

Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, Webster

March 11-April 8, 2022

INSIDE

Bienvenido, amigos! El Patron Corona opens in Oxford

By Rod Lee

In no time at all, the new El Patron Corona restaurant on Sutton Ave. in Oxford has won the hearts of the dining public.

El Patron Corona is the fourth restaurant in a group owned by brothers Felix and Jose Bracamontes. The others are in Northborough (Rancho Corona), Lynn (Hacienda Corona) and Marblehead (Casa Corona).

El Patron Corona held a grand opening in late February in Oxford Crossing, a busy plaza near the on-off ramps for I-395 that is anchored by a Market Basket, a Home Depot and a Dollar Tree. It settled into space formerly occupied by Ox Bar & Grill in the northeast side of the plaza.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on March 4.

If there was any doubt about the

appeal of “authentic Mexican cuisine” in the town of Oxford, it has been quickly dispelled. On a mid-afternoon Wednesday, El Patron Corona was busy with patrons coming and going in quest of fare from a wide-ranging menu. In addition to appetizers, street tacos, pollos, mariscos, carnes, burritos and rancho quesadillas, there are such house specials as Steak Tornado (a twelve-ounce New York steak, flame broiled and topped with sautéed onions, green peppers and mushrooms and covered with red sauce and melted cheese served with rice and refried beans.

Borrego Don Matute (lamb shank marinated in a delicious red chili pepper sauce, baked slowly until tender and served with marinade sauce, rice, refried beans, Pico De

Gallo and avocado slices is another staple.

Las Fajitas, pork dishes, veggie dishes, egg dishes, sopas, enchiladas and ensaladas are all available at El Patron Corona, as are small combinations and large combinations.

The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner.

Festive Mexican music played continuously on March 2nd, contributing to a festive atmosphere.

“Our customers are nice, we have had no complaints so far,” Oscar Battista, a server, said, as he moved back and forth from the dining room to the reception booth.

One man walking into the restaurant saw a hat sitting on a stool and said, jokingly, “do I have to wear the sombrero?”

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Oscar Araiza is owner/manager of the new El Patron Corona in Oxford; the family restaurant features authentic Mexican cuisine.

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Oxford Food Shelf provides healthy food necessities

By Janet Stoica

Without teamwork and great generosity from the churches, businesses, and wonderful people of Oxford, those among us who may need an extra bit of help with food assistance wouldn't be so blessed. The Oxford Food Shelf, run by the Oxford Ecumenical Council, consisting of the eight churches in the town of Oxford (First Baptist Church, First Congregational Church, Grace Episcopal

Church, Oak Hill Bible Church, St. Ann's Catholic Church, St. Roch's Catholic Church, United Methodist Church, and Zion Lutheran Church) has been in existence for more than 45 years and is one of the most organized and focused groups in the area that provides food and other vital staples to its clients while also providing dietary guidelines for those who have

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Samuel Slater EXPERIENCE Cuts the 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.

The Samuel Slater Experience, a historic museum featuring state-of-the-art 4-D 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

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Erik Larson and Richard Clark pack 601 cans of soup for the Food Shelf.

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OXFORD FOOD SHELF

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come to depend on their offerings.

“We want to reach everyone who needs us,” says Christina St. Martin, chairperson of the Oxford Ecumenical Council, “we are reaching out to all who need us and have made several changes since COVID to assist those in need of not only everyday foods but we are ensuring there are plenty of healthy food choices as well as including everyday household staples like paper towels, dish and laundry detergents, diapers, baby formula, baby food, and gluten-free food items. Much is donated by local residents and stores and we gratefully thank the outstanding generosity of our Oxford residents and businesses for their kindness, volunteerism, and commitment to their fellow residents in need.”

Ms. St. Martin explained that most food banks provide a box of pre-selected items but the Oxford Food Shelf takes the process to another level by having those

in need do their own selecting of food and household items. Their goal is to help everyone eat as healthily as possible without adding more fat, sodium, and sugar to their diets. Fresh fruits and vegetables are provided as often as these products can be secured. “We want to make people conscious of good eating choices and habits,” said Ms. St. Martin. “The eight churches in Oxford support us with much-needed assistance from volunteers. We don’t know what we’d do without our wonderful volunteers. They are the backbone of our services helping to stock items and assist clients who visit the Food Shelf. Most people are very surprised to see what we offer and we realize there are many more people in our community who should be using our program. It’s an easy process to come in and try our services.”

According to Susan Avery, co-chair of the Council, “The shopping area is now more open and brighter and welcoming for client families. Because it’s more spacious, clients are able to move through more quickly—all

while maintaining social distancing guidelines. Everyone in the Food Shelf, client families and volunteers, wear masks at all times. We have a volunteer with a sewing machine who offers to help our client families with any clothing repairs they need. We are providing warm coats, hats, and mittens for children. We provide turkey dinners and presents for children at Christmas. In the summer, we manage a community garden which yields fresh local produce for our client families.” Additionally, they provide families with information on WIC, SNAP, Healthy Eating, Home Heating Assistance Programs, and information on free and reduced cost medical care.

Variety is an essential ingredient of any food bank and the Oxford site has added more items to that variety like salad dressings, relishes, olives, pickles, even salsa, taco shells, and seasonings. Their standard offerings include canned fruit and veggies, pasta, cereals, pasta sauce, and soups. The Oxford community is very generous and people and many companies give to

the Food Shelf on a weekly basis. The local churches and schools provide many donated items. Recently the Zion Lutheran Church held a Souper Bowl Fundraiser and donated 601 cans of soup to the organization.

When the vegetable growing season gets underway, the Shelf expects to have a great variety of healthy fruits and vegetables. The First Congregational Church has a garden and customers love the fresh produce. Oxford’s Crown and Roots Farm allows the group to buy a share of their sustainably grown vegetables which will be incorporated into their summer food choices. The Shelf hopes to have leeks, bok choy, eggplant, and spaghetti squash with recipe cards provided for their healthy preparation. Even figs and black beans from the USDA will be on the shelves complete with serving techniques. Color-coded nutritious food designations will be employed via SWAP (“Supporting Wellness in Food Pantries”), assisting customers to make wise and good eating choices through the use of the color green advising them to “make this choice often,” yellow for “sometimes,” and red for “seldom.” The SWAP system is based on reducing sodi-



Jo-Ann Bussiere of bankHometown presents a \$2,800 check to Christina St. Martin of the Food Shelf.



