# BLACKSTONE VALLEY Dress CROSSTOWN ADS AND BUSINESS NEWS

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March 11-April 8, 2022

## **Primitive Goods poised** for a festive fifth anniversary on April 3

### By Rod Lee

Chances are Jeanne Silvia will be greeting customers with even more of the engaging smile she is known for than usual on Sunday, April 3, as her Primitive Goods Supply store on Mendon St. in Uxbridge celebrates a fifth anniversarv.

With specials throughout the day, goodies and a raffle for a gift certificate, Ms. Silvia is looking forward to letting patrons of Primitive Goods know how much she appreciates their loyalty.

She only once before observed a milestone of this sort, on the occasion of the store's first anniver-

"I think this is a good one because we made it past the pandemic," she said on February 24.

Situated in the historic Stanley Woolen Mill complex, Primitive Goods was closed for three months in 2020. "It was tough," Ms. Silvia said. "We reopened in July. We had an understanding landlord and I didn't make my girls pay rent."

"Her girls" are more than a dozen vendors spread throughout the rooms of the building. Part of the fun of visiting Primitive Goods is going from room to room, soaking up the atmosphere, and discovering all of the treasures contained therein. It might be an old birdhouse, a little red wagon, a wooden keg, a teapot, doggie wall plaques, an old crock butter churn, a baker's table, colorful tins, a "sweet Mimi" lantern, linens, curtains, candles, soaps and lotions, an old crate, earthenware, a framed chalkboard, a throw rug, an armchair, a jug, a cabinet, a shelf, a one-of-akind antique, furniture.

Farmhouse décor is plentiful. So too is a wide selection of Valley Forge paints.

One customer "painted her walls with Valley Forge mustard," Ms. Silvia said. "I did some with New England Red and Rittenhouse Ivory."

"Prim love" is everywhere.

"There's a very high demand for what we sell because a lot of places closed," Ms. Silvia said. "Some customers come in weekly because they're afraid we're going to close."

A former vendor herself, next door at the Brick Mill Marketplace ("when she closed I decided to open here and my vendors followed me, all of them have been with me from the beginning except for one new vendor"), Ms. Silvia is keen on the arrival of March and April and the foot traffic those months will bring.

"People are looking for spring," she said. "We can't get it in fast

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Jeanne Silvia, right, owner of Primitive Goods in Uxbridge, relies on longtime vendors like Alice Rickard to keep the store brimming with mer-

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The ghost of Phillip Babb

### **Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce** hosts 22nd annual Home & Community

NORTHBRIDGE - The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce (BVCC) is back with their annual Home & Community EXPO on March 12, at Northbridge High School Fieldhouse from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event boasts dozens of local businesses, available to answer questions about their services and industries. Discover what the Blackstone Valley has to offer at this amazing community event. Collect free goodies, participate in activities and enjoy the entertain-

The BVCC is proud to host the Chowder Festival, generously sponsored by Milford Federal Credit Union. Restaurants from around the Valley will compete for the coveted "People's Choice" and "Best Judged" titles. Be sure

to cast your vote and stick around for the awarding.

There will be an expanded children's activity area featuring Bobo the Clown and his amazing balloon sculptures, games and more. Food will also be available for purchase through the NHS DECA concession

Thank you to presenting sponsor, UniBank, Chowder Festival sponsor, Milford Federal Credit Union, entertainment sponsors, Gaudette Insurance, Savers Bank and Millbury Federal Credit Union, business sponsor, Package Steel, and welcome sponsor, Lampin Corporation.

Entrance is free with a downloadable ticket or the donation of a non-perishable food item or \$3 to benefit Peace of Bread Food Pantry. Access a sheet of free tickets through this link: https://blackstonevalley.org/images/pdf/DigitalTickets\_2022.pdf.

Convenient parking at Northbridge High School, Northbridge Middle School, Pleasant Street Church or Whitinsville Christian School. Shuttles will be available throughout the day to pick up and drop off visitors at each parking

The Mission of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is to preserve and enhance the economic vitality of the Blackstone Valley by addressing her needs and concerns of businesses and providing leadership, support and resources in connection with issues which impact commerce and the quality of life in the Valley.



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### **PRIMITIVE** GOODS

Continued from page 1

To that end, she was headed to Pennsylvania-Lebanon, Penn. specifically-as the month of February came to a close for a "three-day show" she attends twice a year, to acquire more inventory. "We do our ordering there, and cash and carry," she said. "That's where I get a lot of my handmade items. I will be concentrating on spring stuff and the Fourth of July, outside garden, florals because everyone is looking for those."

Having a connection to the

Stanley Woolen Mill legacy and a convenient location right along Rt. 16 with plenty of parking is an asset, she savs.

The store is open Wednesday through Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

"People love the building. They say 'can we move in?' We made it like a home. I have my little window," she said, of a cutout between her spot at the sales counter and the entranceway.

"I've made a few people jump!"

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



Unexpected finds are part of the experience of visiting Primitive Goods in Uxbridge, a store that features "home décor and more."



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# BLACKSTONE VALLEY Dress

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

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### Correction

The name of the Table Familv Diner was listed incorrectly in the February 11 story printed in the Blackstone Valley Xpress. Their daily hours of operation are 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday until 6:30 p.m.; and closed Wednesday and Friday. The Table Family Diner is located on Quaker Highway in Uxbridge, owned by Cheryl Swyers.





