VERY REASONABLE PRICES TOO!



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

**508-740-1883** DOUGLAS MASS.

**RIVERS EDGE**



**HEAVY TOWING**  
& Truck Trailer Repair  
**508-278-9924**

*A.P. Mandella Landscaping*

**STUMP GRINDING**  
Chip Removal  
LOAM & SEED  
Small Backhoe services



Call Anthony @ 508-340-1640  
Auburn, MA

**Fully Insured**  
**Free Estimates**

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

WITH **AMAZING** RESULTS

*Fine Interior Finishes*

econnor117@gmail.com  
207.779.7142

Gift Certificates available in any denomination  
make great Christmas gifts.

**Professional Car Cleaning**  
Motorcycles & Boats  
Owner: Vic Catacchio Since 1983

218 Worcester St.  
N. Grafton, MA 01536  
774-272-0815  
shineitup2@yahoo.com

**catacchio**

**AUTO  
DETAIL**

**SOCHIA'S**  
OIL & GAS  
INC.

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

**FUEL OIL - PROPANE - KEROSENE**  
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

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

Heating - Air Conditioning  
24 Hour Burner Service

Pete's Sports



By Peter Coyle

Krikorian wills himself to be the best; lives the advise given by his mentor

Caught up again with Jim Krikorian of Milford fame and current Whitinsville resident about his latest cycling trip to the North Carolina.

Krikorian recently shared his last voyage about his cycling trek down to North Carolina in 2020.

This space featured Krikorian's 2014 cycling marathon to Daytona Beach that covered 1,100 miles in 29 days. This North Carolina trip was once again filled with the unknowns of weather and road conditions. The appreciation of those two obstacles always makes for an interesting story.

Just think about driving a car from Whitinsville to North Carolina. Interstate 95 would be the fastest, most convenient way to go. If you are cycling that same route, the reality of the unknown and many surprises are always around the next corner or just over the horizon.

Krikorian's patience and perseverance has once again made his most recent trip successful. Krikorian left Whitinsville on August 1, 2020, and covered the 850

mile trek in 23 days. He rides solo on his trips and pedaling to his own beat is an understatement. Sleeping or resting at local fire stations along his well-planned-out route is not uncommon for the 68-year-old former Milford athlete. Football, wrestling, and baseball were his sports while growing up in the baseball town of Milford in the late sixties and early seventies. Discipline and endurance are Krikorian's passion and time has changed his likes of long distance running to long distance cycling, which makes sense as his biological clock cannot take all that pounding that runners endure over time. In his running prime, Krikorian was putting in 80 miles a week on the local roadways while training for marathons, half marathons and the famed 10-mile Charlie's Road Race of Worcester. The running boom of the mid-seventies that drew Bill Rodgers and Joan Benoit to Worcester for Charlie's 10 miler is a very distant memory now. Racquetball was also a must-do workout back in that era.

Krikorian's most recent 23-day trip from Whitinsville to Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina totaled 850 miles and it wasn't exact-

ly smooth sailing because of state and local road construction that most of the eastern seaboard is consistently undertaking. As a matter of fact, Krikorian got to Ossining, NY and was going to get on the Haverstraw-Ossining Ferry that crossed the Hudson River to West Haverstraw, but the ferry wasn't running for the past year because of COVID-19 restrictions. As dusk approached quickly, Krikorian saw a girl walking by the ferry area and told her about his dilemma. She felt compassion and quickly called her boyfriend who owned a speed boat. The couple took Krikorian to Haverstraw across the Hudson River in boat speed real time, 20 minutes. If Krikorian had to pedal himself, it would have taken him another 2 and a half hours. Talk about the hand of God being with you. Krikorian offered them money for their efforts, but they declined. Krikorian hasn't forgotten that kind-hearted story and believes in the good of people all the time.

Krikorian ground out the remaining 500-plus miles and arrived in North Carolina on August 24, 2020.

Krikorian also had a cross country trip from San Diego to Whitinsville of 3,500 miles back in 2005 when he went

coast-to-coast in 58 days. Krikorian is unique in the way he cycles because he does it solo from start to finish, meaning not only the trip itself, but the strategy with weather, road conditions, and the state of affairs which comes up in every new city and town and county that he travels into.

