

Elsie G's opens doors as new home for crafters in Oxford

By Rod Lee

Quite a few people must be surprised to see what has taken place at 7 Sutton Ave. in Oxford Center in recent months.

Formerly the home of Jefferson's Cleaners, and before that a local tavern, the storefront is now occupied by Elsie G's Creations & More, owned and operated by Heather A. Budano.

"We moved here from Auburn in December," Shelly Savicki, a salesperson, said on March 24th. "We opened on December 4th."

Ms. Savicki, who lives in Wales, Massachusetts, has been with Elsie G's "from the beginning" and describes the venture as "a year-round indoor craft fair." She works the counter at Elsie G's on Thursdays, covering the shop's activity for Ms. Budano.

The tagline Ms. Savicki offered for what Elsie G's is all about certainly fits.

Immediately after announcing this, she began grabbing business cards of the crafters whose work is represented in the building by way of further identifying who's who. Some of them, including Ms. Budano, run more than one enterprise. Ms. Budano, for instance, also owns "Tish's Craft Corner" and is a consultant with Avon, Chalk Couture and Tupperware.

A host of different crafters have taken up residence at Elsie G's.

Wayne Learned of Webster, for instance, is the owner of Learned Custom Leather with a concentration in "hand-tooled art and personal goods."

Mr. Learned has been collecting cowboy boots since 1996 and now crafts them in collaboration with Jim Covington of Covington Boots. Mr. Learned also teaches line dancing. In an effort to "stand out" at the front of the class, he says, he began making

Continued on page 2



INSIDE

JAMES ANNESE
Promoted to sergeant
PAGE 4

NICHOLS COLLEGE
Reopens student bar
PAGE 7

LIVING ON WITH LINCOLN
Patience and OPDs
PAGE 11

Spring Home & Garden
A special Pull-out Section



Kayla Grimshaw, Shelly Savicki and Kayla's mom Kerry Grimshaw are three principals connected with Elsie G's Creations & More, a new craft store situated at 7 Sutton Ave. in Oxford.

Auburn Chamber to welcome airport director for annual meeting

By Rod Lee

Investments and improvements will undoubtedly be central to the message Andrew B. "Andy" Davis delivers as keynote speaker for the Auburn Chamber of Commerce's 60th annual meeting on April 12th at J. Anthony's.

Mr. Davis is director of Worcester Regional Airport.

Since 2010, Massport has poured approximately \$100 million into upgrading the facility. A section of Taxiway B, the airport's longest and busiest taxiway, has been improved, and a strategic rebuild of the main runway has been completed.

The good news doesn't end there.

Bernice Freedman, assistant director of media relations for Massport, said Worcester Regional is offering five daily flights to New York City's JFK and La-



Andy Davis will be sharing strides Worcester Regional Airport is making when he addresses the Auburn Chamber of Commerce at J. Anthony's on April 12.

Guardia airports, and daily service to Ft. Lauderdale via JetBlue, Delta and American.

"Free parking will continue through June 30, 2022," Ms. Freedman said. Increasingly, travelers who had for-

merly opted for Boston, Providence or Hartford are now choosing Worcester.

"The experience leaving Worcester was fantastic," Tony Economou, a local realtor, said. "I got to the airport at 5:00 for a 6:00 p.m. flight. It was uneventful. My flight back was scheduled for 7:30. It got bumped until 1:00 a.m. but that was more a JetBlue system issue."

Caitlin Peloquin of Putnam had a similar positive experience.

"Flying with a ten-month-old and a fiancé with little patience is not something I was looking forward to," she said. "This led me to book flights from Worcester instead of Logan. I could not be any happier with that decision. Dakota and I got dropped off with the luggage right at the entrance and Nate parked (for free) nice and close."

"The best part was we were off the plane and home to Putnam within thirty

minutes on the way back."

Congressman James P. McGovern said the attention being paid to Worcester Regional Airport is paying dividends.

"Before the pandemic, and in partnership with these three airlines, Worcester Regional was close to serving its one millionth passenger," Mr. McGovern said. "Now, as flights resume and America rebuilds, this airport is back better than ever, and ready to serve the people of Central Massachusetts."

Recently, Massport also announced a bold plan to reduce carbon emissions at all of its facilities, including Worcester, and to become "NetZero" by 2031, which coincides with the Authority's 75th anniversary.

"The Roadmap to NetZero" focuses on 100% of the greenhouse gases

Continued on page 2

EXCLUSIVE CHECKING OFFER

ENJOY A
CASH BONUS
when you open a
FREE Basic Checking account.

- **FREE** mobile banking with Touch ID®, Face ID® and Zelle®
- **FREE** online banking and bill pay
- **FREE** of monthly service charges
- **FREE** access to thousands of SUM® Network ATMs nationwide*

Open an account in-branch or at bankHometown.com

bankHometown

Unlock your potential

Member FDIC | Member DIF | NMLS #: 402413

*Not responsible for surcharges or fees imposed by other banks, ATM operators and/or networks based outside of the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii or U.S. Territories. Zelle and the Zelle related marks are wholly owned by Early Warning Services, LLC and are used herein under license.

TAKE
10% OFF

YOUR NEXT SERVICE VISIT
OF \$50 OR MORE.
Must present coupon at write-up.
Valid until 4.30.2022

HARBRO
AUTO SALES SERVICE

WHITINSVILLE | WEBSTER

(508) 499-3510

harbroauto.com/service

ELSIE G's

Continued from page 1

belts. "The fashion world does not live on black and brown belts alone," he points out on his website. "I love vibrant colors."

Mr. Learned has branched out into all sort of leather products including bookmarks, bracelets, coasters, coin purses, handbags and flasks

In well-appointed space, Elsie G's has made room for a variety of crafters whose creative instincts run the gamut.

Handcrafted country-style wood items in the shop including copper top birdhouses are displayed by Rich Cowden of Auburn, owner of The Birds Inn. Mr. Cowden notes "I support the military, police and first responders."

Tammy Itse of Harrisville,

Rhode Island, creates "resin clocks, soap dishes, soaps, bath products and crochet items"—among other things.

Christine Janes is "Cj's Jewelry, Cards & More."

Noticing her visitor thumbing through the business cards, Ms. Savicki said "on Thursdays, we offer free jewelry cleaning while you browse. We have arts and crafts on Saturdays."

Virtually every craft imaginable, it appears, is part of the lineup at Elsie G's.

Maria Bradshaw and Jamie Yancey are owners of M&J Crafts, "from our hearts to your hands."

Barbara Mattson bills herself as "the Pampered Chef" and "Java Momma" (an "independent barista").

"Mandatory Me Time" specializes in "all-natural skincare,"

featuring products handcrafted in New England.

"Chappy's Crafting" (Scott and Melissa) and "DeZynes by Leah" are part of the mix, as is "Tish's Craft Corner," gift baskets made to order by Tish Taylor ("making people smile with the love of homemade").

Elsie G's Creations & More is continuing evidence that the town Oxford is a fertile breeding ground for those with entrepreneurial ambitions and a place to turn to for the products and services these business people offer: vintage baseball cards, homemade cupcakes, wash, dry and fold laundry assistance, gifts for the home and workplace and flower arrangements—for instance.

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

AIRPORT DIRECTOR

Continued from page 1

directly controlled by Massport-owned properties, equipment and purchased electricity, with

continuing influence in areas that the Authority does not control.

Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis, who is also chairman of the Board of Directors of Massport, said "Massport's Road to NetZero aligns

with the Commonwealth's climate goals."

Contact Rod Lee at rodlee1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.



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

DISCOVER VISA MasterCard

**Vacuums
always 75¢**

BIG KAHUNA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIG KAHUNA CARNAUBA WAX UNDERCARRIAGE WASH W/ ROCKER BLASTER x2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK HIGH PRESSURE WASH FOAMING POLISH SHIELD "HIGH GLOSS TOTAL PROTECTANT" SPOT FREE RINSE LASERDRI 	\$18
DELUXE WASH	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDERCARRIAGE WASH W/ ROCKER BLASTER x2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK HIGH PRESSURE WASH FOAMING POLISH SHIELD "HIGH GLOSS TOTAL PROTECTANT" SPOT FREE RINSE LASERDRI 	\$14
SUPER WASH	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDERCARRIAGE WASH W/ ROCKER BLASTER x2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK HIGH PRESSURE WASH SPOT FREE RINSE LASERDRI 	\$10
BASIC WASH	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> x2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK HIGH PRESSURE WASH SPOT FREE RINSE LASERDRI 	\$8

Three Dog Night at Indian Ranch

WEBSTER - Rock legends Three Dog Night will perform at Indian Ranch in Webster, on Sunday, July 24, as part of the Mike's Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series. Tickets are on sale at www.indianranch.com.

Legendary band, Three Dog Night, now in its 5th decade, claims some of the most astonishing statistics in popular music. In the years 1969 through 1974, no other group achieved more top 10 hits, moved more records or sold more concert tickets than Three Dog Night.

Three Dog Night hits weave through the fabric of pop culture today, whether on the radio where they are heard day in and day out, in TV commercials or in major motion pictures -- songs like "Mama Told Me (Not To Come)," "Joy to the World," "Black and White," "Shambala" and "One" serve to heighten our emotions and crystallize Three Dog Night's continuing popularity.

This Grammy-nominated band is not content resting on its legacy alone. Always working to expand its audience, Three Dog Night has embraced and been embraced by 21st century music technology. New and existing fans buy Three Dog Night's music on iTunes as well as at record stores. In fact, releases from this decade alone have sold well over a million copies.

Three Dog Night also pushed boundaries by recording with the London Symphony

Orchestra, giving fans new and old a chance to experience its dynamic performances of the hits as well as several new songs. The project, recorded at the famous Abbey Road studios in London and released to coincide with the band's 35th Anniversary, added exciting new orchestral arrangements to Three Dog Night's signature sound.

Created in 1968 by Danny



Hutton, Three Dog Night recorded the music of the best (and mostly undiscovered) new songwriters of their time including Harry Nilsson, Randy Newman, Elton John, Laura Nyro, Paul Williams and Hoyt Axton among many others. The group's eclectic taste, combined with their ability to recognize and record hits in a unique, distinctive and appealing style, resulted in Three Dog Night dominating the charts for years.

Marking over 50 years on the road, Three Dog Night continues to grow its fan base by keeping up a full schedule of concerts at theatres, performing arts centers, fairs, festivals, corporate events, and casinos. Since

1986, the band has performed over 2,500 shows including two Super Bowls.

