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Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford, Webster

September 23 - October 21, 2022

Trade education on the rise at Bay Path Vocational Technical HS

BY JANET STOICA

Most of us have seen the shift in high school education. Freshman high school students are opting to choose a trade that will put them on the path to a well-paid and satisfying job right after high school graduation. Trying to find a good plumber, mason, electrician, carpenter.... someone who is educated enough to do a great job, is like looking for a needle in that proverbial haystack. The administration at Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School has seen this shift coming for quite some time however.

None too soon for those of us who are sick and tired of phoning tradespeople who say they'll be here a certain day and time and then never show up or who are too "busy" to take on a job that's not worth \$2,000 or more. What goes around comes around, as they say, and those who ignore us will begin feeling the pinch in their wallets when the economy cycles through its usual ups and downs and they no longer have



Plumbing at Bay Path. Instructor, James Primes. Students, Jack Papagni of Rutland and Seamus O'Rourke of Paxton.

those \$2,000 jobs available. The next class of trade graduates will take up the slack and we'll be better off for it.

Bay Path High School is our local and premier craft and trade institution of higher learning in the 10-town area. The school has undergone major building and trade shop renovations and

is proud to say that their trade shops and teachers are running at full capacity. And, yes, they do have a sizeable student waiting list which is a credit to the shop teachers and academic educators.

BAYPATH

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Webster: Little New York and Baa Baa Museum Sheep

BY JANET STOICA

Yes, you read that right, the town of Webster was formerly known as Little New York. From the early 1900's to the 1940's, people came from far and wide to the town on the lake with the long Indian name. They came in droves really. According to local artist Dave Laabs, "there were 3 movie theaters, 21 beer halls, gambling venues, a full array of Main Street shops featuring New York fashions, trolleys to Beacon Park which offered 3 ferries across Lake Chaubunagungamaug, and tethered hot air balloon rides. It was quite the little city."

Dave Laabs has also lent his talents to the creation of the



Dave Laabs with two more sheep ready for their weather-proof sealant.

Samuel Slater Museum in Webster, now known as the Samuel Slater Experience. The brainchild of Mr. Christopher Robert, the Samuel Slater Experience has to

SHEEP

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BAYPATH

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The school has existed since the 1970's and has earned a sterling reputation for its exceptionally skilled and avid graduates.

The tide has turned, ladies and gentlemen, and it has shown that having a bona fide and reputable trade is definitely the way to go in the 21st Century. These able-bodied young women and men who have done their jobs and done them extremely well are graduating from Bay Path Regional and entering apprentice trade programs with salaries that will make your eyes pop. It is refreshing to learn and know that this has happened to our smart and very well-

educated Bay Path graduates in both the trades and academia.

Many graduates do go on to colleges and universities but with the cost of a four-year tuition it has become prohibitive for many of our young people to even consider affording a baccalaureate degree. Tuitions that will put them in debt for decades or, if you have a loving parent or other relative who has the tuition funds available and/or is willing to re-mortgage their own home, that loving parent or relative will be in debt until death.

At Bay Path and hundreds of other excellent vocational high schools around the country, they are handing you a ticket to an engaging job which enables you to earn your way

into the middle and higher income brackets. There is no doubt about it.

"We run a tight budget here," said Cliff Cloutier, principal of Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School. "We have 10 area towns sending us their students. We currently have a wait list of over 200 students who want to enter our school. Our two graduation diplomas consist of a vocational and academic certificate. In our machine shop we have two instructors for 40 students and we could easily place 10 more students into this shop. We have offered evening classes for potential students as well. Our trade students have hands-on instruction as well as related theory which gives them the base/background for their shop.



The opportunities that students have here is amazing. We tell them that the more you put into your classes, the better you'll make out when you're ready to start your career."