He would like to thank Putnam Cyclery of Putnam, CT, for getting his bike ready for all his trips and maintaining his bike with great professional care.

Why does Krikorian still plan out these cycling marathons as he approaches the young age of 70?

He had a mentor who made an impression on him and his will to compete in life by willing himself to be the best has stuck with Krikorian since he met him over 35 years ago. His name is William "Biddy" McMahon.

Krikorian has gained so much of his respect to keep competing on his endurance journeys from the great William "Biddy" McMahon, who finished second to Tarzan Brown in the Boston marathon in 1936. Biddy also competed in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. For the record, per Sandy Burgin's, Worcester Telegram's sports writer, Mc-



Jim Krikorian on his way to North Carolina.

Mahon was one of three U.S. marathoners who competed in Berlin in 1936. McMahon, who grew up on Shrewsbury Street in Worcester in the Meadows section, won the U.S. Olympic Trials, breaking a National AAU marathon record by nearly five minutes. He beat out the famous Boston Marathoner Johnny Kelley by 200 yards.

Krikorian is a retired respiratory therapist who cared for Biddy late in McMahon's life and grew attached to Biddy's legacy and Biddy's persona. Krikorian himself ran the Boston Peace Marathon in 1985 and McMahon acknowledged Krikorian's

enthusiasm during that period when Krikorian was caring for Biddy who passed away in 1991. "Mr. McMahon is an icon who impressed in so many ways and his story about his marathon career on the Olympic stage and in Boston amazes me to this day" said Krikorian. Krikorian remains inspired by Biddy McMahon and takes Biddy's spirit with him on these long cycling trips. Krikorian hasn't revealed what his next trip will consist of, but you can bet he will attempt another because of his goal-setting attitude and his spirit to keep competing in his own way.

Fully Insured & Licensed in MA

RI Reg #: 41975  
HIC #: 190392

- Roofing
- Chimney
- Gutters
- Siding

Working with you every step of the way!

**SHINE** CONSTRUCTION INC

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE TODAY

**508-278-3300**

• SERVING ALL OF NEW ENGLAND •

www.shineconstructioninc.com

**FOR ALL YOUR FUEL NEEDS**

**NEW BOILER INSTALLS**

- Crown Boilers
- Williamson Furnaces
- Oil Tank Installs

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

**We do NOT Sell Biofuel!**

Which will help prevent system breakdowns.

**HELP WANTED -**

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

**LMT Oil, Inc.**

Keeping You Warm & Comfortable

**508.434.1335**

A Full Service Oil Company  
24-Hour Emergency Service

**WWW.LMTOIL.COM • WE DO ONLINE ORDERING**



## Quilts one to the dogs

The 2022 Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild biennial quilt show has “gone to the dogs.” This show’s chosen charity is Guiding Eyes for the Blind a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides guide dogs free of charge to people with vision loss. This worthwhile organization relies on contributions from generous donors and fund-raising activities. All proceeds from the charity table at the show will be donated to Guiding Eyes for the Blind. This table will feature many handmade and one-of-a-kind items for all your fur friends and family. Items available for sale will include travels beds, sports-themed dog coats, drying towels, dog/cat-themed quilts, toys and stuffed animals.

Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild invites you to attend their quilt show, which will feature over 200 member-made-and-designed quilts, vendors, raffle baskets, and a special raffle quilt. The event will take place on March 12 and 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School in Upton. Admission is \$10.00 and children under 18 are admitted free. Masks must be worn by all attending.

## Donna’s Day: creative family fun

### Twist, shape and bake healthy bread bears

By Donna Erickson

Baking bread is just plain fun when your preschoolers shape prepared dough into adorable bear shapes. Toss in simple math along the way too, as your pint-size bakers divide the dough into halves, fourths and even sixths to form the bear’s arms, legs and snout. They’ll watch the dough rise before their eyes, and they’ll love “painting” the bears with an egg wash before you pop them in the oven.

Serve them warm, drizzled with some honey from a little pot for a memorable afternoon treat.