Indian Ranch offers music lovers a chance to see some of the greatest country, classic rock and pop bands steps from Lake Chargoggagoggmunchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg. Nestled between pine trees, the amphitheater offers the ability to see the stage from anywhere in the audience. More than a concert venue, Indian Ranch opened Samuel Slater's Restaurant and is also home to the Indian Princess paddle-wheeler and Indian Ranch Campground. Already on sale are concerts with Trace Adkins on June 5, The Outlaws on June

11, The Mavericks on June 19, Michael Franti & Spearhead on July 2, Get The Led Out on July 8, Scotty McCreery on July 9, The Pike Hairfest on July 30, TESLA on July 31, and ABBA The Concert on August 12. More shows will be announced soon.

Gates for Three Dog Night will open at 11:30 a.m. and showtime is 1:00 p.m. Tickets are available online at www.indianranch.com, by calling 1-800-514-ETIX (3849) or at the Indian Ranch Box Office. All events are rain or shine. No refunds. Indian Ranch is located at 200 Gore Road in Webster. For more information, visit www.indianranch.com.

An evening of live music

WEBSTER - Join the Gladys E. Kelly Library for an evening of live music and great company on Thursday, April 14, featuring Rob McHale.

Rob McHale is a North Carolina-based folk-American artist whose songs can take you

through a small town, down a dirt road or on a historical journey -- and bring you back home again. Rob's flair for penning historical and social commentary has received recognition and awards from American Songwriters Magazine, Woody Guthrie Folk

Festival, Dallas Songwriters Association and Billboard.

The event is free at the Gladys E. Kelly Library, 2 Lake Street, and the entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. It is funded by a generous grant from the Janet Malser Humanities trust.

The YankeeXpress

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

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

DIRECTORY

Rod Lee, Editor • rodlee.1963@gmail.com

Submit business news and community events to news@TheYankeeXpress.com

Request advertising information: ads@TheYankeeXpress.com

Billing and advertising information Laura Gleim lgleim@TheYankeeXpress.com

(Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, Webster) ads@TheYankeeXpress.com

Bill Cronan, Sales (Blackstone Valley) bcranon@TheYankeeXpress.com

The Newspaper Press, LLC / contents copyright 2022

Kim Vasseur, Production Manager

Sally Patterson, Graphic Artist

Carol Kosth, Graphic Artist

Contributing writers and columnists: Tom D'Agostino,

Christine Galeone, Amy Palumbo-Leclaire, Janet Stoica

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

**Adult Day Health Program
serving your community**

Family Owned and Operated

*Reliable partner assisting families
Offering Skilled Nursing, Personal Care,
Case Management, Recreation,
Nutrition and Transportation Services*



HOMEY, FUN, SECURE, SAFE, CLEAN

FOLLOW CDC/MA COVID19 GUIDANCE

ULTRAVIOLET AIR CLEANING SYSTEM

TESTIMONIAL: "When my mother's dementia progressed to the point that she was no longer able to live by herself; I was in desperate need of help and found it with the folks at Accord."

-Marcia T

10 Cudworth Road • Webster, MA 01570

508-949-3598

www.accorddaycenter.com



Charlton Earth Day roadside clean-up April 30

CHARLTON - The Charlton Earth Day roadside clean-up will take place on Saturday, April 30, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Charlton residents are invited to help clean up the town for Earth Day. The theme of Earth Day 2022 is "Invest in Our Planet" – the time is now for action to ensure the children of today have a healthier planet for their children's children.

Register online at <https://www.townofcharlton.net/238/Earth-Day-Committee>. Sign-up for a road, or portion of a road, or sign up in person at the event.

Thanks to a grant from The Last Green Valley, 100 pairs each of kid and adult gloves are available. Other donors have contributed 100 safety vests and 100 trash pickers. These are available on a first come, first serve basis; however, the Earth Day Committee asks residents who have gear from last year's Earth Day to reuse them so others may have adequate equipment.

Bottled water has been generously donated by Ted's Package Store. Stay hydrated and reuse or recycle that empty water bottle. Volunteers receive free wildflower seeds. Do your part to help pollinators, convert a little patch of lawn into a ha-

ven for butterflies, native bees, moths, ladybugs, and hoverflies.

Charlton Middle School fifth grader Ashlynn Cuniff is this year's winner in the T-shirt design contest. Her winning design features a whimsical earth with a face split in half, one side smiling and bright, the other bandaged and frowning. She captured the urgency of the moment with her slogan: IF YOU REST AND DON'T INVEST EARTH WILL LOOK LIKE A MESS. Free t-shirts with this beautiful design are available while they last, thanks to a generous donation by Millennium Power Company.

Show your support for the earth and for the town. Casella Waste System is donating a large dumpster for the event. Come help fill it up with roadside trash.

Safety first. Please take care when picking up the roads. Use gloves to protect yourself from sharp objects. Wear bright clothing or a safety vest so drivers can see you easily. You may want to set up cones to caution drivers in higher speed areas. Never open containers of unknown substances. Contact the police to dispose of any needles or syringes – do

not touch or place them in bags with other refuse.

Charlton Earth Fest April 30, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. All are welcome on the town common to learn from a variety of vendors promoting environmentally sustainable lifestyle choices. Learn ways you can help the earth, its animals, and plants.

Vendors include: Cornerstone Bank, Energy Monster, Second Chance Animal Shelter, Shepherd Hill High School Envirothon Club, Charlton Garden Club, Charlton Heritage Preservation Trust, Charlton Conservation Commission, Keep Charlton Beautiful Committee, Capen Hill Nature Center, Annie Mike's Honey, and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Blessings Farm will be bringing some horses to the Common; come and visit.

Come enjoy live music in the gazebo featuring the Grey Whisker Pickers and The Wormtown Mugwumps. Food trucks will be parked along the Common, including Sliced, Potato Potato, Big T's Jerky House, Dough Is Me, and Suzy Q's Ice Cream. Something for everyone – vegan options, meat, sweets.

Nichols announces new dean of students

DUDLEY – Nichols College President Glenn M. Sulmasy, JD, LL.M., has announced the appointment of Hillary J. Theofane as dean of students, effective April 20. She is coming to Nichols from Assumption University, where she serves as director of community standards.

"Hillary has an extensive background in promoting awareness and compliance with community standards as well as the policies and procedures intended to ensure academic integrity," said Sulmasy. "I look forward to working with her as a member of my cabinet as we continue to shape a learning and living environment focused on student

wellness, safety and success."

Prior to Assumption, Theofane was the coordinator of community standards and integrity at Carnegie Mellon University and assistant resident director at Syracuse University. Through these roles, she supported the growth of innovative residential communities, promoted student involvement in the revision of internal policies, and assisted in the creation of robust educational models to promote wellness, including bystander intervention training.

"I am thrilled to be joining



the Nichols College community during this exciting time," said Theofane. "I look forward to working closely with President Sulmasy to provide an experience that supports, engages, and inspires our students. We are com-

mitted to creating a community that fosters holistic wellness and the development of skills to succeed in a diverse, global society."

A resident of Holden, she earned a BA in legal studies and psychology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and an MS in higher education administration at Syracuse University.

INCOME TAXES

Personal & Business



WILLIAM N. KRING

Certified Public Accountant / Admitted to U.S. Tax Court

103 W. Main Street, Dudley

508-949-1439

20% DISCOUNT FOR NEW CLIENTS

Ice Cream Pharm

YOUR ICE CREAM PRESCRIPTION



YOU deserve an ice cream treat! Come and try the Pharm's every day treats and remember how ice cream used to taste when you were a kid! Our Hand-Made and Churned delights are made with the freshest ingredients in small batches. The cream is heavenly, the flavors and drinks are unique!

Hours

Friday-Sunday
3 p.m. - 8 p.m.

10% off
with this ad on
Fridays!

Dairy Free Options
Available!



Find us on:
facebook.

Check our Facebook page for Weekly Specials!



Find us on:
facebook.

New Ice Cream Flavors

- Cannoli Ice Cream
- Dairy Free Acai Ice Cream
- Jewish Charoset Ice Cream for Passover (April 15)

New Drink.....

Butter Beers
(alcoholic or non-alcoholic)
This drink is from Harry Potter.

Also offering

Macha Tea Ice Cream, Toasted Coconut, Maple Walnut, Cheesecake, and Banana Ice Cream.

Also try our Strawberry Shortcake! Chocolate Covered Cherry Ice Cream!



Featuring
German Chocolate
Cake Ice Cream!

Now offering Softserve!

Try a piece of our soft serve pie (graham cracker crust or Oreo Cookie Crust)...with a scoop of hot fudge or strawberries & whipped cream! Oh how yummy! Also try our form of the blizzard called a Cow-a-Bunga. Come give it a try!



185 West Main St. • Dudley, MA 01571 • 774-696-0193

April events at Booklovers' Gourmet

WEBSTER - "Earthsongs" Book Release Party will be held on Saturday, April 23, 1-3 p.m. to celebrate Earth Day at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street. Earthsongs, is a new book of poetry and art featuring a collaboration between friends Robert Eugene Perry & Ferol Smith.

Signed copies will be available for purchase that day. Call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com to reserve your space.

Robert Eugene Perry remarked, "This collaboration with my artist friend Ferol was

absolutely a labor of love. In discussing the sketches that would accompany the poems, she intuitively grasped the meaning of the words and translated them into sublime images. She needed very little direction from me. It was almost as if the synchronicity of the project was palpable to both of us. Her sketches added a new dimension to my own perception of my poems. This has been one of the most rewarding artistic experiences of my life."

Robert Eugene Perry is a native of Massachusetts. His most recent book of poetry Surrendering to the Path, was published

by Human Error Publishing (2020). Perry hosted a poetry group for disabled individuals at the former New England Dream Center in Worcester, and has emceed the monthly Open Mic at Booklovers' Gourmet in Webster since May 2017.

Three of his poems were included in the 2021 Honoring Nature anthology by Nature-Culture/ Human Error Publishing. Two poems were included in Poetica Magazine's 2020 Mizmor Anthology regarding spirituality and nature. He had a short story published in July 2021 with Wordpeace Journal. He has had several poems published in Worcester Magazine. A metaphysical poet, he draws inspiration from nature endeavoring to reveal connections between our higher selves and the natural world. He is a devoted husband and father of two grown boys.

Ferol Smith commented, "When Bob first approached me about this project, I was intrigued. Normally, my art requires creatively rendering a visual scene. For this project, it would involve interpreting the written word. At first, it was a challenge to read a poem and



Robert Eugene Perry

conceptualize a complementary nature scene. However, once I started to really grasp the essence of his words, the process became much easier. His poems inspired me to reach within, and as a result I gained a deeper appreciation and understanding of his work."