According to James Tripp Pockevicius, Director of Career and Technical Education, "We're seeing the trend for the trades increase everywhere. More and more students want to attend. We use cooperative education as much as we can where the students will enjoy a structured style of classroom-based education and practical work experience. Local employers will then offer them jobs upon successful graduation. The cost of attending college may be a huge factor. We do track our graduates with a one-year follow-up survey. Approximately 47% of our 2021 graduates went straight into the workforce and 46-47% went on to post-secondary educational institutions such as the health tech field, dental, and four-year colleges along with 3% entering the Armed Forces."

"We've had former students donate generously to our shops," said Mr. Cloutier, "and they are grateful for the education they have received here. Their knowledge base seems



Top, Chisholm family donation to Bay Path, \$5000 from local business owners Seth and Mary Chisholm, owners and operators of Skilled Trades Partners in Fiskdale. Seth Chisholm is a graduate of Bay Path, Class of 1993.

Advanced Manufacturing at Bay Path. Instructor, Stephan Zeveska. Students, left to right, Lucas Daoust of Charlton, Cayden Young of Webster, Midrose Freeman of Dudley, Emerson Pitz of North Oxford, and Ryan Dawson of Charlton.

to be well above average and the businesses that have hired them say our students have great backgrounds in their trade areas." Mr. Tripp Pockevicius mentioned that a former carpentry student began his own business, became very successful, and made a \$5,000 donation to the Bay Path carpentry shop. Now that's the biggest kind of Thank You a school could ever hope to receive.

Bay Path has an Advisory Committee that meets twice annually with local owners and workers of the various trades with the goal

of keeping up with current product and trade techniques. The members will recommend new teaching methods, curriculum, and equipment.

For more information on the 23 career areas offered by Bay Path Vocational (from Automotive to Culinary Arts to IT and Veterinary classes), please visit their website: www.baypath.net or phone the school at (508) 248-5971.

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

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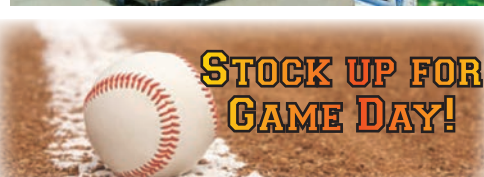
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Xpressly Yours ... a letter from the editor

A motorcycle trip, a book ... and stories to tell



BY ROD LEE

On the first page of his book *4 Strokes West*, about an unforgettable motorcycle trip he took with two friends years ago, Mark DerMugrditchian of Northbridge writes “show me a person who always knows what comes next, and I’ll show you a person who may not know the exhilaration of uncertainty.”

Like Mr. DerMugrditchian, I have an appreciation for how a motorcycle can change your life. Mine, most recently, was a Yamaha 650, sold several years ago to a young man from Connecticut who put it on a trailer on a dark and rainy night and drove off.

The thrills I got tooling around the back roads of Central Massachusetts

cannot compare to those my friend Mark enjoyed on what he calls “An Amazing American Adventure.”

This was a long time ago, 1976. “I had an idea, which then became a dream,” he writes. The personalities of himself and two buddies—Steve and Tom—were “a recipe for unpredictability. Get a Virgo, an Aries and another Aries in one room, and that’s what happens.”

Recently, on the afternoon of August 11th, during an appearance at the Northbridge Senior Center, Mark shared with elders some remarks about the trip “The Bachelors Three” made from Massachusetts to California. He was introduced by the Senior Center’s program and volunteer coordinator, Amy Cowen, who, like Director Kelly Boll, was pleased to welcome a local author to Highland St. as part of the Senior Center’s ongoing lineup of activities and entertainment.

Difficult as it is to write and market a book, *4 Strokes West* deserves the interest it is drawing. The reason for this is that Mark describes in candid and

vivid detail what he and his buddies experienced as they made their way across the country on their Honda CB 360 T motorcycles.

They rode in rain and snow. They were sometimes cold, wet, hungry and tired. They slept in a tent under the stars for nights on end. They hiked. They argued. They met celebrities, including Muhammad Ali. They saw monuments and historical sites and national parks. They forged new friendships, verifying, Mark says, the truth of Honda’s slogan “you meet the nicest people on a Honda.”