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## Offering support beyond the road test

# **Business**

Centerpoint Driving Academy sets itself miles apart from its competition. With its unique offerings and local ties, it's hard to go wrong.

Centerpoint Driving Academy offers classes for people of all ages, teaching them the rules of the road-with high satisfaction levels.

President Jim Beyer, a Milford native, said the ratings the company receives are top

"We have the highest rating on Google out of any driving school in our area. More than 83 5-star reviews and a total rating of 4.9.

So how did this 5-star driving academy get its start?

Centerpoint Driving Academy was founded by two fathers who strongly believe that teens aren't getting enough out of Driver's Ed. With seven children between them, they've served as the point men for all auto-related problems - putting air in the tires, explaining dashboard alerts, changing tires, etc. Their kids were clueless about these fundamental skills because, as they told

them: "We never covered

It became clear to them that while Driver's Ed programs are helping students get their license, they are not doing enough to prepare them for what happens after they have it.

So two dads, John Anderson and Jim Beyer, started the academy.

The business, which has been around for three-andhalf-years, brings joy not only to the students when they see success, but also to the work-

"My favorite part of owning this company is seeing the joy on a teen's face when they pass their driving test on the first attempt," Beyer said.

"We offer personal services that go above and beyond," he said.

Centerpoint will pick students up from their homes, school or work.

Another area that sets them apart? The cars.

"We have several unique offerings. We are the only school to offer driving lessons with only SUVs-Toyota RAV 4s. SUVs are 50% safer than taking lessons in a sedan, per the National Highway Safety Board.

"Second, we provide a unique Life Skills class where CENTERPOINT DRIVING ACADEMY



we bring in a police officer to address the class and a master mechanic to teach them how to change a tire, etc. This is free as part of purchasing the SUV package," Beyer

Centerpoint Driving Academy also has a Spanish-speaking instructor. They offer online scheduling for students to book their lessons and observation hours. There's also a portal where both the students and parents can track their progress.

A bonus that students receive is an additional free practice lesson before they take the RMV road test.

Bever said the biggest extra that students get is something that happens after the class ends.

"We provide an evaluation after each driving lesson that is sent to both the student and the parent," said the CEO.

Another added benefit that Centerpoint offers is the background and experience to address concerns parents may have about their kids who have anxiety, ADD or similar issues. Beyer has spent 20+ years working as a school psychologist, clinician, and therapist for teens and adults. This is an expertise you don't find at your average driving school.

Don't just take the company's word for it, see what students are saying about Centerpoint:

One parent said "the company had good communication, professionalism, quality,

Another parent wrote "We used a different company for my older child's driver's ed classes and lessons and weren't blown away by it so looked around when it was time for our middle child to take them. We'll definitely be back to CDA for our youngest child! Jim and crew were fabulous! Easy to work with and so good with our daughter. Dealing with a pandemic is stressful enough, never mind learning to drive in it. They were great and helped put our daughter at ease. She was confident when it was time for her license test and she passed the first time. I have recommended them to friends whose children are getting to that age. They are excellent!"

Centerpoint makes a difference in the lives of its students and its community.

For more information on how to sign up for classes or learn more, visit www. centerpointdrivingacademy.com/about-us.

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# Samuel States EXPERIENCE ribbon



Samuel Slater Experience founder Chris Robert and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito cut the ribbon to officially open the museum, flanked by Ross Lavoie, Selectman Randy Becker, State Rep. Joe McKenna and State Sen. Ryan Fattman.

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The Samuel Slater Experience, a historic museum featuring state-of-the-art 4D digital technology to tell the story of Samuel Slater, the beginnings of the American Industrial Revolution, and the founding of Webster, Massachusetts, in the early 19th century, opened its doors to the public Friday, March 4, with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony.

A group of local politicians and business leaders spoke in a brief program held before the ribbon cutting. Speakers include Samuel Slater Experience Founder Christopher Robert, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Senator Ryan Fattman, Representative Joseph McKenna, Webster Selectboard chairman Randy Becker, Webster Town Administrator

Richard LaFond, Executive Director of Discover Central Mass. Monique Messier.

The Samuel Slater Experience comprises more than twenty unique, immersive exhibits that transport the audience back to the early 1800s as the seeds of the American Industrial Revolution were sown. The museum starts with a young and conflicted Samuel Slater and his immigration to America, his success during the era and his impact on the geographic area. Guests will explore Slater's unique factory model that would transform manufacturing in America. The museum then takes you forward a century, recreating downtown Webster in the early 1900s, which has become a hub of commerce and industry.

The Samuel Slater Experience was created by Webster business owner and philanthropist Christopher Robert with the help of Webster town officials, museum design expert Doug Mund and his firm dmdg2, and digital production mastermind Bob Noll and Boston Productions Inc. Robert has been working on the project since 2016, with the fundamental purpose to create a new way to educate children. The exhibits are designed in coordination with curriculum directors from the local school districts, aligned with approved curriculum standards in both social studies and STEM fields.

Explore the Samuel Slater Experience now at SamuelSlaterExperience.org



Enjoying a trolley ride are Bev Robert, Rep. Joe McKenna, Jeannie Hebert, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and Keiko Orrall.



### Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park hosts "Parked at Home" series

Are you parked at home this winter? The staff at Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park invites you to learn about your local national park-and some faraway places-without even packing a bag.

Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park is made up of six different sites in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. All of these sites from Slater Mill in Pawtucket, RI, to the Little Red Shop in Hopedale, Massachusetts, have a unique story. Through a series of virtual talks called "Parked at Home," local National Park Service staff will pair up with other rangers at six other National Park Service units to explore unexpected connections.