Ingredients for two 8-inch-tall bears:

- One loaf of prepared frozen bread dough
- 1 egg, beaten with 1 tablespoon of water
- Raisins
- Honey (optional)

Here’s the fun:

1. Thaw the loaf of frozen bread dough for two 8-inch-tall bears. Use it while it is still cold.
2. Cut the loaf in half. Set one of the halves aside for a few minutes while you form the first bear.
3. Cut the dough into two even pieces, and let your child roll one of the pieces into a ball with his hands. Set it on a large, greased cookie sheet

for the body. Press it down to flatten slightly.

4. Cut the other piece in half. Roll one of the halves into a ball for the head and place it above the body. You may need to pinch the two parts together.

5. Pick off a small bit from the remaining piece for the snout. Cut the rest into six even pieces. Roll all seven small pieces into balls. Place a ball on the face for the snout, two ears at the top of the head, 2 arms at the sides of the body, and 2 legs to the bottom of the body.

6. Make tiny slits in the dough and insert raisins for eyes and for a belly button. Repeat steps for second bear.

7. Let them rise, covered with a damp towel or plastic wrap, for about 45 minutes in a warm place until doubled in size.

8. Remove covering and brush some egg mixture on top of the bears. Bake at 350 F for 25 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on a cooling rack.

TIP: Make several bears, and dress them up with thin ribbons tied around their necks. Set in a basket as treats at a teddy bear party.

Find more family fun at [www.donnaerickson.com](http://www.donnaerickson.com). Write to Donna at [Info@donnaerickson.com](mailto:Info@donnaerickson.com) (c) 2021 Donna Erickson. Distributed by King Features Synd.



Preschoolers can learn fractions while they help make these bread bears. Photo Credit: Donna Erickson

## BVAA to host 10th annual Anything Goes Photography Show

The BVAA is moving forward to try to normalize its functions. The first show of 2022 is the 10th edition of the Anything Goes Photo Show. It is open to members and non-members alike.

This show has historically been the most popular show. It will be a live show to be hung at the Open Skies Gallery 5 S. Main St., Uxbridge. Deadline for submission is January 7. Drop off date for artwork to the gallery is January 8, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

The show will be judged for cash prizes by Paul Murray, multi-award winning international photographer. Paul won first place in the recent Small Stones Art Festival in Grafton.

Submission form and pertinent information on participating in the show can be found at [BVAA.ORG](http://BVAA.ORG). Award winners will be announced January 16, accompanied with a presentation by Paul Murray. Details on the form of the presentation whether in person and/or virtual will depend on the state of COVID at the time. The show can be seen Saturdays January 15 to March 5, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The show is supported by Mass Local Cultural Councils and ValleyCast. Contact Carol Frieswick [info@bvaa.org](mailto:info@bvaa.org).

# Al's

## RUBBISH & CONTAINER

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

# Holiday Special

SUTTON, MILLBURY and GRAFTON

<b>10 yard</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>FREE DROP OFF AND PICK UP</b>
<b>15 yard</b>	<b>\$350</b>	
<b>20 yard</b>	<b>\$475</b>	

3 DAY RENTAL ONLY !!

Al's Rubbish Provides

- Dumpster Rental Services 7 Days
- All Rentals Include Drop Off and Pick Up
- No Hidden Fees
- Estate Clean Outs
- Furniture/Appliance
- We Recycle

Support Local Small Business

508-865-4193 • [WWW.ALSRUBBISH.COM](http://WWW.ALSRUBBISH.COM)

Serving the Blackstone Valley and the Surrounding Towns in Worcester County

**RE: Real Estate**



**Mark Marzeotti**

Buyers are already struggling to buy existing homes, so it's a problem if new ones become even more expensive.

There are plenty of good reasons to buy a new-construction home. For example, you'll have fewer repairs to make early on, and if the home is being built from the ground up, you can customize that space to suit your specific needs. But there's one key reason new construction may increasingly move out of reach: The cost of materials needed to build homes keeps going up.

Lumber, for example, now costs on some items more than twice as much as it normally would at this time of the year. Crude oil, which is used for roofing and flooring materials, has risen over 80%. And

**Homes are costing more to build – and buyers might struggle to keep up**

copper, which is commonly used for piping and electrical work, now costs roughly one-third more than it did back in the spring.