Mark set as his themes for the book “think big,” “dream and keep dreaming until they come true,” “be nice to people,” and “thank God for all His blessings.”

Now, as then, he believes America is “a great country.”

It is great even when things turn ugly, as they did one night in New Orleans when Mark, Steve and Tom were kibitzing with some women at a club, Crazy Shirley’s. Outside, after escorting the women away and returning to their bikes, they were jumped by two

men they’d seen in the bar. They men had been giving them dirty looks.

“They were carrying pieces of lead pipe as they walked towards us,” Mark writes. “Things had gotten very serious, very fast. They stopped ten feet away. ‘So you boys like stealing other men’s girls, huh?’” one of them said.

A fight ensued.

Mark, Steve and Tom prevailed.

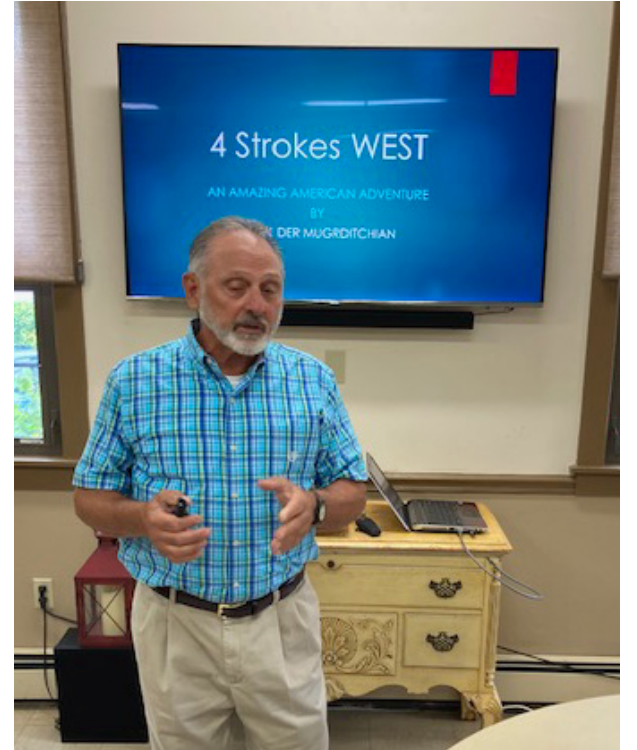
“We came from wholesome, happy families that had led to our generally positive outlook on life,” Mark writes. “But it seemed like we were always running into people who were looking for problems.”

As he put it to his pals in bed, afterwards, “I’m just sick and tired of being bullied or pushed around.”

This was an exception, however. Most of the people Mark and his pals encountered were gracious, kind and helpful.

After nine months and 22,300 miles, he had to write the story, even though it took a while to get it published.

It’s a good one and he is working hard to promote



Mark DerMugrditchian, author of *4 Strokes West*, prepares to talk about his book at the Northbridge Senior Center.

the book.

“I have an interview with Jan Lewis (host of Be My Guest on Upton Community Television), a presentation at a big Armenian church in Watertown that could involve over one

hundred people and after that maybe another one at a church in Watertown and an interview on Worcester cable in October,” he says.

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

SHEEP

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be seen to be appreciated. But, a museum in Little New York? You bet! There might not be street cars clanging their way from Main Street to Lake Street and beyond anymore but there is a gem of an historical exhibition the likes of which may be hard to beat by any other similar-sized gallery. Don’t go if you don’t want to be impressed. Don’t go if you think museums are stuffy and dull. Just go if you’d like to be pleasantly surprised that such a cool and wickedly amazing exhibition like this one is your local trip to another dimension of Disneyesque profundity. And, to think this remarkable show is right here in Webster!