"This is a way for people who live outside of the Valley to learn our story, and for local people to get an insiders' view of a totally different part of the country," Supervisory Ranger Kevin Klyberg explains.

This series began on Thursday, March 10, and will run on consecutive Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. through April 14. All programs are free and presented in partnership with Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. To register, visit the National Historical Park's website at www.nps.gov/blrv. For more information, contact Park Ranger Allison Horrocks at Allison Horrocks@NPS.gov.

Parked at Home: Construction - Thursday, March 17, at 7:00 p.m. featuring: Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The second event in this series takes us from the Blackstone Canal all the way to Ohio. Together with folks from the Cuyahoga Valley, we'll explore the lives of people who built the infrastructure that made America's age of industry. We will also consider how historic canalways give us space to recharge for the future.

Parked at Home: Family - Thursday, March 24, at 7:00 p.m. featuring: Wright Brothers National Memorial. From the Whitins in Northbridge, to the Wrights in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, family businesses and ventures can be full of tension and triumph. What can the Whitins and the Wrights teach us today about the lines between business and family?

Parked at Home: Equality - Thursday, March 31, at 7:00 p.m. featuring: Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument. Before Hopedale was a factory town, it was a commune founded on utopian ideals-and women's equality. During this talk, we'll take a long

### look at the fight for women's suffrage and other battles

for equity in society with a ranger from the nation's capital.

Parked at Home: Space - Thursday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. featuring: Canaveral National Seashore. Did you know that workers in Ashton, Rhode Island made materials that allowed humans to go into space? Soar beyond earth's atmosphere during this talk with the people who manage the land for Kennedy Space Center.

Parked at Home: Cotton -Thursday, April 14, at 7:00 p.m. featuring: Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. During the final discussion in this series, we will learn from experts in Florida about cotton cultivation and the system of plantation slavery. Together, we'll connect the labor system at Slater Mill (a cotton spinning mill) in Pawtucket. Rhode Island, to the global web of enslaved labor.

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 423 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to home recreational opportunities. Visit us at www. nps.gov, on Facebook www. facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter. com/natlparkservice. YouTube www.youtube.com/ nationalparkservice







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### **Trip to Portugal**

Join the Douglas Sunshine Club for a trip to Sunny Portugal with Collette in October. The Club will be hosting a Collette Travel rep presentation for this trip on Thursday, March 24, at 3 p.m. at the Adult Social Center located at 331 Main St, Douglas. It is a 10 day tour with multiple night stays

at some of the hotels along the way. Venture from the coastal city of Lisbon and experience cultural and culinary highlights of Portugal. The day-by-day round trip itinerary, travel arrangements to and from Boston, detailed information regarding safe international travel, health and safety protocols, travel insurance and other detailed information will be discussed. The club has traveled with Collette on several other international trips and have always been 100% satisfied with all the arrangements, professional preparation and expert travel guides. This trip is perfect for anyone with an interest in exploring new places and finally getting back out there for new experiences.

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### Thimble Pleasures quilt show

The Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild is pleased to present its 2022 quilt show Visions of Hope on Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13, at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School, 65 Pleasant St., Upton. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Admission is \$10.00 and children 18

and under are admitted free. The entrance to the school is handicap accessible and free parking is available on site. The following COVID precautions will be in effect: masks must be worn by all visitors, hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the site, and food and refreshments will not be available.

There will a diverse group of craft and quilt vendors also participating in the show.

The show will feature over 200 quilts designed and made by guild members. Also included are member quilts from Guild Challenges, Round Robins, and Youth Quilts. The show also offers a Silent Auction, raffle baskets, a Quilter's

Boutique, and a special raffle quilt. Raffle quilt tickets are available at the show and are \$1.00 a ticket or 6 for \$5.00. The raffle drawing will take place on Sunday at 4 p.m. You do not have to be present to win.

This year the Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild will commemorate thirty years since its

creation. This milestone will be noted at the show's special exhibit, Hindsight is 2020, which will feature a look back at all of our past Quilt Show's Special Projects. This year's Special Project charity is Guiding Eyes for the Blind. There will be many pet-related handcrafted items for sale to support our donation to this charity.

Funding realized from the show will be used to assist the guild in purchasing materials for their community outreach projects, charity donations, and other special projects.

The Thimble Pleasures Quilt Guild hopes to see you there and hopes that you will enjoy the show.



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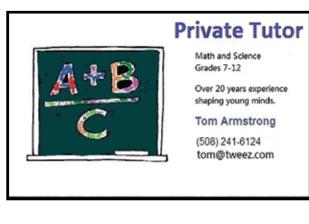
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### Healthier baking in the Blackstone Valley

### Microwave for heating and cooking too

By Christine Galeone

winter, many of us continue to crave comfort food. We may also have a tendency to want to satisfy our cravings for comfort food right away.

As we approach the end of Both desires can lead us to pick up fast food snacks or over-processed sweets that taste as good as they look because they're frequently loaded with sugar, saturated

fat, artificial colors, artificial flavors and preservatives.

But over-processed sweets and fast food snacks can only satisfy us temporarily. In the long term, they can lead to the horrible diseases and conditions that we all dread. So, why not try a quick healthy snack, instead? Quick Microwave Blueberry Crisp could be exactly what you're looking for.