Volunteers prepare to distribute fresh vegetables to customers.

um, added sugars, and fats. So, if you live in Oxford and think you might need a bit of food assistance, you’re very much welcome to visit the Oxford Food Shelf. There is a simple process of registration/eligibility and a weekly selection of groceries to help with your dietary needs. They are open on Thursdays from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. and are located in the lower level of the Community Center, 4 Maple Street, Oxford. Phone: (508) 987-1062.

Contact Janet: jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

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Kathy Benoit, Advertising Director kathybenoit@theyankeeexpress.com
Billing and advertising information Laura Gleim Igleim@TheYankeeXpress.com
Jeremy Wardwell, Sales (Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, Webster) jeremywardwell@TheYankeeXpress.com
Bill Cronan, Sales (Blackstone Valley) bcronan@TheYankeeXpress.com

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Sally Patterson, Production Manager Carol Kosth, Graphic Artist
Contributing writers and columnists: Peter Coyle, Tom D'Agostino,
Magda Dakin, Christine Galeone, Rod Lee, Amy Palumbo-Leclaire, Janet Stoica

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Nichols College names former Brown University AD as athletics VP

DUDLEY – Nichols College President Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M, has appointed Jack Hayes, a 30-year veteran in sports administration and the Brown University athletics director for nearly a decade, as its new vice president for athletics.

“The caliber and breadth of experience that Jack brings to this new position will inspire a deeper commitment toward raising the regional and national profile of our athletic programs,” said Sulmasy. “Nichols is on the move, and I look forward to Jack leading the Bison charge.”

As vice president, Hayes will oversee all aspects of Bison athletics, with a focus on fundraising and elevating the prominence of Nichols athletics, which comprise 23 men’s, women’s and co-ed varsity sports, 21 of which are NCAA Division III level.

“I am honored and excited to join the Nichols College community,” said Hayes. “I am thankful for the opportunity that President Sulmasy has provided, and I look forward to working with the student-athletes, coaches, administrators, faculty and staff.”

Hayes served as Brown’s athletic director from 2012 to 2021, overseeing 34 NCAA Division I teams. During his tenure, the Bears earned

26 academic all-American awards, two Senior CLASS awards and a National Player of the Year honor. They won six Ivy League championships and made post-season appearances in 14 sports. Four of the coaches Hayes hired received conference coach of the year accolades. Hayes also oversaw the planning and fundraising for \$50 million of construction and renovation projects and worked with the Rhode Island Interscholastic League to bring many of its championship events to the Brown campus. In 2018, Hayes received the Frank Lanning Award in recognition of his contributions to the Rhode Island sports community.

Hayes left Brown to pursue new opportunities, including as a senior advisor to Bruin Sports Capital, an investment and operating

company that specializes in building global sports, media, entertainment and technology companies.

Prior to Brown, Hayes served as the director of athletics at Hofstra University from 2004 to 2012 while the Pride earned 10 academic all-America honors and 16 conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year awards. Its teams captured 21 Colonial Athletic Association championships and made 35 post-season appearances, including 26 NCAA tournaments. Five of the coaches Hayes hired went on to receive conference coach of the year awards. He also reintroduced the Hofstra Athletics Hall of Fame after a 50-year absence and led the effort to retire the uniform numbers of 23 prominent former student-athletes.

Hayes has served on various NCAA and conference

committees, including the NCAA Leadership Council and the NCAA Men’s Lacrosse Championship Committee, which he chaired in 2019. He held leadership positions at the University of Connecticut, and Fordham, St. John’s and Fairfield universities before taking the athletic director position at Hofstra.

A native of Providence, R.I., Hayes earned a bachelor’s degree in 1989 at Providence College, where he was a three-year starter on the lacrosse team, and a master’s degree in 1992 at the University of Connecticut.



The Nichols College athletic leadership team, from left, Jack Hayes, Glenn Sulmasy, and Eric Gobiell.

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Lt. Governor Karyn Polito presents citation to Chris Robert.

SSE

Continued from page 1

ribbon cutting. Speakers include Samuel Slater Experience Founder Christopher Robert, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Senator Ryan Fattman, Representative Joseph McKenna, Chairman of the Webster Board of Selectmen 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 master-



Chris and Bev Robert with museum designer Doug Mund. mind Bob Noll and Boston Productions Inc. Robert has been working on the project since 2018, with the fundamental purpose to create a new way to educate children. The exhibits are designed in coordination with curricu-

lum 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 Monique Messier.



The Samuel Slater Guard participated in the Samuel Slater Experience grand opening and fired a volley after the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Chief's corner

Flashing yellow light

By Chief Steven J. Wojnar
Dudley Police Department

The flashing yellow left turn arrow remains a point of interest for many people. These signals have become more common in recent years. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT) has begun a process of replacing many older traffic signals with new ones to try and standardize these turn arrows for drivers. We were asked to provide our residents with this information.