The Experience is a testament to the strength, will, and motivation of both Mr. Robert and his creative staff to one of the founding fathers of our local area. Samuel Slater was labeled a scoundrel and traitor by his home country of England when he rode the rough seas of the Atlantic on a cargo ship to America

to seek his fortune. He kept the blueprint of the Arkwright Water Frame in his head (or perhaps sewn inside the lining of his waistcoat) as he counted the days to his landing in the new young country called America. After making his way to Rhode Island—after all Slatersville IS named after him,—he set out to our local area where he began prepping and making his yarn spinning frames. He settled upon the use of water to spin the yarn frames thus becoming the “Father of the American Industrial Revolution” as his business flourished.

Just look at what he built! The towns of Dudley and Oxford gave up land to form Little New York! Webster was named after Senator Daniel Webster who was a peer and good friend of Mr. Slater.

Now, let’s get to the Sheep. The Slater Museum/Experience group decided upon an interesting way to attract people’s attention to the town’s new educational opportunity. A number of 25, life-sized poly-resin sheep was settled upon for manufacture by Icon Poly Studios of Gibbon, Nebras-

ka. The critters are jobbed out for custom painting to various local artists who interview area companies interested in sponsoring a sheep. During their interview/meeting, the company sponsor determines what is to be painted on the animal, e.g., their logo, building, scenery, etc. After the painting scenario is approved, the artist’s rendering is applied to the mascot and then brought to Dave Laabs’ art studio for a weather-proof sealant application and then “put out to pasture” at either the business sponsoring the beast or at a public building. The sheep are very life-like in appearance and their replication is astoundingly attractive, not to mention the bright and colorful acrylic paints used to bring out their artfulness.

Webster truly was at the forefront of this Nation’s textile industry. The local factories that were born here were astounding. Anglo Fabrics, Stevens Linen, and Cranston Print Works to name a few. Shoe manufacturers set up shop too, such as Sandlerette, Webster Shoe, Bates, and B & W. The success of Little New York was legend. Area

residents had jobs, received paychecks, and grew the local economy by spending their cash in town. Jobs attracted more workers. It was the rise to local prosperity. Times have definitely changed but if you’d like to see how it all started then the Samuel Slater Experi-

ence at 31 Ray St., Webster is the place to be. If you haven’t had the opportunity of a visit yet, take a good look at their website, that alone should entice you. The most exciting historical experience in this area ever.....

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It's the Flush – Out of Sight, Out of Mind

BY JANET STOICA

So who cares what we flush down our toilets, right? Well, if you're the Water and Sewer Superintendent, you care mightily and so should you, the flusher.

If there's one single, solitary product that will make your taxes go up due to major clogging and major repair bills at your town or city's sewage facility, it's those pesky "flushable wipes." They have caused millions of dollars in damage to wastewater treatment plants everywhere and should, most likely,