Blueberry crisp is probably one of the healthiest desserts you can make. It's overflowing with hearthealthy ingredients, including blueberries, oats and walnuts. Cinnamon also has antioxidant properties. And blueberries are considered to be a superfood for many reasons. They are certified by the American Heart Association to be a heart-healthy food. Loaded with antioxidants, they are believed to be beneficial in fighting cancer and in improving brain health. Additionally, the anthocyanins - which give the fruit its deep color - may have antidiabetic effects.

### **Quick Microwave Blueberry Crisp** Ingredients:

1/2 Cup of Blueberries 1/4 Cup of Rolled Oats 2 Tbsp. Chopped Walnuts 1 tsp. of Brown Sugar\* Generous Sprinkling of.Cinnamon 1 tsp. of Olive Oil Directions:

- · Rinse the blueberries.
- In a microwave-safe dish, mix together all the dry in-

gredients and the blueber-

- · Add the olive oil to the
- mixture. · Cover with a paper towel.
- · Microwave for approximately one minute. Let it cool a little, but serve it warm. Makes one serving. \*Brown sugar can easily be omitted from this recipe.

Is comfort food really comforting if it could lead to disease? The answer is clear. This blueberry crisp is delicious, quick and healthy. It's a snack or dessert that can bring us comfort in more ways than one. Happy (healthier) baking!

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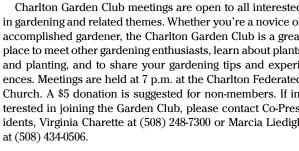
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### **Pruning basics**

CHARLTON - The Charlton Garden Club's Monday, March 14, meeting will feature Dawn Pettinelli, an Associate Extension Educator at the University of Connecticut. She will be speaking on Pruning Basics.

Charlton Garden Club meetings are open to all interested in gardening and related themes. Whether you're a novice or accomplished gardener, the Charlton Garden Club is a great place to meet other gardening enthusiasts, learn about plants and planting, and to share your gardening tips and experiences. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the Charlton Federated Church. A \$5 donation is suggested for non-members. If interested in joining the Garden Club, please contact Co-Presidents, Virginia Charette at (508) 248-7300 or Marcia Liedigk





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### Take your mask off

As of March 1, masks are no longer required in the Simon Fairfield Public Library in Douglas. We have also put out our train tables and kids toys for the first time in two years. We remain dedicated to providing content digitally through Libby and Kanopy, and will continue book deliveries every Thursday. We hope that you will come visit sometime, though, to browse our collections which aren't available online. We have renewed subscriptions to physical magazines that we stopped carrying during the worst of the pandemic and have new books arriving on the shelves every week. Don't be a stranger.

Thanks for reading, Justin Ray Snook Director, Simon Fairfield Public Library 290 Main Street, Douglas

### **Morning Grief Workshop**

UXBRIDGE - "Grieving with Great HOPE," is a five-week grief support workshop from Good Mourning Ministry, a Catholic Apostolate, being offered in the morning by St. Mary Parish, Uxbridge. This workshop will be held at St. Mary Parish Center, 77 Mendon St., Uxbridge, on Monday, March 28, April 4, 11, 25 and May 2 from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. This workshop is for anyone who is grieving the death of a loved one. Whether you have lost a spouse, child (including pregnancy loss), grandparent, sibling, cousin, or friend, you are welcome to attend.

As Catholics, we are given hope for eternal life in the risen Lord for ourselves and for our loved ones. Everyone mourns at their own pace and everyone experiences grief in their own unique way; grief has no expiration date. Participants will gather together as a community of faith to become Disciples of Hope by walking through the seven intentions of mourning. The cost is \$12.00 and includes the workbook. You may register through our website, by calling the office at 508-278-2226, or emailing dmoriaty@stmaryuxbridge.org.

# Whitinsville Social Library wants to hear from you

To plan for the next five years, Whitinsville Social Library is evaluating its services and programs. Please help us by completing a short survey online at www. surveymonkey.com/r/WSLSurvey2022 or picking up a paper copy at the library. All surveys are due by Tuesday March 15. Whether you visit the library often, haven't been back since the start of the pandemic, or have never stepped foot inside, we want to hear from you.

Rebecca Sasseville, Library Director Whitinsville Social Library The public library for Northbridge, MA

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### **Uxbridge Senior Center news**

UXBRIDGE - The Uxbridge Senior Center, 36 South Main Sreet, has listed its calendar of events for the month.

### News from the director

Zumba and chair yoga classes are back. We are proud to announce our 8-week classes are back and started on March 10. Zumba is a fitness program that fuses entertainment and culture into an exhilarating dance party workout. This is an 8-week specialized program designed for seniors. The benefits of Zumba include improved balance, range of motion and coordination. Additional benefits include increase blood flow to the brain enhancing attention and concentration skills, as well as burning calories and meeting new friends! The program is from 1:30-2:30 p.m. The instructor, Amy Smith, is a licensed Gold Zumba instructor.

Yoga has been shown to improve overall health when practiced regularly. Chair yoga is a gentle form of yoga that can be done while sitting. Some poses can also be done standing using a chair for support. Chair yoga can improve your flexibility, concentration and strength, while boosting your mood, and reducing stress and joint strain. Other benefits include improved balance to help prevent falls, increased energy, and improved relaxation. The class will focus on stretching, breathing, and allowing the mind to be still. The instructor will be Dr. David Tapscott, certified yoga instructor. Dr. Tapscott has been an instructor since 2014 and has a deep passion for yoga. The program began Thursday, March 10, from 2:45-3:45pm.