Situated in the scenic central New England area, Ferol creates paintings that focus on local landscapes, as well as still life subjects incorporating native elements. Many of her works are done "en plein air," recreating scenes while on location.

Ferol has completed several classes at the Worcester Art Museum and New England School of Fine Art. In 2015, she completed a plein air workshop in Tuscany, Italy. Her work has been exhibited throughout the Central New England area. She paints on location and from her studio located in the historic Manchaug Mills building in Sutton.

Meet local author Dawn Wilson and celebrate Independent Bookstore Day on Saturday, April 30, 1-3 p.m. at Booklovers' Gourmet. Who Am I? A Teen's Creative Guide to Adulthood is Dawn's first book. She melds art, creativity, healing, and teaching into a journey of self discovery. Call 508-949-6232 for more information.

As a teen, rebelling against society's norms Dawn struggled to be true to herself. Stepping into the unknown, she created a new path that brings purpose, energy, and connection to the world around her. Her deepest desire is for the readers to find their own unique voices in their creative journey towards becoming an adult.

Dawn resides in Grafton, and teaches graphic arts at Bay



Path Regional Technical High School in Charlton.

Independent Bookstore Day is a one-day event that takes place at indie bookstores across the country on the last Saturday in April and celebrates the contributions they make to their communities. There will be exclusive books and other items available throughout the day. You can't get them before. You can't get them online. This year's IBD Ambassador is best-selling young adult author Angie Thomas. For more information visit www.indiebound.org/independent-bookstore-day

THE MEADOWS
A Vibra Transitional Care Facility

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

Getting You Back to Better.

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

Easter food and bake sale

DUDLEY - On Saturday, April 9, St. Andrew Bobola parish, West Main St., will hold its annual Palm Sunday Polish Food Sale from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., and again after the 4 p.m. Mass, 4:45 - 5:15 pm. The hall at the rear of church will be open to purchase Polish specialties for your Easter table including homemade cabbage or cheese pierogi for \$20/dozen

or \$10/half dozen, small pierogi (blueberry, strawberry, potato/cheese, cabbage/mushrooms) for \$7/dozen, smoked kielbasa rings for \$15, and poppyseed or prune strudel for \$10 each.

While you are there, you can purchase home-baked goodies from the Rosary Sodality Bake Sale, along with taking a chance or two on a lottery tree raffle.

Garden Club meeting

CHARLTON - The Charlton Garden Club's Monday, April 11, meeting will feature Kathi Garipey, a master gardener and owner of Pleasant Vistas garden design. She will be speaking on shade gardening.

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.

This meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Charlton Public Library. 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 at (508) 434-0506.

Pre-order your Easter Ham, Kielbasa, and Roasts

Don't forget about Pies and Babkas for Easter Sunday

We have Carved Wooden Eggs and Easter Sugar Bunnies and Lambs.

DAILY SPECIALS	
Imported Ham	\$5.99/lb
Land o Lakes pre-sliced Am. cheese	\$5.99/lb
Corned Beef or Pastrami	\$9.99/lb
Ham Salad	\$6.99/lb
Xtra Lean Roast Beef	\$10.99/lb

Fridays During Lent Haddock Dinner \$13.99 Lobster Rolls \$22.99

Delray Docs
FRUIT & DELI
508-943-3303
31 Thompson Rd., Webster
(in the New Nipmuc Plaza)
Open: Tues. thru Fri. 9-5;
Sat. 9-4; Sun. 9-2, Closed Mondays

EBT ACCEPTED HERE

Luciano's Cotten Club Maxwell Luciano's BANQUET AND CONFERENCE CENTER AT UNION STATION

Easter Brunch at Union Station
Sunday, April 17, 9am - 4pm

Adults: \$32.95
Ages: 6-12 \$20.95
2-5yrs: \$14.95
Plus tax and tip

Breakfast Items, Hot Entrees, Salads and Fresh Fruit, Assorted breads and more ...

Call 508 755-6408 or 508 755-1200 for information & reservations

See the menu at www.maxwellsilvermansbanquet.com

Validated parking!

Maxwell Luciano's Banquet & Conference Center at Union Station
2 Washington Square, Worcester, MA 01608

The Yankee Xpress

Promoting businesses every month.

Let us help your business grow.
Contact: ads@theyankeeexpress.com

Webster Selectmen Candidates Forum

The Webster Democratic Town Committee is pleased to sponsor a Selectmen Candidates Forum to be held on

Wednesday, April 27, from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
at Town Hall in the Selectmen's Meeting Room

You can also watch the Forum live on

- Webster Cable Access Channel 191 or
- Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/271116777999439/>

The three participating candidates for Webster Selectman will present their credentials and respond to prepared questions. If time allows, questions will be taken from the audience.

There are 3 Selectman's seats open.



Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy student medalists headed to SkillsUSA state competition

CHARLTON - Thirteen Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students will compete at the State SkillsUSA Conference on Thursday, April 14, at the Holiday Inn in Marlborough, and on April 29, at the Blackstone Valley Tech in Upton, after winning medals at the district level.

The four PN students who finished first in the Health Knowledge Bowl category are Darcey Howe, Gearlyn Wetherbee, Genie Biando, and Marvellous Undag. Silver medalists in health knowledge bowl post-secondary are Felisters Mburu, Melanie Pariseau, Rebecca Lorre, and

Francis Sozaa.

First-place and second-place finishers at their respective categories – and earning the honor of representing Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy in the state competition – are: Sarah Garcia (Gold) and Evalyne Njoroge (Silver), both for First Aid/ CPR. Luciane Lindvay (Gold) and Alex Mupengu (Silver), both for Medical Math. Moreen Barber (Gold) and Eunice Kamau (Silver), both for Medical Terminology. In the Practical Nursing category, the medalists are Katie Blanchard (Gold), Martha Aboagye (Silver), and Regina Asieduwaah

(Bronze), all of whom are progressing to the state competition.

“Our PN students did very well and represented the Academy with pride,” said Getheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. “I want to thank the Superintendent, Mr. Kyle Brenner for his support, Professor Sarah Watson, and both SkillsUSA Advisors for Bay Path, Ms. Jennifer Stachura and Ms. Pam Staney for all their challenging work and coordination. Our PN students would not have been able to take part as well if not for the Bay Path community’s support.”

Rock legends scheduled to perform at Indian Ranch

WEBSTER - Rock legends Collective Soul and Switchfoot are coming to Indian Ranch in Webster, on Saturday, August 6, as part of the Mike’s Hard Lemonade Summer Concert Series. Tickets are on sale at www.indianranch.com.

Multi-Platinum Atlanta rockers Collective Soul -- Ed Roland (vocals/guitar), Dean Roland (rhythm guitar), Jesse Triplett (lead guitar/background vocals), Will Turpin (bass/background vocals), Johnny Rabb (drums/background vocals)-- are known for their collection of hit songs like “Shine,” “Run,” “December,” and “The World I Know.”

Collective Soul’s highly anticipated and critically acclaimed tenth studio album, *BLOOD*, was released June 2019. It garnered impressive debuts on various Billboard’s charts, including #3 on the “Alternative Albums” chart. Elsewhere, it debuted at #4 on the “Independent Albums” chart, #5 on the “Rock Albums” chart, #12 on the “Digital Albums” chart, #15 on the “Top Current Albums” chart, and #19 on the “Internet Albums” chart.

Switchfoot -- Jon Foreman (vocals, guitar), Tim Foreman (bass), Jerome Fontamillas (keys, guitar) and Chad Butler (drums)-- has sold almost 10 million copies worldwide of their twelve studio albums (including their 2003 double-platinum breakthrough *The Beautiful Letdown* and 2009’s Grammy Award-winning *Hello Hurricane*), racked up a string of Alternative radio hit singles, and performed sold-out tours

with over 5 million concert tickets sold in over 40 countries around the world. Fans can expect to hear favorites that span Switchfoot’s illustrious 20+ year career including “Dare You To Move,” “Meant to Live,” “Love Alone Is Worth the Fight,” as well as selections from the GRAMMY-winning band’s latest album, the acclaimed *interrobang*, released in August 2021.

Collective Soul singer/guitarist Ed Roland can’t wait to get the tour started. “It’s always a thrill to go on tour, but this year is going to be so special because we get to be with not only our friends but a great band, Switchfoot! Southern boys meet Southern California boys, which will be a fun time for all!”

Switchfoot singer/guitarist Jon Foreman couldn’t agree more. “Been fans of Collective Soul and their songs from day one. Can’t believe it took this long for us to finally tour together. Psyched it’s finally happening!”

Indian Ranch offers music lovers a chance to see some of the greatest country, classic rock and pop bands steps from Lake Chagogaggoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagunga-maugg. Nestled between pine trees, the amphitheater offers the ability to see the stage from anywhere in the audience. More than a concert venue, Indian Ranch opened Samuel Slater’s Restaurant and is also home to the Indian Princess paddlewheeler and Indian Ranch Campground. Already on sale are concerts with Trace Adkins on June 5, The Outlaws on June 11, The Mavericks on June 19, Michael Franti & Spearhead

on July 2, Get The Led Out on July 8, Scotty McCreery on July 9, Little River Band on July 17, Three Dog Night on July 24, The Pike Hairfest on July 30, TESLA on July 31, “Weird Al” Yankovic on August 5, and ABBA The Concert on August 12. More shows will be announced soon.

Tickets are available online at www.indianranch.com, by calling 1-800-514-ETIX (3849) or at the Indian Ranch Box Office. All events are rain or shine. No refunds. Indian Ranch is located at 200 Gore Road in Webster. For more information, visit www.indianranch.com.



New England Steak and Seafood



Make Your Easter Reservations NOW!

9 SEATING TIMES AVAILABLE:

12:00 noon	2:30 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
12:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m.	3:30 p.m.	6:00 p.m.

Route 16, Mendon, MA
508-473-5079 508-478-0871
www.nesteakandseafood.com

NOW ACCEPTING Easter Reservations!

Sunday, April 17, 2022
(reservations only on Easter Sunday)

Book your table today at
wrightsfarm.com or call 401-769-2856



WRIGHT'S FARM RESTAURANT
84 Inman Rd., Harrisville, RI 02830

Hosting at home?
Check out our Party Pans.
Feeds up to 20 people!



Serving Dine-in & Take-out

Finish with our Handmade Gourmet Fudge available in



Wright's Gift Shop

Pearle L. Crawford Library events

DUDLEY - Programs and events at the Pearle L. Crawford Library, 40 Schofield Avenue. Join us for one of our 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.