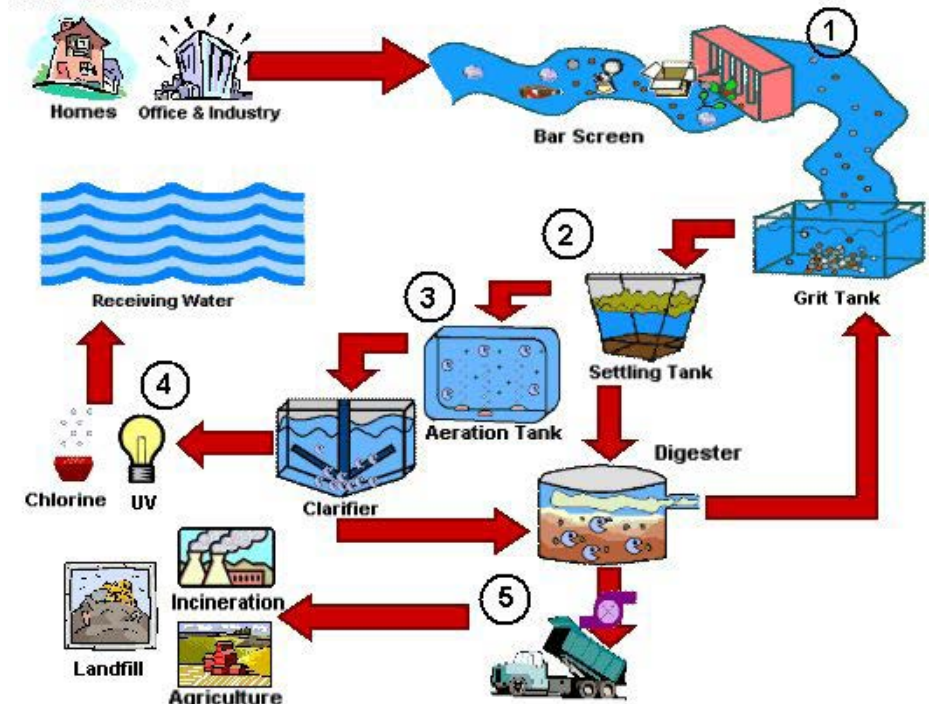
shelves. If users would/could throw them in their trash baskets, problem solved. But, they don't. Down they go into the sewer system with one push of the toilet tank handle or button. What happens next is where the nightmare begins and where your tax dollars rise. The wipes wend their way through your home, apartment, or office's sewer pipes ending up at the sewer plant's bar screen filters where they build up, clog disgustingly, and entangle themselves into the pumping system hardware, requiring major repairs, unclogging, and

away. Advice? Please stop flushing them! And, tell all your friends and relatives too.

Additional banes of your local waste treatment plant are what is referred to as FOG (fats, oils, and grease). Grease, fats, and oils cool quickly as they swirl down your waste pipes, causing major clogs. Gross? Yes. Revolting? Of course. Expensive to treat and another major contributing factor to, once again, raising your taxes for extra cleaning services on sewer plant machinery. Why don't people care what they send down their sink drains and toilets? It's that old saying: "Out of sight, out of mind." Other items that are certainly not meant to be flushed can be found at the end of this article courtesy of Webster's Water and Sewer Superintendent, Tom Cutler.

So here's the deal. Your fingertips are on that toilet tank lever or push button ... you flush. Down the toilet pipes goes the waste into your building's six-inch (service lateral) sewer pipe with the grateful assistance of the water in your toilet tank using a simple

HOW IT WORKS



the next two stops are an eight-inch connector pipe or a sewer pumping station and then a 30-inch main. In Webster's case, there are approximately 25 sewer pumping stations of various sizes that serve as waste collection sites for areas of lower elevation. These stations collect waste and then pump it to a higher level so that gravity

to the local sewer plant. When the waste water flows into the sewer plant, it is filtered through a bar screen (there's those disgusting "flushable" wipes again), then flows into a sludge tank where bio-solids are stored before further processing. Next stop is the aeration tanks. Here, air is added to the sludge to promote biodegradation of organic contaminants. A clarifier tank is the next stop where solids settle to the bottom of the tank and are removed for recycling. Floating substances are gathered by a rotating skimmer on the surface of the water. Then, it's on to the digesting tanks holding bacteria that digest residual solids. Sewage tanker trucks are then used for transportation of the remaining residual solids to incineration

facilities and after undergoing strict additional sanitizing, the remaining liquid is released into local waterways.

If there's anything to take away from reading this article, it's to remember that the only two items that should be flushed down the sewer are human waste and toilet paper.

Here's the remaining list of items Not to Flush: DO NOT FLUSH OR POUR · Cloth rags or paper towels · Wipes (baby, adult, disinfecting, etc.) · Feminine hygiene products · Used medications · Beauty products, Q-tips, dental floss · Plastics of any kind · Diapers · Fats, oils, and grease · Garden supplies (pesticides, fertilizers).

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Prayer



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (intention), Amen.