Each class will run one hour, one day a week for an 8-week period. The suggested donation cost for this 8-week class is \$25.00 for each class. Classes will be held at the Senior Center's Satellite Site which is the McCloskey School Interested indilocated at 62 Capron Street in Uxbridge. viduals should call or stop by the Uxbridge Senior Center at 508-278-8622 for more information and receive their application and waiver forms prior to the start of the program. At this time, we recommend for participant's safety, wearing people. Call 508-278-8622 to sign up. masks and maintaining social distancing guidelines.

Last call for fuel assistance. The SMOC fuel assistance program for the winter season is ending soon. If you need help with your heating costs, please call the center to make an appointment to apply or inquire about eligibility requirements.

Every home in the U.S. is now eligible to order four free at-home COVID-19 test kits delivered to your home. The tests are completely free. Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days. Order your tests now at COVIDTESTS.GOV or call CDC Call Center at 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489). Stav safe, Lisa

Thursday, March 17, - 11:30 am - 12:30 pm - "PopUp Library. Books will be on display to check out, library card sign-ups, book hold pick-ups, etc. Call ahead to reserve your lunch! Come take advantage of this wonderful program being offered by the Uxbridge Free Public Library.

Friday, March 11, – 12:00 pm – Donna-Lee Shain PhD from Uxbridge Orthopedic & Sports Therapy will be our guest speaker. She will present Dizziness & Prevention of Falls. Call ahead to reserve your lunch.

Friday, March 11 -Facebook Live Pictionary with Sally & Gail! Be sure to tune in to play along with us. Just go to the Uxbridge Senior Center Facebook Page.

Thursday, March 17 - 12:00 pm - St. Patrick's Day Celebration sponsored by the Uxbridge Elderly Connection, Inc. Frank Ruscitti will be here to entertain us! Please be sure to call ahead to RSVP as space is limited.

Monday, March 21- 1:30 - 3:30 pm - Hobby Lobby Trip with Sally. Space is limited so call ahead to reserve your seat on the van.

Wednesday, March 23 - 1:30 pm - Pysanka Easter Eggs - Celeste Langlois will hold a class on how to make your own Ukrainian Pysanka Easter Egg. This class is sponsored by the Uxbridge Cultural Council and will be limited to 15

Friday, March 25 – 1:30 – 2:30 pm – Facebook Live Family Feud with Sally & Gail. Be sure to tune in and play along from the comfort of your home. Just go to the Uxbridge Senior Center Facebook page.

Monday, March 28-1:30 pm - "Ask the Attorney" with Attorney Ralph Tepper by appointment only. Please Call 508-278-8622 to schedule your appointment at the Uxbridge Se-

Tuesday, March 29 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Ask the Nurse Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Celeste Kopech, Salmon Health VNA. RSVP to participate and to join us for lunch.

Wednesday, March 30 - Movie Trip to Blackstone Valley 14 Cinema De Lux with lunch at Wendy's. Senior movie ticket price: \$7.75 and popcorn & soda \$4.50 - Movie & Time TBA and space on van is limited.

Card Game will be played during our Monday Congregate lunches and BINGO will be on Wednesdays.

Get ready. The Walk MA Challenge 2022 starts in April. The Walk MA Challenge intergenerational program is open to everyone ages 5 and up! Registration opens on April 1 with the Challenge itself running from May 1 through October 31.

Computer Class Tutoring every Monday, 3:00 p.m. By appointment only. Students from BVT will be available to help you with your computers and/or devices. \*Please call ahead to book an appointment.

Hannaford grocery shopping every Tuesday. Pick up begins at 8:30 AM. Please sign up in advance by calling us at 508-278-8622 to reserve your seat on the van. Masks are required and seating is limited.

Knitting Club every Tuesday, 1:30 pm - Come join the fun. 1st and 3rd Wednesdays - March 16, 10:00 am - bank and pharmacy rides. Please call at least 24 hours in advance. Masks must be worn as well.

2nd and 4th Thursdays - March 24 - Shaws/Ocean State Shopping Rides. Please call at least 24 hours in advance. Masks must be worn and limited to 4 people on the van.

Medical Transportation is accepting appointments. Call 508-278-8622 to schedule your rides.

The senior center is in need of the following donations: Newly packaged napkins, paper towels, 8 oz. Styrofoam cups, 8 oz plastic cups, ground coffee (both regular & decaf). coffee filters, tea bags, sugar packets (regular, sweet n' low, & other brands) & toilet paper. We thank you for your support!

Feel free to contact us at 508-278-8622 or visit us on our web page at Uxbridge-ma.gov/coa or like us on our FB page or by googling Uxbridge Senior Center and our new YouTube Channel or even dropping by.

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### Paws corner

### Dog goes on strike against leashes

### By Sam Mazzotta

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My dog Perry tugs, fights and whines when I put a collar and leash on him. He will even flop down and refuse to move. I don't know what to do. – Mike D

DEAR MIKE: Oh, that's frustrating. But you can help Perry to tolerate his collar and leash by making some adjustments and rebuilding a positive association with the leash. Here are a few tips to start with:

• Check the fit and comfort of Perry's collar. Sometimes

owners buy stylish collars that look great on their pet but are uncomfortable and either too big or too small.

- Consider a chest halter instead of a collar. This provides a supportive fit and when you tug on the leash, pressure is distributed around a dog's torso rather than its neck.
- Re-introduce Perry to the new collar or halter gradually. Show him the new gear while offering a treat at the same time. When he's eating, gently drape the leash over his back. Give lots

of praise at the same time. This starts to create positive connections with the new gear.