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. 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. For the current month's title see our website. For more information contact Kathryn Ward at 508-949-0819

Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 9, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The annual Easter Egg Hunt is back! Join us to hunt for eggs in the children's room, have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny, and do a fun activity. The first 100 children will receive an Easter gift bag! This event is geared to children ages 2-10. Please note that the children's room will be closed during this event. Free; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by the

Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

Friends of the Library annual meeting - Monday, April 11, 2:00-3:00 p.m. The Friends of the Library will hold their annual meeting - all are invited to attend and learn more about the ways the Friends support the Library.

Henna art for all ages - Tuesday, April 19, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Drop in and get a free henna design from Wicked Good Henna. Free; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

Animal camouflage with hands on nature - Wednesday, April 20, 10:00 -11:00 a.m. 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. This is for ages 5+ Free; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford

Endowment.

Music and movement with Deb Hudgins - Thursday, April 21, 10:30-11:00 a.m. 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. These programs are theme-based, and cover everything from holidays and seasons to dinosaurs and bugs. Free; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Author Jerry Pallotta - Thursday, April 21, 1:00-2:00 p.m. Jerry Pallotta is the author of the Who Would Win series and many other children's books. He'll speak about his writing, and attendees will be able to purchase his books and have them autographed by Jerry. Free; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by the Hugh W and Harriet K Crawford Endowment.

Records and Burpee Petting Zoo - Friday, April 22, various sessions. Come meet animals including a llama, alpaca, tortoise, squirrel monkey, and more. There will be 4 sessions for 25 minutes each at 1 p.m., 1:40 p.m., 2:20 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 3:40 p.m. Space is limited and

registration is required for each person attending at crawfordlibrary.org. You will have the ability to purchase small amounts of feed for the animals. The money from the feed machines will go to help the Friends of the Library! Please bring change. Free; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Drum circle with Mike Leo - Saturday, April 23, 11:00 a.m.-noon. Come be part of a drum circle and play a variety of different drums. Free; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. 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 reliving of the triumphs of our greatest heroines. From organizing the resistance to blowing up railroad tracks, scrambling 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.

\$600 CASH
for all COMPLETE vehicles delivered to
RPM Enterprises
Pick up is also available
THE BEST DEAL AROUND!!!
ALL THE TIME - Cash Paid
for Your Light & Heavy Scrap
Office **1-959-444-3889**

Fred D. Giovaninni
HANDYMAN SERVICE
ALL TYPES OF REPAIRS
IN & OUT
NO JOB IS TOO SMALL
• FREE ESTIMATES • ITEMS ASSEMBLED
• GENERAL CARPENTRY • INTERIOR PAINTING
• DRY WALL REPAIR • ETCETERA....
• RENOVATIONS
MA# 155844 INSURED
CALL (508) 904-9728 DUDLEY, MA

Express Shipping
& Office Supplies
Shipping made easy!
• Packing
• Shipping
• Packaging Materials
• Fax, Copies & Printing
• Document Scanning
• Mailbox Rental
• Office Supplies
• E-mailing
Monday-Friday
10am-5pm
Saturday 9am-1pm
Closed Sunday
626 School St., (Rte. 44), Putnam, CT 06260
860-963-7815
ExpressShippingPutnamCt.com

Charlton Lions hold membership drive

CHARLTON - The Charlton Lions Club is holding a Membership Drive with an informational reception on Wednesday, May 25, 7-9 p.m. at the Overlook Great Room, Masonic Home, 88 Masonic Home Road, Charlton.

Join Charlton's most respected community secular service organization for an evening of wine, cheese and friendship while learning about the important work club members do to serve our community. You'll even get a short



lesson on the sport of curling to kick off your introduction to how becoming part of the Charlton Lions Club can warm the soul, lift the spirit and bring you joy as you help others in our town.

Looking for something fun? We are known to serve up some fine chili, sausage grinders at Old Home day and kick up some dance fever to oldie tunes while raising funds for important causes.

The Charlton Lions Club

is committed to providing the citizens of Charlton with help on issues such as sight, hearing and health needs, scholarships, handicap ramps, disaster relief, and gift cards to help bring joy to families in need at Christmas. Where there is a request, the Lions respond.

Charlton Lions are a part of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service organization. 100% of money raised is donated to charitable causes with a majority right in our own town. Since 1917, Lions have strengthened communities through humanitarian projects. Have a positive impact on the lives of others and experience the feeling of service.

For more information about membership or service, or to make a donation please reach out to any member at thecharltonlions@gmail.com.

SMALL LOAD CONCRETE, LLC
WHY SMALL LOAD CONCRETE?
• Buy ONLY what you need
• Flexibility - according to your schedule
• Less Expensive than bagged and large mixers
• Custom Mix / Pour on the job
• Cost Effective • No Waste
• 1 Yard Minimum
CONCRETE APPLICATIONS
Homeowners
• Patios
• Steps
• Fence Posts
• Decks
• Retaining Walls
• Pool Decks
Contractors
• Gas Stations
• Road Work
• Footings
• Curbing
• Sidewalks
• Pre-Cast
Custom-Concrete - Metered Pours
Concrete finishing services available
Also available for delivery on **SATURDAYS...**
34 Providence Road, Sutton, MA
508-770-1200 • www.smallloadconcrete.com

Flea Market

OXFORD - The Oxford Woman's Club will be holding a Flea Market at St Roch's Field on Main St. The date is Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rain date is May 21. Each space is \$25; please bring your own table. For information please contact Paula at 508-987-2804.

Q & A with The Car Doctor

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



Q. A recent question made me want to reach out to you. A

reader asked how best to deal with a car that will be sitting for six weeks. You said to make sure the battery is charged, tires properly inflated, and add a gas stabilizer. If all goes well, I will be in Florida next winter for five months. What are your recommendations for a car that will sit for that long? It is a 2006 Toyota Camry with 46,000 miles and is very well maintained.

A. Here is what I did with a car that sat for six months. I changed the oil and filter as well as lubed door locks, hinges and just about anything else that moves. Filled the gas tank and added fuel stabilizer and aired up the tires to the maximum amount on the tire (the only time you should do this). I also got four pieces of foam construction insulation about an inch thick and put it under each tire (help prevent flat spots) Put in a moisture absorber (damp rid type product) on an aluminum pie plate to collect any moisture and prevent mildew. Hooked up the battery to a battery tender (special battery charger that maintains the battery). I also cleaned and waxed the car and covered the car with a car cover. When I returned the car looked good (maybe a little dust) and ran perfectly.

Q. I'm referencing your answer in your column regarding the 2014 Honda transmission issue. My Chevy Colorado has the same issue. I went to my local guy about changing the transmission fluid as you recommend. He said on occasion it's had a negative effect. Are you aware of this possibility?

A. In older cars changing the transmission fluid on a car that had a lot of varnish buildup could sometimes cause problems. And usually, the owner suspected a problem with the transmission and was hoping a fluid change would help. So it is assumed that the fluid change caused the problem. If this was my truck and it had a transmission "chuggle" I would change the fluid and add a friction modifier such as Lubeguard or Lucas Transmission Fix and hope for the best.

Q. I have a simple question. I have a 2020 BMW X3. My question is should I rotate the tires? I can't seem to get an answer pro or con.

A. BMW just states to inspect the tires every 10,000 miles and never mentions a tire rotation. So, in this particular case, I would say based on the factory maintenance, tire rotation is not necessary.

Q. I'm replacing my Lexus RX 300 which has been a good vehicle. I am thinking about a Mercedes and the vehicle I am looking at is the GLE 450. What do you think of this vehicle?

A. Like all Mercedes vehicles it feels solid both on the road and even when you close the doors. The technology is impressive with just about every advanced driver assistance system available. There were a couple of critiques. Some minor functions are difficult to find and use. It took a couple of minutes to find and adjust the lumbar support. Also, the infotainment system can be a little daunting to operate. The seats once adjusted were quite comfortable and the overall ride and handling were very good for an SUV. I was also pleased to see this vehicle also has a spare tire.

Q. Regarding your recent diagnosis of the red brake warning light, I had the exact same warning lights with my 2009 Cadillac CTS. Through the warning code the dealer diagnosed the problem as a worn wheel bearing which was replaced and problem was solved. Now I wonder if the mechanic ran up the bill replacing the brakes or incorrectly diagnosed the problem?

A. A worn bearing will typically turn on an ABS light not the red brake warning light. The red brake warning light will come on with the parking brake or a hydraulic issue related to the braking system.

Ron Moscoffian
Appr. #9537

M&M Auto Body
7 Industrial Park West, Bldg. 2
Oxford, MA 01540
508-987-7070

Scott Milner
R.S. #3926

"Guaranteed Fast Service, No Matter How Long It Takes"

Bay Path Practical Nursing students in support of Ukraine

CHARLTON - Bay Path Practical Nursing students and the UNICEF Club are rallying together to raise awareness and support the people of Ukraine amid Russia's ongoing invasion.

Felisters Mburu of Shrewsbury, an officer of the UNICEF club has launched an appeal to her fellow students and the Bay Path community for a donation in exchange for her handmade yellow and blue ribbons for the people in Ukraine and those who became refugees.

Speaking to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director, Mburu explained that she wanted to help. "I want to spread a little bit of hope," said Mburu. "What Mburu has initiated as a UNICEF officer and as a nursing student, for those impacted by the Russian hostilities and the importance of what one can do for the greater good of everyone is commendable," stated Bolandrina.

In support of Mburu's initiative, PN students are wearing the yellow and blue ribbons that Mburu created. Mburu and the UNICEF club will be collecting donations



all the way through May and the Homecoming celebration scheduled at the Douglas Orchard & Farms in Douglas, MA. The collected donations will be remitted to UNICEF USA.

"What is taking place in Ukraine is heartbreaking," said Mburu. "As humans and as nursing students, we have the means to help and support in every feasible way we can."

AUTO ROY'S GLASS

COMPLETE AUTO GLASS SPECIALISTS

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

MOBILE AUTO GLASS SPECIALIST
Insurance Company Preferred Shop.

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

201 W. Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571
800-479-7697 • 508-949-1327
Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm • Saturday 8am to 12pm

Visit Us at roysautoglass.net

BUY HERE PAY HERE

Payments as low as \$50 per week
Come Pick Out Your Car!

Bad Credit
No Credit
No Problem
WE FINANCE EVERYONE!