All of this is making homes more expensive to construct – a cost that's likely to be passed along to buyers. And given the state of the housing market today, the timing couldn't be worse.

Buyers are running out of options.

Existing homes are hardly a bargain. Quite the contrary – an uptick in buyer demand has inflated home prices. In fact, buyers are routinely getting priced out of the market, especially in places where many of the available homes not only cost more, but also need extensive work.

New construction solves the latter problem. In fact, despite new construction's higher price tag, it can often end up being more cost-effective than buying an existing home when you consider the absence of near-term renovations and repairs. But as the cost of building materials skyrockets, it may cease to

become an option for the average homebuyer.

The need for large down payments can make the problem worse. There are situations where buyers can sign a mortgage and put down less than 20% of a home's purchase price at closing. However, mortgage lenders tend to be stricter when it comes to new construction – especially homes that allow buyers to customize certain features. As such, buyers who seek out new construction should generally plan on making a 20% down payment – which could become exceedingly difficult if home prices shoot upward.

Buyer beware.

Another issue to consider is that builders are notorious for cutting corners and using sub-par materials in new construction properties to boost their profits. Just look up “builder grade homes” on the internet. As the cost of common materials rises, builders may seek to substitute even lower quality materials – and that's something buyers will need to be wary of.

In fact, given the way material costs are climbing, buyers of new construction need to be extra thorough when spelling out the terms of their purchase agreements (or hire

good lawyers to take care of that for them). If buyers specify the materials that are to be used, it could help them avoid getting stuck with sub-par

homes with hefty price tags.

The Marzeotti Group wishes everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. Happy New Year.

**Lake Realty**  
**Maureen Cimoch**  
 Real Estate Consultant  
 Cell 508.769.9211  
 111 East Main Street, Webster  
 www.LakeRealty.net  
 www.WebsterLake.com or .net  
 SMART



**COUNTRY LIVING REALTY**  
 Cliff Van Reed  
 Owner/Broker  
 Cell: 508-864-0520  
 cliffvanreed@realtor.com  
 306 Main St., PO Box 538, Douglas, MA 01516  
 Cell: 508-864-0520 • Fax: 508-476-1766  
 www.countrylivingdouglas.com

Maribeth Marzeotti  
 Broker Associate/GRI/SRES  
**RE/MAX ADVANTAGE 1**  
 25 Union Street, 4th Floor  
 Worcester, MA 01608  
 508-864-8163  
 MBMarzeotti@gmail.com  
 www.MarzeottiGroup.com

**Prayer**  
 Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (intention), Amen.  
 If you pray three times a day, three consecutive days, you will receive your intention, no matter how impossible it may seem. Praise and Thanksgiving please the Heart of God.  
*Believer*

**HOLIDAY SALE**  
**BEST DEALS OF THE YEAR!**  
**1000s OF DEALS**  
**LG • SAMSUNG • MAYTAG • WHIRLPOOL • FRIGIDAIRE • GE**

<b>BUY 4 LG APPLIANCES AND GET 10% OFF BUY ONLINE REBATE PLUS A \$200 BONUS</b>	<b>Amana Dishwasher</b> ADB1400AGS <b>\$399<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$499.99	<b>Maytag Dishwasher</b> MDB4845SKZ <b>\$699<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$759.99	<b>Amana Dryer</b> NED4655EW <b>\$479<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$599.99	<b>Maytag Dryer</b> MEDC465HW <b>\$699<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$749.99	 <b>BEST LOCAL APPLIANCE STORE</b>
	<b>LG Washer</b> WT7900HBA <b>\$1199<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$1399.99	<b>LG Front Load Washer</b> WM3400CW <b>\$799<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$899.99	<b>GE Front Load Washer</b> GFWS505SNWW <b>\$899<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$999.99	<b>GE Dryer</b> 65Y2EASJW <b>\$599<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$699.99	