- Conduct obedience training at home, in 10-minute sessions, while Perry wears the new collar or halter. Review basic commands of "come," "sit," "stay" and "lie down." Leave the leash off at first.
- Add the leash, but don't tug on it. Continue obedience training while Perry wears the new gear. Take the gear off when done.
- Gradually increase the time

your dog wears the collar or harness and leash.

This will take patience, lots of love and encouragement. Always be positive with Perry while retraining to the leash. And if, despite these efforts, he still doesn't respond, contact a professional trainer to help you both get through this stuck spot.

### Pets keep owners fit and healthy

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I've read that pets can keep seniors healthy, through reduc-

ing stress, etc. How does that work? – Joel P.

DEAR JOEL: Researchers have found that seniors who own pets have a reduced rate of stress-related ailments, so they've theorized that having an animal companion helps seniors feel less alone and somewhat empowered as they care for a cat, dog, fish or other pet. The unconditional love and affection that pets provide can help their owners feel needed and important, and can help to enhance their quality of life.

So, the simple act of caring for a pet can create a longer, happier life for many people.

But there are more benefits to pet ownership. Owners are more likely to interact with other animal lovers. They tend to exercise more than petless people – especially dog owners, who must take their pooches for frequent walks.

Of course, if a senior doesn't want a dog or cat, the idea shouldn't be pushed. Owners must be able to care for, walk and feed their pets, and provide training and activities. Not everyone can meet these requirements. There also are financial considerations, such as regular veterinary care, food and medicine.

An alternative to owning a pet is to visit one (or have one visit) occasionally. There are organizations across the United States that sponsor pet visits for seniors who love animals but cannot care for one full-time. These visits help provide some of the health benefits of pet ownership to those who otherwise would not receive them.

If nothing else, take time out to say hello to the neighbor's dog, or spend time with relatives and their pets. They'll love the attention, and you'll love the stress relief that pets can provide.

Send your tips, questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com. (c) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.





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### **Living ON with Lincoln**



# A March Puppy

### By Amy LeClaire

New England winters are far too long. By late February we're craving sunshine, inspiration and sandals. We need something to look forward to, something more fun-something that smells like a puppy.

I couldn't be happier with news that fell on my lap last Thursday night (on February 24). We were number 11 on Cloverdale's list for a 2022 puppy, a confirmation made last June with Lincoln's nod of approval. The dogs were part of his ancestry. So, when Cloverdale's beautiful Molly gave birth to a litter of eight puppies during a January 31 blizzard (requiring immediate attention from owner Jane Zimmerman, who prepared for the safety and care of her dame's scheduled caesarean section), puppy parents sighed in relief. Meanwhile, my husband and I counted our blessings. We would receive a puppy from the next litter, having moved up to spot #3; and though no birthing timelines are ever exact, we estimated a late spring lit-

In the meantime, we would enjoy a clean home, perhaps a few spontaneous vacations, and a few more lazy mornings. Everything was falling into place. Yet something was amiss. Our Empty

to feel like a blank piece of paper with a checklist. Floors, done. Grocery shopping, done. Work projects, done. Tasks were stitched together in one suspicious line. As a creative (dogless) person, I felt a bit fraved at the seams. I missed the mayhem and mess of a dog. I missed coloring outside of the lines. Nothing is more motivational to a story deadline than the heated stare of a ninety-pound Golden, a ball wedged at the side of his mouth, muddy paws. "Can you wait a few minutes, Lincoln?" His head tilted to the word wait. Then he'd lay to rest, head over paws, and that expression alone (what about Lincoln?) forced me to be more productive. There's time for work. There's time for play.

Nested home was beginning

Amid both, have you ever noticed how dogs lighten our loads, and make what's, perhaps, too-perfect, a bit more precarious? Take the dog involved in a serious training session; but he's more interested in the scent of ketchup on the expert's sleeve. Or (in Lincoln's case) the one who finds the small, obscure spot of exposed leather in the backseat of a new car that's been covered with a mat. A dog lives with innocence and irony and, in the process, they pull us away from the noise of life. "Look at that person going for a walk!" His big blonde head would bloom to the sight of a new person, head out window. "We'll go for a walk later, Lincoln." He'd freeze to my words, connecting fully

with my promise. "Sounds good." Then he'd move back to the window, a new moment upon him.

"Would you like a puppy

from this litter, Amy?" The text message fell over me like confetti. I grabbed my phone, paced, and checked for punctuation, for meaning. "Is this really happening?" A peppery heart beat and follow-up phone call led to a blessed truth. Cancellations happen. We had moved up on the list and were able to take home a puppy from the litter of Molly and Mister Big, a Martha's Vineyard stud. I used a foolishly large Sharpie (the first writing utensil available) to etch down doodles of puppy notes on a calendar, then hung up. "We're getting a puppy!! And it's happening in one month!" I spat the news to my husband, then allowed it to sail off with me to Impact Fitness, where I was scheduled to teach a 6:30 Zumba class. I parked and collected my thoughts. I agreed to get back to Jane in one day with a firm decision. There was no pressure. That puppy would be scooped up in seconds should I decline. But my heart knew. I found myself typing. "We'd love to take home a puppy from your current litter and, additionally, keep our spot for the fall litter!" Who needs an entire day to think? Fate had just lined up two puppies in the time frame we had hoped for-six months apart in age. The next litter was going to be available in the fall (at the earliest).