Turn arrow signals are generally found at intersections where there is heavy traffic flow. These lights allow vehicles to make uninterrupted turns to alleviate back-ups and provide clear guidance to drivers. The green turn arrow lights,

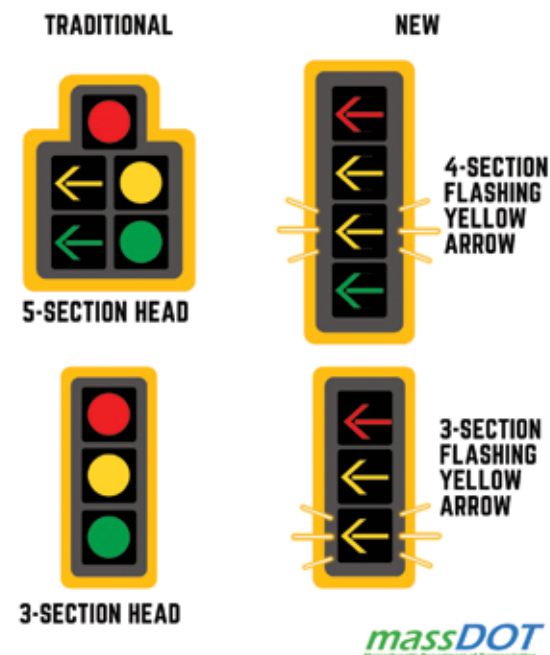
at the intersection of West Main Street and Schofield Avenue, have been very effective in reducing crashes and traffic congestion. The rules for these turn arrows are generally contained in the state highway regulations and / or in local traffic by laws or ordinances. Most intersections have only red or green turn arrows. A local example of a flashing yellow arrow is at the intersection of Thompson Road and Lake Parkway in Webster. While traveling north on Thompson Road, drivers will see this left turn arrow flashing yellow on occasion. Signals like these will become more common over time.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Drivers Manual, provided by Mass DOT, specifically addresses these yellow flashing turn arrows. It states in part, "A flashing yellow arrow allows you to turn left when oncoming traffic has a green light, but the traffic is clear. You must carefully determine that there is an adequate gap in the oncoming traffic and ensure that there are no pedestrians in your path before making your turn." Mass DOT will be changing the style of these signals to provide clearer guidance for drivers. They offer the following safety information: "The #FlashingYellowArrow signal aims to replace the circular green indication for left turns at signalized intersections. When the arrow is flashing, drivers are allowed to turn only after YIELDING to all oncoming traffic and to any pedestrians in the crosswalk." Sample photos of these new signs will be posted in various places. Although there is not a dramatic difference with these traffic signal styles, they will be noticeable. It is important for drivers to be aware of these and to pay attention for signage at all intersections. Certain movements may be illegal such as the "No Turn on Red." Some intersections may allow turns on green arrows only. The Lake Parkway and Thompson Road intersection I reference has a sign informing drivers of what is permitted when the arrow is flashing yellow. Take the time to look for any possible signage or signals which will assist you to make your turn safely. This is especially true if you are in an unfamiliar location. Please take the time to exercise caution at all intersections.

COVID-19 cases in our area are declining and many of the mandates are going away. We all await the relaxing of restrictions and the transition to a "new normal." For those still seeking vaccination or other information, it can be found at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling 508-949-8036. We encourage everyone to be safe. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. During these challenging times, we, at the Dudley Police Department, greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

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

TYPES OF LEFT TURN SIGNALS



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Dean's List

WESTON - Regis College is pleased to announce that 516 students made the Dean's List for academic achievement for the 2021 fall semester.

Alyssa Ward, of Webster, is among the students who made the Dean's List. Ward is in the class of 2022.

To be eligible for the Dean's List as a senior, junior or sophomore at Regis, a student must have a semester grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.50. For first-year students, a semester GPA of at least 3.25 must be attained.

Nichols College reopens student bar after more than a 20-year hiatus

DUDLEY – Nichols College has launched the Bison Den, a new campus and student establishment, in the newly renovated clubhouse of Dudley Hill Golf Club on Airport Road. The opening marks the first time in more than 20 years that Nichols students have had a campus bar.

“This is a historic occasion for the campus community, and especially for our students who have long sought a safe and convenient place where they can relax and socialize on the weekends,” said Nichols College President Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M. “On our march toward greater prominence, the opening of the Bison Den is one initiative of many to provide our students with an exceptional and memorable student life experience.”

The Bison Den, named for the college’s mascot, is a throwback to its same-named predecessor, a student-run bar located beneath the auditorium that was in operation from 1969 to the 1980s and intermittently until the early 2000s. After multiple attempts over the past two decades to revive the facility to meet student desire and interest, and after the space was converted for office use, President Sulmasy eyed the Dudley Hill clubhouse as a suitable spot.

The college bought Dudley Hill in 2018 after it was previously leased to the college from 1949 to 1999 and continued to serve as home to the Nichols golf team. Today, the course and clubhouse are managed by Tri State Golf Company.

Over the past four months, the clubhouse has been transformed with new walls, flooring, furniture, and bar, and adorned with Nichols memorabilia. Overseeing the project was the college’s First Lady Marla Sulmasy, with help from the Office of the

President and representatives from Student Affairs. Two Nichols College courses in hospitality management and entrepreneurship are actively involved this semester and held classes there in January.

For its ribbon-cutting and soft opening on February 8, the college invited the 30-member Senior Advisory Council to take the first look.

“It’s exciting! I’m glad to be a part of it,” says senior Maria Mironidis. “I can see having pub nights here and as a place where students can go to have lunch, dinner, or just hang out.”

Brian Edmands remembers what the space looked like before the remodel. “This is a big change,” he says. “It

looks amazing, a place where students will actually want to come.”

Dylan Mitchell agrees. “It is a completely different space. It feels like a nice college bar, put together with effort,” he says, adding, “I don’t know of any other college that would sponsor its own bar and make it look this nice!”

The Bison Den is currently available for private college events, with the potential for activities such as trivia nights, karaoke, and live music. In the near future, the college plans to open the facility to the general public as well as provide experiential learning opportunities for students in business operations and sport management.



Nichols College President Glenn M. Sulmasy, joined by First Lady Marla Sulmasy and college officials, cuts the ribbon to the new student bar at the Dudley Hill Golf Club.

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Webster's Gladys E. Kelly Library presents Orphan Train author on May 19

By Janet Stoica

It didn't take long before Webster's Library Director Sondra Murphy showed her mettle and enthusiasm for her new position. In the year that Ms. Murphy has been the director, she has brought many new programs and activities to the town's state-of-the-art facility. She has

also brought forth a new addition to her family with the birth of her first child. Her joy when speaking about her new baby is delightful to hear.

"Our staff at the library is amazing," said Ms. Murphy, "they keep our programs and services run-

ning smoothly for all of our patrons and they are to be commended. Our Board of Trustees also has an important role in the progress and administration of our library."