Come Check Out Our Prices!
FARRAR AUTO BODY, INC.
204 Main Street • Oxford, MA
508-987-0022

Chief's corner

Night Vision Glasses

By Chief Steven J. Wojnar
Dudley Police Department

I often receive opinion-based questions on a variety of subjects. Without personal experience, or sound facts, it is chal-

lenging to weigh in at times. Recently, a person inquired my thoughts on what are often referred to as "night vision glasses" for driving (certainly not to be confused with military night vision goggles). These are

yellow tinted, polarized, glasses. They are promoted to reduce glare while driving a vehicle, particularly in the dark. Since I had no personal experience using these, I purchased a pair online to conduct own test.

I researched these glasses online and found them in all styles and prices. The pair I purchased cost approximately \$20. In researching their effectiveness, I came across varying opinions. According to a company called Night-Lite, these glasses "filter out high-intensity glare from oncoming cars, streetlights, and billboards, and enhance clarity and visual acuity for night driving." Many people raved about their effectiveness. Other reviews say they do not improve night vision.

However, consistent messages indicate they do reduce glare. Anything that does this should improve your night driving. This is especially true in situations of diminished atmospheric conditions, such as rainstorms.

In my trial run, I used them both during the day and at night over the span of a week. I found them to be effective in reducing the glare of headlights at night. During the day, the solar glare was reduced, and my field of vision did appear clearer. They do not completely block out the sun, however, so it may be necessary to use the car's visor or switch to proper sunglasses for assistance. I did find these glasses helpful. Before writing this column, I discussed this subject with oth-

ers who use them. Everyone I spoke with had similar opinions to mine.

Certainly, I am not an expert or advertising for any specific types. I will recommend people try these glasses if they wish. They are very affordable for the average person. In researching these online, I found several versions which may appeal to a wide range of people. They can range in price from \$7 up to \$100 or more. If you are wondering about these or are simply seeking some added benefit to reduce nighttime glare, I recommend giving them a try. You may find them to be helpful and the low cost makes it worth the chance.

For those still seeking COVID-19 vaccination or other

information, it can be found at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling 508-949-8036. We encourage everyone to continue to be safe. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. These times continue to be challenging and 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.

Spring is in the air!
Children's Books for Easter
Chocolates & Goodies for your Baskets
Yoga Bunnies, Lizards & Frogs

Try a Seasonal Sip
Caramel Frappuccino
Regular or Sugar Free

Booklovers' Gourmet
Books • Coffee • Gifts

72 East Main Street, Webster (near CAP Auto & The Flower Garden)
www.bookloversgourmet.com • 508-949-6232
Shop online: bookshop.org/shop/bookloversgourmet
HOURS: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5; Wednesdays till 6

THE YARD

MULCH • WOOD CHIPS • COMPOST
SAND • STONE • LOAM

605 Quaker Highway (Rt. 146A),
Uxbridge, MA P.O. Box 77
508.278.2628 Uxbridge, MA 01569

PARADE MARSHAL NEEDED

Memorial DAY

The W/D Veterans Council
needs a Parade Marshal
to line up the marchers for the
Memorial Day Parade.

If interested call 508-943-7164

Volunteers needed

Slater Experience Guides are volunteer hosts of the Samuel Slater Experience (SSE) who support and enhance visitors' experiences throughout their tour of the museum.

As knowledgeable emissaries, they greet visitors, assist with self-guided tours, supply transitional and anecdotal

information for each exhibit, explain the digital technology and techniques used, and answer specific questions about the Samuel Slater story, the founding of Webster, and the history of the Samuel Slater Experience.

Requirements

Slater Experience Guides are expected to share an interest and enthusiasm for the history of the American Industrial Revolution and the town of Webster.

They should have good people skills and the ability to actively interact with children, school groups, and adults in

public speaking settings.

Volunteer Experience Guides are asked to make a one-year commitment and be available for at least two 3-hour shifts per month during SSE's hours of operation, including at least two weekend days each quarter.

SSE will provide periodic training sessions covering all aspects of the museum, the technology, and the building. Slater Experience Guides must be able to attend Slater Experience Guide Orientation and Training and are expected to review additional material as periodically provided or approved by SSE in order to stay

up to date on any changes, additions or deletions, and to broaden their knowledge of our mission.

Benefits

Experience guides will receive a family pass for free entry to the museum during their tenure as volunteers. They will receive a 20% discount in the gift shop, a 20% discount on event rentals, and invitations to special events.

For an application form, contact Reanna Kuzdzal at 528-461-2955 or email rkuzdzal@samuel Slater Experience.org. Applicants will be asked to come in for an in-person interview.

Lake Chaggaggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake Gifts

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

508-943-4900
154 Thompson Rd., Webster, MA In the Sterling Realty Building

shop online at www.websterlakegifts.com

Dudley Woman's Club April meeting

DUDLEY - On April 14, the Dudley Woman's Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Dudley Municipal Complex, West Main St. The 2022 scholarship recipients will be announced and the scholarships awarded on this evening.

The voluntary giving project this month is donations of art supplies and children's books to local charities.

The Dudley Woman's Club is open to all women from Dudley and surrounding towns, and they welcome your attendance. Join them for this fun and lively evening, be their guest and discover what the Woman's Club is all about.

For more information please send an email to DudleyWomansClub@gmail.com or visit our website: <http://DudleyWomansClub.org>.

5-STAR RATING

GAF

BBB

CertainTeed

Licensed in MA
Registered in: RI, CT, & NH
Financing Options From ENHANCIFY
We work with Home Insurance Companies

CONTACT US FOR A FREE QUOTE!
508-278-3300
www.shineconstructioninc.com

SHINE CONSTRUCTION INC

NEVER ROOF AGAIN

SERVICES WE OFFER:
Roofing Skylights Gutters
Siding Windows & Doors Decks

Local Artists Booklovers' Gourmet

WEBSTER - Featured Local Artist of the Month - "Seasons," a collection of paintings by Kelly Anderson is on display April 1-30, at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, in the cafe gallery during regular business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5, Wednesday 10-6.

Kelly is a self-taught painter working in oil and more recently, watercolor. Raised in Harpswell Maine and now enjoying Webster Lake, she is drawn to painting rocky coastlines, the beauty of trees, birds and all things natural and meditative lake water.



Kelly is inspired by her favorite painters Andrew Wyeth and Winslow Homer.

Kelly is grateful for developing an artist's eye for observation, now seeing beauty in things that previously lacked significance. Gratitude also extends to what she has learned from painting that has impacted her life in general: gaining patience to wait for the canvas to dry when it would be satisfying to continue painting, not being frugal with paint and materials in order to create a desired effect the first time, and having confidence that the ugly parts of the painting process in the beginning will bring forth the desired feeling.

The theme of Kelly's show is Seasons. It captures many of her inspirations. Each of the

naturally stained poplar floating frames were made Kelly's husband, Matt.

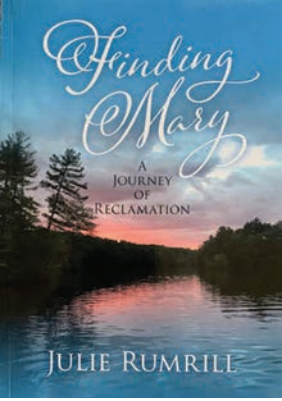
Meet the author Finding Mary, an author talk and presentation with Julie Rumrill, will take place on Saturday, April 9, 1-3 p.m. at Booklovers' Gourmet. For more information or to reserve a space, call 508-949-6232. Signed copies will be available for purchase.

About the book: Finding Mary is the story of one sister's journey through the dark confines of unresolved grief toward forgiveness and understanding. What begins as a simple wish to visit her sister Mary's grave, turns into a compelling quest for truth, honor, and justice in the face of murder. The author, Julie, invites you to re-examine forgotten promises, old se-



crets, and the complicated ways families cope with traumatic loss. Part mystery, part reclamation, Finding Mary is threaded with beautiful descriptions of the natural world, and is a heartfelt experience you won't want to miss. It will make you laugh, cry, and celebrate the enduring and precious gift of family.

Julie Rumrill is a faculty member in the Department of Earth Science at Southern Connecticut State University and Gateway Community College in New Haven, CT. She holds an M.S. in Geology and is a doctoral student at the University



of Hartford. In addition to her academic life, Julie is a certified yoga and Mindfulness instructor. When she is not writing, teaching, consulting or leading workshops, she enjoys adventure travel, volunteering, reading, painting, bird watching, and spending precious time with family.

How to Get Better Photos from Your Smartphone workshop with Bil Gardiner will take place on Saturday, April 16, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Booklovers' Gourmet. Call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com to register. \$25 per person and includes 1 complementary cafe beverage. Space is limited to 8 individuals. Pre-payment is required.

In this introductory course, you will learn how to get much better photographs from your very own smartphone. While not as manipulative as a more fully functional camera, the quality of smartphone cameras today has become really quite good and with just a few tips and tricks, you will start to produce images that your friends and family will marvel at.

This 90-minute course will be led by professional photographer, Bil Gardiner, owner of William Gardiner Photography in Worcester. In it, you will learn how to get the most out of your specific smartphone camera and learn about things like composition and perspective in order to "see" differently and create better images than you ever have before.

Dinner fundraiser for Boys & Girls Club

WEBSTER - The Boys & Girls Club of Webster Dudley will hold a Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner Fundraiser on Thursday, May 26, 6-8:30 p.m. at Point Breeze Restaurant, Webster.

The dinner is being sponsored by Point Breeze Restaurant and all proceeds to benefit the Boys & Girls Club of Webster Dudley.

Guests are requested to bring an item to donate to the Webster Dudley Food Share.

Tickets are \$15. There will be raffles and a door prize.

For more information please contact Liz Hamilton at 508-754-2686, x201 or Rob Bouchard 508-612-2200.