"I can feel your puppy. I can even smell him." Mar-

garet, one of my Zumba members, sensed my good news as I breezed into class. I couldn't hold back my love for my March puppy. He was already with me.

Luke was about to be blessed with love.

"Thank you for including me in his name, Mom." The pup's name had emerged easily. A biblical name meaning Healer, it came with hope in the wake of global illness, political unrest, and mental instability. It came with good news and presence. Dogs do this for us. They remind us that we will all be okay. Along with that, it came with connection to Lincoln. "Both your names begin with the letter L and have the hard C sound, Lincoln."

"But mine has two syllables. Luke only has one."

"No one will ever compare to vou Lincoln."

I see him smiling up at

Lincoln reminds me - everything will be okay.

me, a touch of humor in his eyes. "I guess he can have my light blue ball."

Stay tuned for more puppy news as, together, we celebrate more dog adventures in Living with Luke.

Write to me - amyleclaire@ hotmail.com



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### Tales from beyond

### The ghost of Phillip Babb

### By Thomas D'Agostino

The Isles of Shoals runs rampant with tales of ship-wrecks, pirates, murder and ghosts. One of the island's most famous ghosts is that of Phillip Babb.

Babb lived on Appledore Island where he was constable, butcher, and innkeeper. Legends say he was a retired pirate who chose the largest of the shoals for his home but there is no real proof of such tales.

Appledore is one half mile wide and long. In the early 17th century, Maine imposed a tax on the island and the autonomous islanders rebelled by dismantling their homes and rowing them to Star Island. After that the island became its own sovereign body.

Phillip Babb was born in England around 1634. He married and had children with his wife, Mary. Some claim he was Don Pedro of "Ocean Born Mary" fame but neither he nor his son's mortality

dates coincide with that legend. If he was a privateer, it was well before Mary Fulton was born. None-the-less, he left a legacy of free booting and phantom sightings that the Isles of Shoals shall forever endure.

Babb's manners were rudely fashioned and kindled much disgust in his fellow islanders. He was said to be a wicked, loathsome man, always wearing a heavy butcher's frock with a great knife sheathed on a thick belt. He lived on the south side of the island in a cottage near the cove that now bears his name. It is documented that for some reason or another he and a fellow islander dug a massive hole near that cove. It was rumored that he may have come across some lost buried loot and either dug it up or was burying it for safe keeping.

Phillip Babb died on March 3, 1671 and was buried in the family plot on Appledore, but he has not rested. He still roams the cove watching over his long gone possessions. One night an islander was emerging from his workshop when he spied a wild form running towards him. At first he thought it to be an unsavory jest by one of his close friends. As the figure drew within arms reach, the man saw the face of a corpse with hideous sunken eyes. The angry wraith then heaved the giant knife from his belt and brandished it in the frightened man's face. The terrified Shoaler fled to the safety of his home, barely touching the ground along the way.



Another dweller of the island saw a figure meandering about in the moonlight at Babb's Cove. He could not make out the form as anvone he knew on the island. The dark shade began to approach the apprehensive islander. The man thought it odd that he heard no footsteps on the gravel path as the silhouette approached. He then recognized the figure as that of Phillip Babb. He could see the black eye sockets and glowing butcher's frock reflecting in the gibbous moon. He shouted at the ghost who then made its way down the path before vanishing into the darkness in front of the petrified islander.

There are many more accounts of the alleged pirate turned butcher phantom roaming the island in the dead of night. Many have encountered the heinous spirit who wields a ghostly knife in their faces. Apparently he was so wicked and despicable in life, he cannot seem to let his attributes rest in death. The great storm of 1851 filled the remains of the hole where Babb and his companion dug for lost treasure. A Coast Guard house now sits where the hole once was. Whether or not there was treasure found or buried, no one knows for sure except the restless ghost of Phillip Babb.

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

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### 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 auestions each week You can find the Car Doctor podcast at www. johnfpaul.podbean.com or other popular podcast sites. Email your car questions to jpaul@aaanortheast.com Follow John on Twitter @ johnfpaul and friend him on facebook mrjohnfpaul



I own a 2020 Honda HRV. The car is only a year-andhalf-old and I had to call AAA yesterday due to a dead battery. The car has about 4500 miles on it and I did not leave anything on. It was below freezing yesterday but shouldn't a battery work even in cold weather when the car isn't that old?

The average life of a battery in the northeast is just about five years and I would expect the battery in your 2020 Honda to start the car in any weather. The issue may be how little you drive the car. If you are driving short distances, the battery may not be fully recharging after each trip. Driving the same multiple short trips over time can lead to a discharged battery. At this point the best thing to do is have the battery fully recharged and then tested. To keep the battery fully charged drive the car at least 30 minutes once per week.

I have a 2007 Cadillac SRX; about a year ago the key would not go into the lock position where it could be removed. I had to disconnect the battery when I parked the car or the battery would eventually be drained. I brought the car to a local repair shop to have it repaired and paid about \$300 to \$400. It worked some of the time and over the summer it worked about 3-4 months with no problem. It is doing it again and the key won't come out of the ignition switch. I originally thought it was a linkage

adjustment issue. The shop said it's an electrical issue and they could only do so much. Any ideas would be helpful, so I don't have to spent money for guess work.