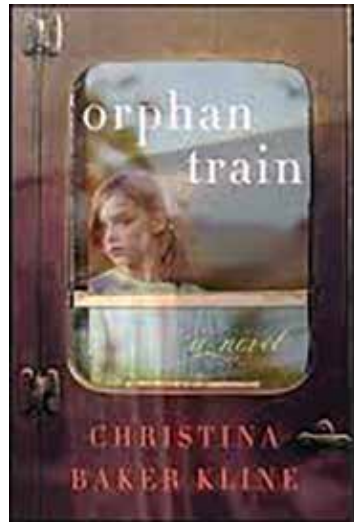
Recently, the trustees reviewed one of the library's previous programs entitled

One Book One Community. The program invites book authors to the library to speak with its patrons. Rena Klebart of the Board of Trustees has been spearheading the library's efforts with a devoted and dedicated group of volunteers, according to Director Murphy. After much consideration and through the generosity of the Janet Malser Foundation, the Webster Cultural Council, and the Friends of the Library, the decision was made to invite author Christina Baker Kline to discuss her book Orphan Train. Mark your calendar for Thursday, May 19. The program is free and open to the general public. The author is sure to bring her enthusiasm and charm to the evening's book discussion.

LibraryThing.com's novel commentary regarding Orphan Train states: "It's interesting to learn that between 1854 and 1929 there were 250,000 orphans whose parents either could no longer take care of them or had died tragically, orphans who rode the train from New York to the Midwest to find families that either needed help on the farm, a mother's helper, or sometimes a good home with a caring couple. Ms. Kline takes this kernel of information and nicely puts it into context with the story of one young girl, Vivian, and her experiences of a lifetime. Kline juxtaposes Vivian's life with that of a current girl in foster care named Molly. When Molly needs to do community service to work off a theft, she is assigned the task of helping an elderly women clean out the contents of her attic, of her life. So begins the re-

telling of Vivian's story and so begins the bond that forms between the two. It's a well-crafted narrative and a satisfying read." The author's visit to the Kelly Library should be entertaining and informative and all are invited to the free program. "This is a part of our country's history that not too many people know about," said Ms. Murphy.

In addition to the relaunch of the One Book One Community series, Director Murphy has instituted weekly Monday - Thursday educational programs as follows: Maker Monday at 3:30 p.m. with Magic Scratch Art; Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. is Build Night with marble courses; Wednesday is Storytime at 10 a.m.; and soon to be announced for Thursdays is a STEM (STEAM) program. Also beginning soon will be a monthly family event to be held on Saturdays. Recently a February family event "Working with Dangerous Animals" was held with an enthusiastic and large family audience. On Saturday, March 26, the Chickens Around the World program will be coming to the library. A meet and greet with six different chicken breeds. Come and check it out....um, check it out, if you know what they mean! The Second Annual Lobby Chick Hatching will be held soon too. For 21 days eggs will be kept warm and cozy in the lobby incubators until they hatch. After staying at the library for a week after hatching, the



baby chicks will go back to their farm to enjoy their new life. There were six hatches last year and Ms. Murphy will be live-streaming their worldly welcomes again this year on Facebook.

Yoga is still going strong through the end of March and has been so popular that a new program will commence in May. The public is always welcome to this no-charge offering. There are usually about 20 individuals in attendance. Patrons are encouraged to join the Gladys Kelly Library's mailing list by phoning the library, visiting their website at www.gladyskellylibrary.org or checking out Facebook and Instagram. Come and visit your local library! You really don't know what you're missing! Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake Street, Webster. Phone: (508) 949-3880. Hours: Mon/Tues/Thurs 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Wed 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Fri 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Contact Janet: jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

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B - \$50.00

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3 LBS. HAMBURG OR 1 PKG. (1 1/2 LBS.) MARINATED SIRLOIN TIPS OF YOUR CHOICE
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1 LB. SAUSAGE OF YOUR CHOICE OR 1 LB. HOT DOGS
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Do you have artifacts of Auburn?

It's spring-cleaning time and items that haven't been seen for a while may come into view, or perhaps it's time to rotate items and give your home a different look and feel for the new season. Or maybe you are trying to downsize. The Auburn Historical Society and Museum can be a good steward for items that pertain to Auburn's past. Old pictures, tools, books about Auburn, diaries, ledgers etc., could be of interest to others in exhibits at the museum, especially if there's a story that goes with it. Photos and documents can be scanned into our digital archives and returned. Come visit the museum on Tuesday or Saturday mornings, 9:30 - 12:30 and see if there's a place for your items at the museum.

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TLGV 2022 cleanup and greenup funds

It's almost time to cleanup and green up The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor. The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) has committed cleanup and green up funds for 2022 to help organizations and municipalities organize events.

The program is funded, in part, thanks to the support of bankHometown. bankHometown has been a supporter of TLGV since 2008 and has sponsored the cleanup program since 2019.

In the last 10 years, 11,498 volunteers have collected 504,003 pounds of trash from parks, rivers and roadways throughout The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor thanks to the program.

TLGV is expanding the program this year to include efforts to plant pollinator gardens or eradicate invasive species harming the region's ecosystem. Organizations and municipalities working in The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor can request up to \$500 in funding. Those with projects outside the corridor, but still in the Thames River watershed, can request up to \$250 in funding.

Funding recipients will be reimbursed for expenses such as publicity, cleanup supplies such as trash bags, work gloves, small gardening tools, native seeds and

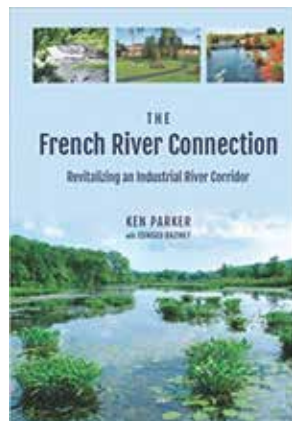
plantings, and food for your volunteers. TLGV will also help publicize the event and recruit more volunteers. Application details can be found at TheLastGreenValley.org under "Grant Opportunities" in the "Learn & Protect" menu.