Stevens & Son Lawn Pro

Commercial - Residential

Specializing in
Seasonal Lawn & Shrub Maintenance
Bark Mulching • Lawns Thatched
Shrubs, Trees & Flowers Planted
Sodding & Seeding
Fall Clean-up • Snow Plowing

508-832-7063 • 508-721-7772
Auburn
stevensandsonlawnmaintenance.com



WANTED

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

PAYING \$150-\$600 CASH

• NO TITLES NEEDED
• FREE PICK-UP

7 DAYS A WEEK!

CALL 401-639-9398



THE
COUNSELING CENTER
AT MILLBURY, MA



GET THE HELP YOU NEED CLOSE TO HOME

World-Class Substance Abuse & Mental Health Outpatient Treatment

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

CALL NOW (508) 785-4990

Tales from beyond

The Phantom Snowmobile

By Thomas D'Agostino
www.tomdagostino.com

Snowmobiling is a favorite winter past time in Northern New England. In fact, it may be the only way to get around certain places after the winter snows cover the land in droves. Deep in the woods of Conway, New Hampshire there is a ghost story that is told to this day. The story starts in Connecticut. Now you may ask what does Connecticut have to do with New Hampshire ghosts? It seems the ghost that rides the trails of Conway in New Hampshire originally hailed from Connecticut. According to the

story, a family named Prudeator, or Pudeator once farmed the Nutmeg State. There were six burly sons and their mother. They all married and had children. They were not rich but one of them got an idea to buy a snowmobile. This was back in the 1950s and snowmobiles were the newest and latest modern mechanical wonder. They pooled what meager savings they had and purchased a fine vehicle.

The family had a friend who loaned them a cabin in Conway. He always told of how the snow trails and ridges went as far as the eye could see. The family loaded the snowmobile on their trailer

and towed it up to Conway. The convoy reached their destination in the afternoon and unloaded the snowmobile. They were several miles from the actual cabin, but the snow laden fields in front of them proved to be too tempting to pass up. The mother went on to the cabin by herself to prepare supper for the sons when they returned. This was not to happen. While taking in the fun of their new toy, a blizzard hit with full mountain fury. The trucks became stuck in the deep snow and the brothers were forced to spend a few days and nights attempting to weather out the storm in the vehicles.

They later managed to free the trucks from the snow and proceeded to the cabin where they found the mother frozen to death from the bitter cold. She had run out of wood during the Nor'easter and could not get out to salvage more.

The trucks had barely made it through the snow to the cabin, so taking them back to town was not an option. One of the brothers volunteered to take the snowmobile to get help. The rest listened in apprehension as the

roar of the engine faded into the distance. They were well aware that the territory was unfamiliar to him, but felt confident that he would somehow return with help. He never returned. Somewhere along the way, he became lost in the blizzard and was never seen again. Several searches proved futile as both the brother and the snowmobile had seemed to vanish completely off the face of the earth.

To this day, a strange sound is heard when the snows begin to fall and the wind visits, whistling down the trails and roads of the mountains. It is the sound of the phantom snowmobile as makes its rounds through the fields and trails of Conway. On dark snowy nights the echo of an engine from another world can be heard revving through the woods and a faint ghostly light is seen moving in the distance. Most believe it is the unfortunate son endlessly searching either for the cabin or rescue from the icy storm that held its deadly grip on him and his family.

Macha promoted to assistant branch manager

OXFORD — Alexis Macha has been promoted to assistant branch manager of bankHometown's Gore Rd., Webster office.

Macha, of Putnam, Conn., joined bankHometown as a teller in 2019 and was promoted to personal banker in 2020. Before joining the bank, she held a number of positions in customer service, issues resolution, and retail sales. Macha has completed coursework at both Quinebaug Valley Community College and Western Governors University.



Local residents named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON - The following local students were named to the 2021 fall semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston. To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work

in classes using the letter grade system.

Nicole Morrison, Dudley
Victoria Lavelle, Webster
Olivia Panagiotou, Webster

HEARING AIDS

We help you bring your hearing back to life



Jim & Ralph - CT Licensed and Board Certified
Hearing Instruments Specialists

Call today to schedule your Hearing Evaluation
and FREE Better Hearing Test Drive.

amplisound

HEARING CARE CENTERS
800-835-2001 • PUTNAM, CT

Let us check your Medicare supplement
for hearing aid coverage. We are a provider
for most major insurance companies.



www.amplisound.com



Gladys E. Kelly Public Library news

WEBSTER - The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library 2 Lake St., has listed its calendar.

Spring concert series - Bob McHale, April 14, 6:30 p.m. Rob McHale is a North Carolina-based Folk-Americana artist whose songs can take you through a small town, down a dirt road or on an historical journey - and bring you back home again. Rob's flair for penning historical and social commentary songs has received recognition

and awards from American Songwriter Magazine, Woody Guthrie Folk Festival, Dallas Songwriters Association, and Billboard.

Book discussion group - April 18, 6:30 p.m. The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library Adult Book Discussion Group meets at 6:30 pm. New members are always welcome! Next month's book discussion will be on Monday, April 18th and will take place on Zoom.

This month, the group will be discussing the book *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Cline. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone to 508-949-3880, or by email to ehale@cwmar.org for inquiries.

Pastel painting with Greg Maichack - April 21, at 6:00 p.m. This fun, two-hour workshop, with materials included, guides everyone in producing their very own personalized and original pastel of a stunning jellyfish. Registration is required.

4Ever Fab - April 28, at 6:30 p.m. Live musical performance integrated with spoken word narration that describes the relationship between the music of The Beatles and the culture of the 1960s. Each song in the program is selected for its relevance and a brief narration is given before playing the song. Beyond tying the historical and cultural relevancy of the music, 4EverFab strives to achieve note-for-note accuracy and "true to the recording" performance in every show. This program is sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Children's and Young Adult Programming

Maker Mondays
- Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Every month we will rotate our craft material, so stay tuned.

Build night - Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30. Every Tuesday we'll have marble runs for kids to create with. Building materials will change monthly, check back for more information.

Hatch-a-chick is back to

April 22. We're hatching chicks in the Lobby again this year! Stop by to see our eggs incubating for 21 days, then stream the hatch live on Facebook or visit the Library to watch live!

April vacation week

Earth celebrations with Rona Leventhal - Saturday, April 16, at 10 a.m. Rona Leventhal uses storytelling as a springboard for learning about environmental concepts and facts.

Build your own roadway - Tuesday, April 19 - 3:30-4:30 p.m. Everyone will get a big piece of cardboard and a roll of road tape to make their own highways. Hot Wheels provided for play.

Babytime - Wednesday, April 20, 10:10-10:45 a.m. This story-time with Miss Sandra will have your babies singing and bouncing! Siblings welcome.

Seed planting - Thursday, April 21, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Celebrate the return of Spring by planting seeds for your garden or windowsill.

Egg drop challenge - Friday, April 22, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Use our supplies to build a protective box for your egg, then throw it off the lobby balcony to see if it survives.

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.

RETAIL METAL SALES

Open To The Public



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

Sheared • Plasma Cut • Bent
Rolled • Saw Cut • Punched
Drilled • Welded • Fabricated

Whether you need 1 piece
or a truck load, we can
accommodate you!

Design Services

Mig & Stick Welding

AWS D1.1



ACCURATE METAL
Sales & Fabrication

A Division of Industrial Transfer & Storage, Inc

508-765-4929

529 Ashland Ave • Southbridge
accuratemetalsales.com

Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm



Living with Luke

Luke Valentino Comes Home

By Amy LeClaire

Luke Valentino entered my life on Friday, March 25 in the most peculiar way. I'd love to tell a story about how my puppy paraded through a pudgy pile of siblings to greet me, as though destined. "I've finally found you!"

Our story is less cliché.

He was nestled beside his brother, burying his face in a blanket before realizing what was happening. A person had come to meet the crew at a set and confirmed location to mark a second travel day (he had just been to the vet a day prior). One more person and one more activity gave Luke, at seven weeks old, one more reason to bury himself in the warmth of a brother. "I'm wiped."

His eyes met mine, and registered my face for a split second.

"That's him. That's Luke," I said. I recognized him immediately from the picture sent a few days prior. He was a bit darker than the others, and a good size.

yet, but I feel you." Then he peed on one of my old shirts.

We arrived home and introduced our puppy to our yard, one we would later realize was overly full of mulch shards and acorns. He looked around and sniffed the air with hesitation. His short legs wobbled like a

and, along with that, progress.

Minutes streamed like a river of watercolors, blurring the lines between day and night while Luke gained our trust and kept us honest. "Are you really going to be here for me?" He wailed for us on the first dark night alone. We sat up like parents in



newborn lamb's as he experienced a whole new landscape, a view that seemed wide and mysterious next to the only one he knew with his mother and litter mates. "This is your new home, Luke." I picked him and up and squeezed him close, already smitten by an indescribable love and prayer for a pup whose story was about to be written. "Luke Valentino – my love for you is endless."

an ER. "Did Lincoln do this?" We couldn't remember. We had been wearing rose colored glasses for so long and felt like rookies. "It's okay, Luke." We stroked him, took him outside, gave him Nyla bones to chew on, and redirected curiosity gone chewy. When he attempted to squat, we scooped him up and praised him for going pee-pee outside. We sauntered about our kitchen with bed head and slippers, pouring coffee for each other, and talking about poop. It was a new puppy thing. Late March weather happened to be atypically cold, down to the twenties at 2 a.m., but we cut our losses. Imagine days of torrential rain happening with a new pup! Neighbors and friends visited, showering little Luke with toys, countless hugs, and well wishes. We were exhausted but we were a team, unified by the bundle of joy Luke had brought us, just as Lincoln had eleven years ago.

A week passed and our pup's progress had us breathless. Puppies are so impressionable. Given enormous attention, they learn how to survive with you comfortably and quickly. We gushed and bragged and videotaped every milestone. Our bashful puppy had grown into a confident member

We brought him inside. He looked around, still unsure, and found his bed, a cozy wooden crate which was lined with a thick, orthopedic dog mattress, soft blankets, and stuffed animals. He crawled in and collapsed safely in a corner while I breathed in a knowing sigh. The bed mattered; it was not an expense to be skimped on.

The next few days gave way to the intense work of a puppy

of our family. He knew he was loved. Lonely nights that had him whimpering and confused became serene cuddle moments with Daddy, who shared his sweatshirt to sleep upon throughout lonely nights. He began to explore rooms and hallways that once seemed scary. He found Lincoln's favorite spot beneath the island counter and sniffed with obsession. If I dared to walk across the drive-

way, creating a distance between us, he'd sit and stare up at me. "Don't leave me! I like you!" He'd race towards me, his little legs surprisingly strong and assured, and we'd cuddle while he nibbled my sweatshirt tassel.

I'll never forget the first time he noted the hovering echo of a helicopter. The sound seemed great enough to swallow the sky. Maybe the sound could take Luke with him? He ran like a puppy actor auditioning for The Lion King during an adventure scene. He ran mightily and with record speed, straight towards the deck steps where, for the first time, he managed one step at a time, so as not to fall through the spaces between. I scooped him back into the house. "You're okay, Luke." Then he chewed on Daddy's boot and forgot all about it. Luke was a survivor. In one week, he had learned that home is where the heart (and fun) is.