This is not going to be simple. The vehicle should be checked for computer codes first. If codes are found a very specific procedure needs to be followed to troubleshoot the issue. The issue may be caused by an ignition power feed to the car's computer. Voltages need to be checked in several circuits. Intermittent issues may be caused by a faulty relay or even a faulty computer.

I recently inherited a 2010 Chevy Malibu with 6000 original miles on it. The car is essentially all original with the exception of the battery. The tires look brand new but based on what you have said in the past, I'm guessing I should replace them. What else should I do?

Replacing 12-year-old tires makes sense for both safety and ride quality. I would also check all the vital fluids and change as needed. If it were my car I would change the brake fluid, coolant, thermostat, drive belts. Also, I would also check the brakes and lubricate the caliper slides. It is not usual to perform repairs to very low mileage cars. As the other service is being performed have the technician give the car a thorough inspection to see if there is anything else that needs attention.

I'm in the market for a small SUV. I have friends with an Audi Q5 and BMW X3. I have driven them both and they just are not for me. I recently read about the Cadillac XT4. Have you driven this SUV and what did you think?

The Cadillac XT4 is a very nice small luxury SUV but not quite perfect. Although beauty is in the eye of the beholder, I thought Cadillac absolutely nailed the styling. The interior is well designed, quite roomy for a small vehicle with comfortable seats and good controls. Cadillac did a great job of having the "right" number of buttons combined with a very intuitive touch screen. The engine has plenty of pep, but does get a bit noisy when pushed hard. The ride was comfortable but just a bit jittery over uneven roads. Overall, the Cadillac SUV is a competent, comfortable compact luxury SUV.



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•On March 12, 1969, the London drug squad appears at house of Beatle George Harrison and his wife Pattie Boyd with a warrant and drug-sniffing canines. Sgt.

Pilcher, the man behind the raid, was convicted of planting drugs in other cases and went to jail in 1972.

•On March 13, 1836, Texan Gen. Sam Houston begins a series of strategic retreats to buy time to train his illprepared army, which consisted of 374 poorly equipped men. A month later, his newly

trained army won a stunning victory against Mexico's Santa Anna.

• On March 17, 1601, the first parade honoring the Catholic feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is held in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. The first St. Patrick's Day parade in New York City was held in 1762.

•On March 20, 1823, Ned Buntline, the "dime millionaire" and discoverer of Buffalo Bill, is born. More than any single writer, Buntline was responsible for creating a romanticized and misleading image of the American West. He once said, "I found that to make a living I must write 'trash' for the masses."

•On March 18, 1852, in New York City, Henry Wells and William G. Fargo join with other investors to launch their namesake business. In July 1852, their company Wells Fargo shipped its first loads of freight from the East

Coast to mining camps in northern California.

•On March 15, 1901, paintings by the late Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh are shown in Paris, causing a sensation across the art world. Van Gogh had died by suicide, and in his lifetime he had sold only one painting.

•On March 19, 1916, eight Curtiss "Jenny" planes of the First Aero Squadron take off from Columbus, New Mexico, in the first combat air mission in U.S. history. They flew in support of the 7,000 U.S. troops who invaded Mexico to capture revolutionary leader Pancho Villa. • On March 16, 1945, the west

Pacific volcanic island of Iwo Jima is declared secured by the U.S. military after weeks of fierce fighting. More than 6,000 Marines died fighting for the island, along with almost all the 21,000 Japanese defenders

• On March 14, 1950, the FBI institutes the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list. Since its debut, hundreds of criminals on the list have been apprehended or located, many as a result of tips from the public. (c) 2022 Hearst Communications, Inc. All Rights Reserved

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### **RE: Real Estate**



Mark Marzeotti

When you're selling any item, you usually want to sell it for the greatest profit possible, right? That happens when there's a strong demand and a limited supply for that item. In the real estate market, that time is right now. If you're thinking of selling your house this year, here are two reasons why now's the time to list.

1. Demand is very strong

### Want top dollar for your house? Now's the time to list it

this winter. Spring, the hottest time of year for homebuyers and sellers, has started early, according to REALTORS and economists. . . . Home shopping season appears to already be in full

REALTORS in the field aren't the only ones saying buyers are already out in full force. That claim is backed up with data released last week by ShowingTime. (ShowingTime is a platform real estate agents use to schedule appointments.) The Showing

Time Showing Index tracks the average number of monthly buyer showings on active residential prop-

erties, which is a highly reliable leading indicator of current and future trends for buyer demand. The latest index reveals this December was the most active December in five years.

As the data indicates, buyers are very active this winter. Last December, 2021 saw even more showings than December of 2020, which was already a stronger-thanusual winter. And remember - you want to sell something when there's a strong demand for that item. That

2. Housing supply is extremely low. Each month, realtor.com releases data on the number of active residential real estate listings (listings currently for sale). Their most recent report reveals the latest monthly number is the lowest we've seen in any January since 2017. And don't forget, the best time to sell an item is when there's a limited supply of it available.

Even though supply is at a historic low, home sales

cording to the latest Existing Home Sales Report from the National Association of Realtors (NAR), existing-home sales totaled 6.12 million in 2021 - the highest annual level since 2006. This means the market is hot and homeowners are in a great place to sell now while sales are so strong.

The ratio of buyers to sellers favors homeowners right now to a greater degree than at any other time in history. Buyer demand is high, and supply is low. That gives sellers like you an incredible opportunity.

Bottom line If you agree the best time to sell anything is when demand is high and supply is low, contact Marzeotti Group or a local real estate professional to discuss listing your house

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## 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.







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