**0% FINANCING** Open a Whitco Charge and Get 12 months No Interest

**100s OF FREEZERS IN STOCK**  
**ALL SIZES**

<b>Midea Refrigerator</b> Stainless Steel, Bottom Freezer, 19 CU FT <b>\$999<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$1199.99	<b>Frigidaire Refrigerator</b> Stainless Steel, Top Freezer, 21 CU FT <b>\$749<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$999.99	<b>Frigidaire Refrigerator</b> Stainless Steel, Top Freezer, 18 CU FT <b>\$699<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$899.99	<b>GE Microwave</b> JYM3160RFS <b>\$249<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$269.99
<b>Whirlpool Refrigerator</b> WRQ49CNKZ • Counter Depth <b>\$1999<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$2199.99	<b>Amana Gas Range</b> AGRS330BAS • Stainless Steel <b>\$549<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$649.99	<b>Whirlpool Electric Stove</b> WFE355OLS • With Air Fry <b>\$849<sup>99</sup></b> Was \$999.99	<b>OPEN</b> DEC. 23 - 8-10 DEC. 24 - 8-8

**BUY 4 GE APPLIANCES AND GET A \$200 REBATE**  
 BUY 3 GET \$100  
 BUY 2 GET \$50

**BUY 4 WHIRLPOOL APPLIANCES AND GET A \$200 ONLINE REBATE**  
 BUY 3 GET \$100  
 BUY 2 GET \$50

**MORE APPLIANCES**  
 • Toys • TVs • Bikes in stock

**20% OFF ALL LEGOS**  
 100s in stock

**MATTRESS SALE!**  
 TWIN: Reg. \$299 **NOW \$179<sup>99</sup>**  
 FULL: Reg. \$499 **NOW \$269<sup>99</sup>**  
 QUEEN: Reg. \$599 **NOW \$299<sup>99</sup>**

**ALL SAMSUNG & LG TVs ON SALE**

**10% OFF ALL TOYS**  
 With this coupon  
 Expires 12/20/21 - EXCLUDES LEGOS

**L A Z B O Y**



**WORLD'S GREATEST RECLINER SALE**  
BORN 1927

**GET RECLINING & GET SAVING!**  
Choose from an amazing selection of our greatest recliner styles and features including massage, leather, high legs and more... all sale priced to fit comfortably into your budget!

**HURRY!**  
Limited time only!

**hot buy**

**FROM \$399**

**0% INTEREST - FOR 1 FULL YEAR!**

www.sundeenfurnitureinc.com

**Sundeen Furniture**

241 PROVIDENCE ROAD, WHITINSVILLE, MA

508-234-8777  
FREE LAYAWAY / FREE DELIVERY

M.T.W. 9:30-6:00; TH., FRI. 9:30-8:00; SAT. 9:30-6:00; SUN. 11-5



**BLACKSTONE VALLEY'S LOCAL DESTINATION FOR ALL THINGS CLEAN**

- Automatic Tunnel Wash
- Heated Indoor Self-Serve Bays
- Saber Touchless Wash
- Pet Wash Stations
- OPEN 24 hours a day
- Interior Cleaning Services
- 10 Self-Serve Vacuums

Join our **VIP PLATINUM** club for Free Monthly Washes & Discounts




Gift Cards & Wash Packages Available Online  
**WWW.FITZYSCARWASHES.COM**

85 Worcester St  
North Grafton, MA  
508-839-5250

**Ray's**  
**AUTO BODY**

*Quality Workmanship*

Over 35 Years in Business • I-Car Gold Certified  
On All Insurance Company Lists  
Every Vehicle Must Pass a 25 Point Safety Inspection



**FREE RENTAL**  
**NEVER PAY FULL DEDUCTIBLE!**

188 Worcester St., (Rte. 122) Grafton, MA  
**508-839-9508**

RS 974 restrictions apply

**Any Room, Any Home, Anywhere**




**Morrisette & Son**  
**Electrical Contractors, INC.**  
ELECTRICAL • HVAC • GENERATORS  
508-476-9879  
MorrisetteElectrical.com

Choose Morrisette & Son as your installer, and receive:

- Upgraded Diamond Dealer Parts & Compressor Warranty to 12 years (from standard 5 years parts/7 years compressor)
- Financing through the MassSave HeatLoan
- Rebates through MassSave, with processing on your behalf
- Extended Labor Warranty Available
- Highly trained technicians with Installation & Service
- Maintenance Contracts Available