The bed he had tentatively crawled into became a cave for hauling stuffed animals up-and-into. He learned to master the art of the "running start" in order to manage the big teddies. Occasionally he'd misjudge the physics and bounce off of the stuffed animal's belly onto the floor. "I meant to do that." A tenacious pup, he'd try and try

again. He soared over the step-down into our family room, and learned how to "sit" on command, given a kibble reward. He even exposed a rebellious side, dashing away from us in the yard, acorn in mouth, and changing direction like a tennis player when we got close enough to snatch back the choking hazard. We were exhausted

but so enamored by our March puppy, son of Mister Big and Molly of Cloverdale Goldens. We couldn't wait to build more adventures with a puppy named Luke Valentino. We couldn't wait to experience all that dogs do for us.

Stay tuned for more on Living with Luke. Write to me. amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Missy's Doggy Day Spa

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

Owner/Groomer
Meaghan Lanagan

WALK-IN NAIL SERVICE
www.missysdoggydayspa.com

WWW.TLCPETHAVEN.COM

Over 30 years
in Business
Denise and
Bill Jones

**Dog and Cat
Grooming & Boarding**

Luxury Suites Available

Doggie Daycare

In-Home Services Available

PET HAVEN & Mobile Groom-In-Vans

68 US Route 146, Sutton MA • 508-865-3180



The camera captured his essence in a perfect shot, one that melted my heart. Something about his expression held a calm and healing essence to correlate with his name: Luke Valentino. I knew him before I met him. He was the one.

"I gotta' get to the bottom of this." As though searching for a treasure, he dug away at soft blankets which lined a clothes basket repurposed to be a travel-bed for the ride home. Every now and then he looked up at me and broke into his heart-breaking miniature puppy smile. "I don't really know you



WCAC Head Start & Early Head Start



Now accepting applications for
Fall 2022



**Center Based
Preschool Program
for ages 3-5**

**Sites in
Southbridge and
Webster**

**Home Based Program
Serving expectant moms
and children birth
to 3 years**



**For more info call: 508 765.4738
or visit www.WCAC.net/Head-Start**



Program Openings available for income eligible families residing in Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, Dudley, E. Brookfield, Leicester Millbury, Oxford, Spencer, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Warren, Webster

Ed Stearn's

Attention All Businesses: Join The WDBA For A Spring Fling Networking Event

The Webster-Dudley Business Alliance is holding their Annual Spring Fling Monday, April 11th from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Monte Bianco's Italian Restaurant, located at 140 Main Street in Webster, will be hosting the event. Enjoy a delicious buffet dinner with a cash bar. Be sure to bring your business cards to be entered for fabulous door prizes. Feel free to share any of your business promotional materials while getting to know or catch up with the other local businesses. For more information or to register,



visit thewdba.org/event/annual-spring-fling/ All local businesses are welcome. A head count will be needed. There will be a \$5 donation at the door for WDBA Members. Non-Members are \$15. Eat, drink and mingle with other local businesses. If you would like to Donate a Door Prize or for more information and/or to reserve your spot, call Tammy from the WDBA at 508-943-9106 or email tam-

my@smarthopperad.com. The Community Cat Connection needs our Help! Please bring an item from their wish list and be entered a Second time for door prizes. They are in need of dry cat and kitten food, 9 Lives canned cat food, Friskies pate canned food (No fish), dryer sheets, HE laundry detergent, paper towels, clumping cat litter, Dawn dish soap, mini dust pans and brushes, hand soap, hand sanitizer and tall white kitchen trash bags (13 gal).

Local students named to the Dean's List at MCPHS University

BOSTON - MCPHS University is pleased to announce the students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2021 semester:

Kate Bellantoni of Dudley, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Kate will graduate from the Worcester, Massachusetts campus in 2021.

Amy Bui of Oxford, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in

Pharmaceutical Sciences degree. Amy will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2022.

Peyton Sharry of Oxford, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Peyton will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2024.

Pratik Tank of Oxford, is pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Pratik will graduate

from the Worcester, Massachusetts campus in 2024.

David da Silva of Webster, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Premedical Health Studies degree. David will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2023.

Andy Nguyen of Webster, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Medical and Molecular Biology degree. Andy will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2024.

Hannah Vartanian of Webster, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Premedical Health Studies degree. Hannah will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2023.

The Dean's List recognizes those students with a full-time course load who have achieved outstanding scholarship with a 3.5 GPA or higher for the academic term.

MUSEUM OPEN
WED. - SUN.
10 AM TO 5 PM



**American
Heritage
Museum**

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



TANK DEMONSTRATION WEEKEND
MAY 21st & 22nd
*Open during April school vacation week!
Scavenger hunts and fun activities for all.*



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

REUPHOLSTER IT!

Don't throw that comfortable chair away!

DUMAS
Decorating Center
CARPET • WOOD • VINYL • WALLPAPER • PAINT
www.DumasDecoratingCenter.com

470 Riverside Dr. (Rte 12)
N. Grosvenordale, CT
860-923-9619
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm • Sat 9am-Noon
Evenings by Appointment



Spring Outdoors! March 19 to June 20

A season of adventures to explore
the National Heritage Corridor!
Visit TheLastGreenValley.org
for a schedule.



**THE
last
green
valley™**

860-774-3300 ~ www.thelastgreenvalley.org

New Webster Town Administrator LaFond impressed by town's citizens

By Janet Stoica

He's been at his new position of Town Administrator since February 8 and has plenty of praise for the town's department heads as well as for its residents. Richard LaFond is a native of Brockton, graduated from Brockton High School, obtained his bachelor's degree in history and public administration from Stonehill College, then received a master's degree in public administration from Suffolk University.

His background and respect for history has served to impress him with Webster's new Samuel Slater Experience and its cutting edge and futuristic displays. "The amount of detail and development that went into this museum is absolutely amazing," he said, "and the level of giving by the Webster townspeople is truly inspiring. To have so many people come together for the benefit of all citizens is incredible." Mr. LaFond attended the recent ribbon-cutting for the official opening of the new museum.

Mr. LaFond has met with just about every department head in town and has been given a town tour by many of the managers. "It's interesting to see and hear what each manager

is focused on when it comes to their job," he said. "Every riding tour was different and each focus was different but all the final results came down to how the town can keep moving forward for the better. Obviously you can't help but appreciate the urban and rural parts of town. Webster Lake is spectacular and a great asset to the town and the infrastructure has been nicely improved as well. This town has really moved forward in the last 10 years. It's an attractive place for someone like me that appreciates the history of its past shoe manufacturing and textile industries. People here really appreciate their roots."

Mr. LaFond's goals are to continue to work closely with department heads and the Board of Selectmen, while assisting with more downtown economic development and maintaining a strong fiscal environment for the town. He noted that soon state aid like that from ARPA grants will go away and new ways must be found to obtain needed funding.

He sees a full-time fire department, approved by the townspeople, as a priority. "We have several positions that have been grant-funded," he said, "and now the town will have to

incorporate those positions into the budget. The policy decision has been made at Town Meeting and it's our goal to maintain and achieve these objectives."

The town budget is on Mr. LaFond's radar currently. "Every town has revenue nuances and each town has its own targets. Budgeting isn't just about accounting, it's about people," he said, working with our department heads and staff trying to focus on and facilitate the best we can. Budgeting can be very divisive so working to keep people moving in the same direction and respecting what each department wants to achieve is very important."

When asked about making Webster a greener community, Mr. LaFond indicated that he has worked with the state's Green Communities Division ("GCD") in his past positions with the towns of Abington and Carver. The GCD provides grants, technical assistance, and local support from regional coordinators to assist cities and towns reduce their energy use and costs by implementing clean energy projects in municipal buildings, facilities, and schools. "I appreciate what we can accomplish with our buildings and roads. It's something that



our grandchildren can enjoy," he said. "It's beyond balancing a budget. All aspects will go on well beyond all our times here."

Overall, Mr. LaFond is greatly impressed by the town's momentum in moving forward from the new buildings like the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library and Park Avenue Elementary School to roadway improvements and new business openings. He appreciates the warm welcome he received from the community and the goodwill extended to him and looks forward to being part of that momentum.

Contact Janet: jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

THEATRE OF NORTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT, INC.

BRADLEY

THE BRADLEY PLAYHOUSE PUTNAM, CT

Book by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan

MEL BROOKS MUSICAL

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

Music and Lyrics by Mel Brooks
Original Direction & Choreography by Susan Stroman

April 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, May 1, 6 & 7
Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 – Sundays at 2:00
2 performances on May 7th at 2pm & 7:30pm

Mel Brooks' madcap comedy collides with Mary Shelley's classic monster tale in Young Frankenstein. This is a hilarious take on the classic horror story, combining zany antics, a witty script, and high energy comedic performances for one unforgettable, hilarious adventure in Transylvania.
Co-Directors: John K. McElroy II & Carl Mercier

Musical - Adults \$26 • Students/Seniors/Military \$23 • Flex Pass

All seats reserved. Order your tickets online at
www.thebradleyplayhouse.org
Charge by phone: 860-928-7887
30 Front Street (Rt. 44) Downtown Putnam, CT

Gift ideas helped families in need

Thank you. The great people of Charlton have done it again. In 2021 the Charlton Lions Club conducted several fundraisers throughout the year to support the Club's causes. Tops on the list is helping families in need during the Christmas season. Once again, our fellow Charltonites have stepped up in a major way.

The fundraisers that we ran throughout the year to help those in need in Charlton were a success. This year, with all that has happened, we were again able to raise enough money to allow us to donate Walmart gift cards to families in Charlton. Christmas is a time for families to gather and give thanks for all the good times over the past year. Some families face a little bigger challenge than others. For over ten years the Charlton Lions have been supporting families in Charlton with gifts cards that they can use at Christmas to help with presents, or to help them put a special Christmas dinner on the table. Don Fortin, President of the Lions Club, said "making donations at Christmas time is one of the Club's top priorities, and this year was no different. All our Club members agree, helping families at Christmas is one of the most rewarding things we do." This year the Lions were again able to donate Walmart gift cards to the Principals at the Elementary, Heritage and the

Middle School. This year the Lions were able to give \$500 in Walmart gift cards to each School Principal so that they could give them to families who they knew could use a little extra help this year. Lion Steve Doucette delivered the cards. "When we show up and announce our gifts, they all are delighted that the Lions were able to help again. As always, the principals were so appreciative of the gifts, and the opportunity that these cards give them to help out their students." We give ten \$50 gifts cards to each school. These gift cards will allow the three school principals to help thirty families in town. The principals know the families that need help, and these gift cards help them give these families a little something extra over the Christmas holiday.