The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor is the last stretch of dark night sky in the coastal sprawl between Boston and Washington, D.C. The Last Green Valley, Inc. works for you in the National Heritage Corridor. Together we can care for it, enjoy it and pass it on.

The French River book

If you have ever wondered about the river that winds through our communities, there is now a book that recounts efforts to revitalize that natural source of power and beauty.

The French River Connection, Inc. has recently published a book detailing the origin and accomplishments of the local organization to revitalize the French River. The book can be read online at www.frenchriverconnection.org. It is also available at the Dudley, Webster and Oxford libraries, and can



be ordered at Amazon. The author of the book is Ken Parker, with Edward Bazinet.

Auburn Historical Society's Spaghetti Dinner

The Auburn Historical Society is holding its Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, April 9, at the Pakachoag Church, 203 Pakachoag St. in Auburn. It will be a take-out meal only with pick-up times from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. There will also be 50:50 and basket drawings.

Advance tickets for the supper are required and may be purchased for \$15 each at the Auburn Historical Society Museum at 41 South Street on Tuesdays or Saturdays between 9:30 - 12:30 or by calling the museum at 508-832-6856.

Donations of baskets or gift cards for the drawings are welcome. Baskets will be displayed, and drawing



'God is Love' contest won by All Saints Academy 8th grade student

The beautiful artwork by our 8th grade student, Maria CINTRON-PEREZ, won the 'God is Love' contest sponsored by the C21 Center at Boston College and the Roche Center for Catholic Education. Out of hundreds of submissions, Maria's artwork stood out to the judges and is being made into Valentine's Day cards and sent to COVID-19 healthcare workers. Pictured with Maria is Mrs. Beth Crowley, ASA art teacher.

Tour of the Black Tavern

The Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley will be presenting a special "Video Tour of the Black Tavern" at the Tavern, 138 Center Road, on Thursday, March 17, at 7 p.m. Funded by a grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust, this professionally filmed video features Tavern members explaining the history of the Tavern and shows the interior rooms and displays. Sandy Peterson directed the production and will present the first public viewing that evening. The program is free and open to all.

tickets can be purchased, at the museum the morning of Saturday April 9th. They will also be available at the Pakachoag Church during meal pick-up times. Please let the Auburn Historical Society know if you are interested in donating to the drawings.

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Dean's List

COLCHESTER, VT - Bernadette Lesieur of Oxford was named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Fall 2021 semester. Bernadette is a first year physics major and a graduate of Home School Clearing House.

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EL PATRON CORONA

Continued from page 1

Breaking away from his work in the kitchen, Oscar Araiza, an owner of El Patron Corona with Jose

Bracamontes (Mr. Araiza is also a manager), said, when asked "why Oxford?" as the newest location for the company, "we like this town. I was in Northborough for two years before coming

here. Our restaurants are doing well."

With such established restaurants as Oxfords Casual Dining, the Whistle Stop and J Anthony's (on the Oxford-Auburn town line), pizza

shops, and Chinese eateries, El Patron Corona seems like the next good fit in Oxford as alternative fare.

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



The bar at El Patron Corona in Oxford.



Ernie and Rebecca Hart of Upton and Ernie's brother Peter and his wife Deborah enjoy lunch at El Patron Corona in Oxford the afternoon of March 2.

Dudley Senior Center news

DUDLEY - The Dudley Senior Center, W. Main St., has listed the March schedule.

The Tri Valley Dudley Lunch Club meal is served at 11:45 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. \$3.00 donation. Please call 508-949-8010 to reserve your meal (reservations must be made at least two days in advance).

Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Pitch League.

Wednesdays after lunch approximately 12:30 p.m., Creative Crafters. Please call to sign up.

Thursdays at 1 p.m. Dudley Senior Women's Knitting group.

Friday is Game Day after lunch 12:30 p.m., also, a time to finish up crafts from Wednesday's workshop.

We are super thrilled to offer these Plant/Flower Workshops for the upcoming weeks/months.

Tina Bemis workshop dates: all are Monday dates

March 14, 10 a.m. "Succie Pot" \$25.00

April 4, 10 a.m. "Spring Basket" \$25.00

April 25, 10 a.m. "Spring Color Bowl" \$25.00

May 16, 10 a.m. "Culinary Herb Garden" \$25.00

June 6, 10 a.m., "Summer Porch Pot" \$25.00

July 11, 10 a.m. "Topiary Turtle" \$25.00

Please contact COA Margaret one week before program to register.

March 17, 3-5 pm. Common Ground Memory Café with Dana Lewis, superb guitar music and vocals. Free program. Especially meant for our friends affected by/with cognitive difficulties, such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Dementias, Frontal Lobe Dementia, Lewy Bodies, Vascular, Stroke etc. Consider this a monthly special date together with family, caregivers, and friends. We'd also like to invite anyone affected by loneliness and isolation, who still maybe having a hard time since the pandemic to come and join us too. We're promising a fun social activity, with live music, a light meal, crafts, and being with friends who care. Come as you are, be who you are in this relaxed, no-judgement, socially inclusive, positive and welcoming environment. This program is supported by donations from the community. A huge thank you to all our friends for supporting this great program.

March 20 is the first day of Spring. Things are looking up friends.

Dudley Conservation Land Trust March open meeting

On Tuesday, March 15, at 6 p.m. in the Dudley Fire Station, West Main Street conference room, the DCLT will hold an open meeting for all members and any others interested in learning more about our organization and its mission. Please join them to see what the Dudley Conservation Land Trust is all about.

Hannah Harwood Fund scholarship applications available

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

Oxford residents may come to Board of Selectmen Office, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Fridays 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to receive application materials. The Town Hall is located at 325 Main Street. Application materials will also be available on the Town's website at <https://www.oxfordma.us/board-selectmen>. Completed applications are due to the Selectmen's Office April 1, by 12:30 p.m.

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

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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 caesar-

ean 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 litter.

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 Nested home was beginning 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 frayed 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.

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, ad-



Lincoln reminds me - everything will be okay.

ditionally, 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." Margaret, 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 un-

rest, 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 you Lincoln."