The most important part of this story is the amazing generosity of the folks in Charlton. The Charlton Lions are merely an extension of all the good people in town who help. Your support of our fundraisers throughout the year makes things like the Walmart gift cards possible. So, whether it's dropping off cans and bottles at our redemption box across from the post office, buying our raffle tickets, or coming to our meat raffles at Heritage, every penny you give us we give back to help others. To the great folks in Charlton, take a bow.

Your generosity throughout the year has allowed a few more families in town to have a better Christmas.

If you want to be part of something truly fantastic, please reach out to us by email at thecharltonlions@gmail.com. Become something special, become a LION.

Lion Carole Duquette



430 Main St., Oxford, MA

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

- Commercial and Residential -

Visit our display by appointment

Sales • Service • Installation

800-605-9030 508-987-8600

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



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

Many new styles and colors to choose from.

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE • FREE DELIVERY • ESTIMATING

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

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

C&S

LUMBER

CO., INC.

Family Owned And Operated Since 1952.

124 Main St., Millbury

cslumberco.com • 508-865-4822

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

VISIT US FOR YOUR NEXT PROJECT!
HOMEOWNERS WELCOME!

Tips on financial planning



Dennis Antonopoulos

Nearing Retirement? What Questions Should You Ask?

The recent market volatility has affected just about everybody's financial and investment situations – so, if you were planning to retire soon, will it still be possible?

Of course, the answer depends somewhat on your employment situation. With so many people's jobs being af-

ected by the coronavirus pandemic, your retirement plans may also have been thrown into confusion. But assuming your employment is still stable, what adjustments in your financial and investment strategies might you need to make for your retirement?

Here are a few areas to con-

sider, and some questions to ask yourself:

Retirement goals – Now is a good time to review your retirement goals and assess your progress toward achieving them. You may want to work with a financial professional to determine if the current environment has materially affected your goals or if you need to make modest adjustments to stay on track.

Retirement lifestyle – You probably created your investment strategy with a particular type of retirement lifestyle in mind. Perhaps you had planned to become a world traveler when your working days were over. Of course, in the near term, extensive travel may not be possible, anyway, but once we move past the pandemic, your freedom to roam will likely return. But if your investment portfolio is not where you thought it might be, can you (or do you want to) adapt your lifestyle plans? And can you accept the same flexibility with your other lifestyle goals, such as purchasing a vacation home, pursuing hobbies, and

so on?

Tradeoffs – Based on your retirement goals and your willingness to adjust your retirement lifestyle, you'll want to consider your options and tradeoffs. For example, would you be willing to work more years than you had originally planned in exchange for greater confidence in your ability to enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle? By working longer, you can continue adding to your IRA and 401(k) or similar retirement plan, and you may be able to push back the date you start receiving Social Security to receive bigger monthly benefits. You might also review your budget for opportunities to reduce spending today and potentially save more toward your retirement goals.

Social Security – You can file for Social Security benefits as early as 62, but you can get 25% to 30% more if you wait until your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. As you created your retirement plans, you likely also calculated when you would take Social Security, but you may

need to review that choice. If you postpone retirement a few years, what effect will that have on when you choose to take Social Security and, consequently, the size of your benefits? You won't want to make a hasty decision, because once you start taking Social Security, you can't undo your choice.

This is certainly a challenging time to be entering retirement, and you'll have some questions to answer. But even in the midst of uncertainty, you still have many choices. Consider them carefully and make the decisions that work 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

Dennis Antonopoulos
Financial Advisor

5 Albert St
Auburn, MA 01501-1303
508-832-5385

edwardjones.com
Member SIPC

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Resource directory

ads@TheYankeeXpress.com

home



CAPITOL SIDING & HOME IMPROVEMENT COMPANY, INC.

Custom Exteriors • Vinyl Siding
Replacement Windows
Roofing • Seamless Gutters

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



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

Septic Tank Pumping • Septic Systems Maintenance and Repairs
Sewer & Water Service • Grease Trap Pumping • Excavation Service



MILLBURY
774.276.6970
BLACKSTONESEPTICSERVICE.COM



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

FUEL OIL - PROPANE - KEROSENE

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

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

Heating • Air Conditioning
24 Hour Burner Service



**ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE
AT THE LOWEST PRICE**



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

508-987-2775

492 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540

WWW.WORCESTERCOUNTYLAWNMOWER.COM

automotive

290 Providence Rd.
S. Grafton, MA

Kris Sutton
kris@streetcarsolutions.com



**STREET CAR
SOLUTIONS**

StreetCarSolutions.com

508-839-7071

A.P. Mandella Landscaping

STUMP GRINDING

Chip Removal

LOAM & SEED

Small Backhoe services

Call Anthony @ 508-340-1640
Auburn, MA



**Fully Insured
Free Estimates**

GI Joe Figures & Vehicles Wanted



From the
1980s and
1990s

Please call 860-933-5549

Economy Canvas & Awning Co.

Retractable & Stationary Awnings
Boat & Truck Covers and Related Products

Pool Cover Repairs
Over 34 years of service in the community



115 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA

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



508-765-5921



www.EconomyCanvasAndAwning.com



HEAVY TOWING
& Truck Trailer Repair
508-278-9924

RE: Real Estate



Mark Marzeotti

If you're thinking of selling your house this year, timing is crucial. After all, you'll want to balance getting the most out of the sale of your current home and making the best investment when you buy your next one.

If that's the case, you should know you may be able to get the

This spring presents sellers with a golden opportunity

best of both worlds today. Here are four reasons why this spring may be your golden window of opportunity.

1. The Number of Homes on the Market Is Still Low

Today's limited supply of houses for sale is putting sellers in the driver's seat. There are far more buyers in the market today than there are homes available. That means purchasers are eagerly waiting for your house.

Listing your house now makes it the center of attention. And if you work with a REALTOR to price your house correctly, you can expect it to sell quickly and likely get multiple strong offers this season.

2. Your Equity Is Growing in

Record Amounts

Homeowners are sitting on record amounts of equity thanks to recent home price appreciation. Reports show that the average homeowner has gained \$55,300 in equity over the past year.

That much equity can open doors for you to make a move. If you've been holding off on selling because you're worried about how rising prices will impact your next home search, rest assured your equity can help fuel your move. It may be just what you need to cover a large portion – if not all – of the down payment on your next home.

3. Mortgage Rates Are Increasing

While it's true mortgage rates have already been climbing this year, current mortgage rates are still below what they've been in recent decades. In the 2000s, the average mortgage rate was 6.27%. In the 1990s, the average rate was 8.12%.

For context, the current average 30-year fixed mortgage rate, according to Freddie Mac, is 3.85%. And while recent global uncertainty caused rates to dip slightly in the near-term, experts project rates will rise in the months ahead.

When that happens, it'll cost you more to purchase your next home. That's why it's important to act now if you're ready to sell. Contact Marzeottigroup who

can connect you with a trusted advisor to kickstart the process so you can take key steps to making your next purchase before rates climb further.

4. Home Prices Are Climbing Too

Home prices have been skyrocketing in recent years because of the imbalance of supply and demand. And as long as that imbalance continues, so will the rise in home values.

What does that mean for you? If you're selling so you can move into the home of your dreams or downsize into something that better suits your current needs, you have an opportunity to get ahead of the curve by leveraging your growing equity

and purchasing your next home before prices climb higher.

And, once you make your purchase, you can find peace of mind in knowing ongoing home price appreciation is growing the value of your new investment.

Bottom Line: If you want to win when you sell and when you buy, this spring could be your golden opportunity. Call Marzeottigroup.com today or get connected with a local real estate professional so you have the insights you need to take advantage of today's incredible sellers' market.

Young historian displayed his collection for students

John Hughes, a 24 year old Webster man with a keen interest in World War I, maintains an extensive collection of militaria that includes a wide assortment of uniforms, insignia and bayonets, and of all things, an actual stretcher.

Helmets with holes, cartridge belts and gas masks received plenty of attention as did the records, rosters and war stories of the soldiers of long ago, when the youthful collector displayed his treasures. Young Mr. Hughes does not just collect, he knows his subject well, and his expertise provided clear answers to questions from the curious students who walked the short distance from All Saints Academy to the Veterans Home to view the artifacts recently.

Social Studies Director Sarah Ramsey and teacher Linda Oakley accompanied the 7th-8th grade class for the visual history lesson about a War of 100 years ago, on display in a one hundred fifty year old building. An observer might have noted that much like the Doughboys in the trenches, the youngsters went 'over the top' in their assessment of the Hughes Exhibit.



PROFESSIONAL CAR CLEANING MOTORCYCLES & BOATS

Vic Catacchio
Owner
Est. 1983

218 Worcester St.
N. Grafton, MA 01536

774-272-0815
shineitup2@yahoo.com

catacchio
AUTO
DETAIL

The Yankee Xpress

Your source for business and
community news and advertising.

ads@theyankeeexpress.com
news@theyankeeexpress.com



Diane Luong
CBR, SRES, MBA
774-239-2937
JoAnn Szymczak
GRI, SRES, CBR
774-230-5044



RE/MAX
Advantage I



**Together, We're
Working For You!**

Reviewing your Situation

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

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

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**

Lake Realty

Maureen Cimoch
Real Estate Consultant
Cell 508.769.9211

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



Mark Marzeotti
Realtor



RE/MAX
ADVANTAGE 1



25 Union Street, 4th Floor
Worcester, MA 01608

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

Don't spend another summer sweating!



In the ceiling, on the wall, ductwork or no ductwork. We provide energy-efficient heating & air conditioning.

Choose Morrisette & Son as your installer, and receive:

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



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



DIAMOND CONTRACTOR

© 2021 Mitsubishi Electric Trane HVAC US LLC. All rights reserved.

FOR ALL YOUR FUEL NEEDS

NEW BOILER INSTALLS

- Crown Boilers
- Williamson Furnaces
- Oil Tank Installs



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

We do NOT Sell Biofuel!

Which will help prevent system breakdowns.

HELP WANTED -

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



LMT Oil, Inc.
Keeping You Warm & Comfortable
508.434.1335

A Full Service Oil Company
24-Hour Emergency Service

WWW.LMTOIL.COM • WE DO ONLINE ORDERING

See an Expert in Cosmetic Dentistry

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

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





Whitinsville family dentistry
(508) 234-8107
12 Prospect Street
Whitinsville, MA
www.DrTubo.com

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



@dr.jasontubo

Real People. Real Results.

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