I see him smiling up at 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 - amyklaire@hotmail.com



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Programs and events at the Pearle

DUDLEY - Join the Pearle L. Crawford Library, 40 Schofield Ave., Dudley for one of the virtual programs at the Pearle. To register go to www.crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021.

Knit and crochet group - Thursday 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. and Friday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. All stitchers are welcome for this informal group

Dungeons and dragons group - Mondays 5:00 p.m. Have you ever wanted to learn to play D&D or are you a player looking to join a group? We have an experienced DM starting a group on Monday Nights. This is an online program Free; registration required for ages 12 and up.

Pre-K power storytime - Tuesdays 11:00 a.m. Join Miss Lida for Pre-School Story Time! We will be exploring a new letter each week starting with A and ending in the spring with Z.

Pokemon Club - Tuesdays 3:30 p.m. Calling all Pokemon fans. Children ages 7 to 14 are invited to join our club. This meeting will be a great opportunity to meet other players and share ideas. Please make sure you bring your trading cards and anything else you would like to share and discuss.

Toddler time - Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. Come join us for Toddler Time! We will have a different theme each week with stories and songs. This is geared for ages 18 months to 3.

Lego challenge club - Wednesdays 3:30 p.m. Come join us each week for a different Lego challenge, from writing your name in Legos to making a Lego zipline. Ages 5+

Wiggles and giggles - Fridays 11:00 a.m. Ages 2-5 are invited to attend this fun, free program! Sing, move, play instruments,

learn rhythm, and listen to stories with Lainey Hanlon. Space is limited; registration required each week. Sponsored by the YMCA Community and Family Partnership.

Adult book group - Third Thursday, 6:00 -7:30 p.m. The adult book group meets for an informal discussion of the month's title, which is available at the circulation desk a month prior to the meeting. The February title will be *The Hare With Amber Eyes*. For more information contact Kathryn Ward at 508-949-0819

Iditarod dogs with Karen Land - Thursday, March 10, 6:00-7:30 p.m. This program is perfect for "kids" of all ages - from pre-K to retired adults. Karen Land will bring her actual Iditarod dog sled, gear, and arctic clothing for this presentation about the famous sled dog race - and Noggin, her Alaskan husky, and Chloe, her corgi-spring mix, are the stars of the show.

Free. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

Teen craft: bracelet making - Monday, March 14 5:00-6:00 p.m. Teens are invited to bring their creativity and drop in to make a bracelet using a variety of materials at this free program.

Sing and swing - Thursday, March 17, 10:30-11:00 a.m. Join us for this interactive program featuring singing, music, dancing, stories, and a variety of fun props ranging from a parachute to pom poms. Free; sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Cozy book night - Monday, March 28, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Kids up to age 10 are invited to join us for an evening of crafts, stories, and hot cocoa. Pajamas are encouraged and bring your favorite stuffed animal to this free program.

Gladys E. Kelly Public Library calendar

The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake St., Webster, 508-949-3880, has listed the following calendar of events. All programs are scheduled to be held outside on the Library lawn (unless otherwise noted), weather permitting.

Adult Programming

Book Discussion Group - March 21 - The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library Adult Book Discussion Group meets at 6:30 p.m. New members are always welcome! Next month's book discussion will be on Monday, March 21st at 6:30PM the meeting will take place via Zoom, and will be about the book *Nobody Will Tell You This But Me* by Bess Kalb. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone to 508-949-3880, or by email to ehale@cwmar.org for inquiries.

Friends March Book Special - Month of March

MARCH is for MYSTERIES. Check out these featured authors: Patricia Cornwell, Andrew Greeley, Lawrence Sanders, John Sandford. As always, featured authors \$3.00 for a bag of books! HAPPY Sleuthing!

Musical March - Matt Yorke performs songs by The Highwaymen - March 17 at 6:30 p.m. Longtime New England singer/songwriter Matt York will perform the songs of Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson and Waylon Jennings and tell stories of their careers. The four songwriting legends joined forces in the 1980s to form the country supergroup The Highwaymen. However, prior to that, they'd each established themselves as stars and their careers intersected many times since the 1960s. York has twice been nominated as Best Male Artist by the New England Music Awards and his latest release was named one of the Boston Globe's best albums of 2019. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Webster Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Musical March - The Softer Side of Celtic - March 24 at 6:30 p.m. The Softer Side of Celtic combines the music, stories, and history of Scotland, England, and Ireland in a way that will keep your audience on the edge of their seats. There will be singing, laughing, clapping, and perhaps a wee bit of foot stomping. The concerts are interactive; questions and input from the audience are encouraged and become a part of the event.

Yoga with Julie - Saturdays through March 26, 10-11:15 a.m. Join Julie at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the "uniting of movement with breath". A typical class involves a centering of the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages and, finally, a rest and relaxation. Classes are free for Gladys Kelly Library patrons.

Children's and young adult programming

Maker Mondays - Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. This March we'll have air dry clay available for children and their caregivers to create with! Every month we will rotate our craft material, so stay tuned!

Chickens Around the World - Saturday, March 26, at 12:00 p.m. This program features chickens from around the world; Speckled Sussex from England, Blue Andalusians from Spain, Glossy Black Sumatras, Araucana from South America, Cuckoo Maran from France, and others who lay different colors and sizes of eggs. Learn the history and unique characteristics of these breeds, along with basic animal husbandry skills. Children can pet the chickens and depending on the season we bring baby chicks along.

Children's Book Sale - April 19 - 21.

The Friends are celebrating April vacation week by hosting a Children's Book Sale! Join us in the lobby from Tuesday, April 19 through Thursday April 21 to purchase your favorite stories.

Wiggles and giggles for littles - Friday, April 1, 10:15-10:45 a.m. A special music and movement program for ages 6-23 months and their caregivers. Free; registration required. Sponsored by the YMCA Community and Family Partnership.

Yoga with Julie - Saturday, April 2, noon-1:00 p.m. Join Julie St. Francis for this beginner-friendly yoga class. Please dress for movement and bring your yoga mat. Free; sponsored by the Friends of the Library

Youth Advisory Council Monday, April 4, 5:00-6:00 p.m. All tweens and teens in grades 6-12 are invited to join. Why join? You will gain valuable leadership skills. You can meet new people. You can earn volunteer hours (please bring your form). Pizza and drinks will be served.

Mass murder: Massachusetts' most infamous murder cases - Thursday, April 7, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Historian Christopher Daley presents an entertaining and fascinating look at some of Massachusetts' most infamous murder cases, both solved and unsolved. Audiences that like mystery, suspense and a little blood and gore will love this lecture! It is fully illustrated with photographs and artwork culled from archival, microfilm and literary sources, and many of the murder sites and historical locations have been photographed in order to give the audience a sense of the modern day context of the crimes. Free; sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

Annual Easter egg hunt - Saturday, April 9 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The Pearle's annual Easter Egg hunt returns! Children are invited to hunt for eggs in the Children's Room and have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny during this free event.

Henna art for all ages - Tuesday, April 19, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Visit the library for free henna art on your hand. Free; sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

Animal camouflage - Wednesday, April 20, 10:00 -11:00 a.m. Children ages 5 and up are invited to come learn about animals which are able to vanish in plain sight! Discover ways in which animals are able to blend like magic into their environment. Learn about how both predators and prey disguise themselves to increase their chances of survival. Then become a nature detective and see if you can spot the hidden animal, in various nature scenes... it's not as easy as you think! Includes a fun camouflage project to take home. Free; Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Foundation

Author Jerry Palotta - Thursday, April 21, 1:00-2:00 p.m. Jerry Palotta is the author of the *Who Would Win* book series and tons of other children's books! Hear him speak about his books and then you will have the opportunity to purchase his books and get them autographed. Free; Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Foundation.

Deb's sing and swing - Friday, April 22, 10:30-11:00 a.m. Pre-school Music and Movement with Deb Hudgins. This is a 30 minute interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, rhythm instruments, stories and variety of fun props, including a parachute, beanbags, scarves, and pom poms. Free; sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

World War Women - Thursday, April 28, 6:00-7:45 p.m. Judith Kalaora of History at Play embodies the spirit of women who risked their lives to defeat Fascism in WWII in this immersive re-living of the triumphs of our greatest heroines. From organizing the resistance to blowing up railroad tracks, descrambling German Enigma messages, and flying dangerous missions, these stories may be the most influential and often forgotten victories of the War. Free; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

Parking lot craft fair

The Auburn Historical Society & Museum will be hosting the First Annual Parking Lot Craft Fair on Saturday, August 27, at 41 South St., Auburn. It will be held 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. Vendors can reserve a 10 x 15-foot space for \$15. Vendors will be responsible for bringing their own table(s). Food selling will be restricted. For more information or to reserve a space, contact Helen at the Auburn Historical Society & Museum at 508-832-6856, by email at auburnmuseum@verizon.net, or come to the museum on Tuesday or Saturday 9:30-12:30. Put your reservations in early.

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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 shipwrecks, 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 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 anyone he knew on the island. The dark shade began to approach the apprehensive islander. The man thought it odd that he heard no foot-

steps 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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DWC getting ready for spring

Recently the Dudley Womans Club held a "Paint Party" at the Dudley Municipal Complex. The members decorated wine glasses with sunflowers to get excited about the upcoming spring season. As can be seen in the photo, there were many different "interpretations" of the theme, and judging by the smiles, they all had fun creating them.

Moon Walk on Walnut Lane Farm

DUDLEY: Local 4 Life presents a Moon Walk on Walnut Lane Farm, 39 Koebke Road in Dudley, on Friday, March

18, at 7:00 p.m. Rain/snow date is Saturday, March 19.

Local 4 Life invites the general public to visit the farm and experience the March full moon and learn about the night sky from local astronomers. The walk will take place, in part, on hilly terrain. Farm-appropriate footwear and flashlights are recommended. All ages welcome.

This event is sponsored by Webster Aubuchon Hardware.

The mission of Local 4 Life, a non-profit educational organization, is to cultivate connections through local farm and business partnerships. L4L provides diverse community outreach and youth education that promotes local conservation.

For more information, visit www.local4life.org or their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Local4LifeMA.

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Nature by Design

"Nature by Design," photography by Debra Horan will be on display and for sale through the month of March at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, Webster. The show can be viewed in the cafe gallery during regular business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5, Wednesday 10-6. Call 508-949-6232 for more information or visit bookloversgourmet.com.

The main inspiration for this show comes from closely observing the inherent design, beauty and balance of the natural world, including pattern, texture and tone. Whether in our own backyard or out in the wilderness, experiencing nature and open space can lead to a deeper sense of respect, well-being, self-discovery and interconnectedness to every living thing.

Debra Horan was born and raised in Webster, and is a graduate of The Rhode Island School of Design with a BFA in Illustration. She pursued a career in freelance illustration for several years and worked for publications including Worcester Magazine, the Worcester Phoenix, the War Resisters League (NY), Orange Coast Magazine (CA), Inside Sports, and Rhode Island Monthly magazine. From 1994 through 2004 she was an active member of the women's art group ARTXII, based out of Worcester, who organized and participated in regional and national gallery, university and museum shows.

Since 1995, Debra continues to own and operate of Booklovers' Gourmet, a bookstore, cafe and art gallery, in Webster. This career enables her to combine her artistic and literary interests as well as help support local artists, authors, poets and musicians in the community by creating a welcoming place for them to gather and draw inspiration from one another.

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Q. I have a 2020 Nissan Frontier light truck that recently failed state inspection due to the emergency brake. Fortunately (or unfortunately) another shop passed it. I brought it to the dealer, and they said it would take three days to fix but due to parts shortages and technician illnesses it hasn't been fixed yet. The only observation I can tell is it feels like a wave when it stops. I don't know if there is a recall. All I know is I hauled some gravel through back roads once and it felt funny ever since - maybe the load was too heavy? Is it safe to drive? It may be a few more weeks before they schedule my repair.

A. The issue based on your description is most likely the rear brakes are slightly distorted due to driving with the heavy load. When the shop is repairing the parking brake, explain the wave/vibration feel when braking. The shop then can check the rotors for out of round and resurface or replace them as necessary.

Q. We were given a 2005 Chevrolet Colorado. It runs for a while then quits. We have had it in the shop with no luck. They had it for four months. It has been at a friend's house (good mechanic) for 10 months. He has gotten it running but then it shuts down. He feels that it is the brain. The reason he feels that way is the brain is telling the security system the car is being stolen. He has done investigating on the situation and found that that year has had a lot of problems. The previous owner said that it had been doing that when they had it. Maybe you can help on this strange problem.

A. Certainly, the GM anti-theft system has been a problem on these vehicles as they age. Although typically the ignition switch doesn't recognize the key and the vehicle will not start. In this case, I would start at the beginning. For any engine to run it needs fuel, spark, engine compression and all three of these events need to happen at the correct time. When the engine dies, what is missing? If it is fuel, test the fuel pump circuit. If there is no spark, look at this area. The idea that the ECM (computer) is faulty is possible, but my experience has been that many vehicles' computers are replaced due to frustration rather than an actual failure of the part.

Q. We recently purchased a 2021 Mazda Miata. When we purchased the car, we also bought snow tires from the dealership. Now that we have put on the snow tires the low air pressure light remains on (even though the tire pressure is fine). The dealer is telling us that there is a manufacturing defect in the sensor that the light will always be on and there is nothing they can do about it.

A. The Miata uses direct style radio transmitters in each wheel that communicate the tire pressure to the vehicle's computer. If the snow tires were installed on the factory wheels, there should be an issue. If the snow tires were installed on an extra set of wheels, the sensors would need to be programmed. One possibility is if you use a portable GPS or EZ Pass and it is mounted near the center of the dash, it could be blocking the TPMS signal to the TPMS receiver antenna.

Q. I have a 2003 Chevy Impala with 90,000 miles on it. I was in a situation that caused me to idle along for two hours in 90° heat, which I'm afraid hurt my car's engine. When I shut the engine off for 15 minutes it was difficult to restart, and I knew it was hot. Driving back home at highway speeds it was bucking and kicking, nearly cutting off at a stoplight during my exit. I took it to a local mechanic who changed out the thermostat, flushed the system, checked the head gasket, checked the fans, put on the diagnostics, and the usual things. After a month he still couldn't figure out why it was still overheating and suggested I needed a new computer. I took it home and decided to do a search for little known causes of overheating. The only thing I came up with was a sensor that communicated the status of the heat at the engine block to the computer. Any thoughts?

A. Idling for long periods of time is not a problem to a properly running vehicle. As an example, police vehicles idle for hours at the roadside. If the engine cooling fans are running as the engine gets hot, the coolant sensor and computer are functioning correctly. I would go back to the idea that a cylinder head-gasket has failed. You can check the head-gasket with a cylinder block-check kit (about \$35) or find a repair shop with an exhaust gas analyzer. The gas analyzer and the block check kit do the same thing, they look for combustion gases in the cooling system. The other common over-heat issue with this vehicle is the water pump impeller fails and doesn't circulate sufficient coolant.

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Tips on financial planning



Dennis Antonopoulos

Have your retirement plans changed because of COVID-19? If so, you have plenty of company. Nearly 40 percent of those planning to retire say the pandemic has disrupted their intentions, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. You might have been thinking about retiring early – can you still do so?

Are you still planning to retire early?

Even without a crisis, it's not a bad idea to review your important life goals from time to time. So, in thinking about the possibility of early retirement, consider these factors:

• *Your retirement lifestyle*

Your ability to retire early depends somewhat on what sort of lifestyle you're anticipating during your retirement years. If you think you'll be traveling extensively or pursuing expensive activities, you might not be able to afford to retire as early as someone with more modest ambitions. Of course, there's no "right" or "wrong" way of living in retirement – we all have our own dreams and preferences. But be aware that dif-

ferent lifestyles do carry different price tags – and have different effects on when you can retire securely.

• *Sources of retirement income*

Obviously, a key factor in knowing whether you can retire early is the amount of retirement income you can rely on. So, you'll have to assess all your sources: Social Security, any other pensions you might receive, and your investment portfolio, including your 401(k) and IRA. The amounts you receive from these sources will depend on a variety of factors.

For Social Security, the longer you wait until collecting, the larger your monthly payments (although they will "top out" when you

reach 70, excluding cost-of-living adjustments). In regard to your investments and retirement accounts, you'll need to establish a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for the length of time you expect to be retired. So, by adjusting these variables – taking Social Security earlier or later, taking more or less money from your retirement accounts – you can help determine if the retirement date you had in mind is viable.

• *Your feelings about work*

Your goals are not static – they can change in response to any number of reasons, both external and personal. When you first decided you wanted to retire early, you might have been motivated

by, among other things, a weariness of your current job. But has that changed over time? Have you found new challenges that interest you at work? Or, if you were forced by the pandemic to work remotely, did you actually enjoy the arrangement and want to continue it?

After all, many employers have found that their workers can be just as productive working at home, so, even when we've gotten past COVID-19, we might see a sizable shift in the geography of the workplace. In any case, if your feelings about work have changed in some way, leading you to think you could work longer than originally planned, you'd likely gain some financial

advantages. You'd make more money, for starters, but you'd also keep building your 401(k) and IRA, and you could even possibly delay taking Social Security.

The pandemic may lead to a reevaluation of many financial goals – and taking early retirement might be one of them. By thinking carefully about your situation and your options, you can come up with a course of action that's right for you.

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

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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**

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 this winter. Spring, the hottest time of year for homebuyers and sellers, has started early, according to

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

REALTORS and economists. . . Home shopping season appears to already be in full swing!

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 properties, 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-than-usual winter. And remember – you want to sell something when there's a strong demand for that item. That time is now.

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 are at a 15-year high. According 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 today.

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7	6	3	8	4	2	6	7	5	6	5	6	2
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Mark Marzeotti
Realtor

25 Union Street, 4th Floor
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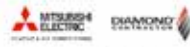
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