If you pray three times a day, three consecutive days, you will receive your intention, no matter how impossible it may seem. Praise and Thanksgiving please the Heart of God. **Believer**

LMT Oil Delivers With Community Involvement

LMT Oil is not new to Charlton and surrounding areas.

The company has been delivering goods and services for the past six years, but owner Tom Dolan has been doing service work on heating systems and air conditioners for 11 years.

The company is small — with six employees — and family owned, and loves being part of the community.

Business spotlight

“We are a small, family owned business but we are always looking to grow with our community, so we are always looking for experienced help,” said Holly Dancause.



LMT Oil delivers home heating oil, and also does service on heating, air conditioning systems, and heat pumps. They do installations as well.

But delivering oil isn't the only part of the business they love.

“We love being part of the community. Because we live in this community, as well, we get to know our customers, which creates a more personal relationship with them. Tom's kids, who the company is named after, go to our local schools, so he likes to be able to give back to the school community by making donations each year. He donates money to a classroom each year to purchase books every month for each child from the Scholastic Book Club,” said Dancause.

One recent challenge has been the increase in prices over the last year.

“It's been difficult for everyone, especially our customers. We have done our best to keep our prices low so we can be more affordable to our customers. Unfortunately with the rising cost of home heating oil as well as the diesel we need to transport to customers, it has made it difficult. We have encouraged customers who are considerably concerned about this upcoming winter's prices to consider applying for Fuel Assistance through the Worcester Community Action Council. We do accept Fuel Assistance customers,” she said.

LMT Oil can be reached by phone at 508-434-1335.

With the colder months ahead, LMT Oil offered some advice for customers:

- Get a heating system tune-up — it will ensure you get the maximum performance out of your heating system.
- Open shades and drapes when the sun is out to help warm your home. Close them when the sun goes down to reduce heat loss through drafty windows.
- Turn down the thermostat at night and when you are away from home; even slightly lowering your thermostat during the day may save on your heating bill.
- Insulate pipes to guard against heat loss and to prevent them from freezing.
- Stop heat loss by weather proofing your home. Such as eliminating any gaps between your door and threshold. Caulk or re-caulk exterior spaces between the windows and walls of your home.
- Remove, cover or close air conditioning units and vents when not in use.
- Do not place furniture in front of radiators; it will block heat from circulating.
- For additional tips they can go to Mass Save to have an Energy Audit performed on their home. Mass Save is a helpful program to many of our customers.

Hopefully these tips can help save customers some money this winter.



Company president Thomas Dolan named the company after his three children; Lillian, Madison and Thomas



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Webster sewer rehab underway

BY JANET STOICA

The town's sewer system rehabilitation project began in late spring and is an ongoing development aimed at eliminating storm water drainage into the town's sewer system.

"This project will help to decrease the large amounts of rain water that have been seeping into our town's older sewer pipes," said Tom Cutler, Water

and Sewer Superintendent. "This plan entails slip-lining sewer pipes with PVC liners and sewer pipe spot repairs thereby reducing rain water leaching into our sewer pipes so that the extra sewer plant treatment is unnecessary. It is more expensive for our sewer plant processes when rain water flows into our sewer system. After a heavy rainstorm our expenses might increase from \$6 million to \$15

million. This excess water in our plant can cause overflows that will wash everything into the rivers and streams and with state and federal regulations so strict, we have to eliminate such situations from occurring." Cost savings will be realized by the town's taxpayers.

Construction for the \$1.22 million project began on May 24, 2022 and is part of the American Rescue Plan Act passed by

Congress and signed into law by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021.

According to Mr. Cutler, when large rain storms hit the area, the excess water seeps into the ground and then seeps into the aging sewer pipes. Manhole and sewer main inspection with remote cameras determined the extent of necessary work and resident impact is low. Inspections are almost complete and the following streets

are in process of rehab or are on the current list: Aldrich, Ash, Boyden, Boyden Street Extension, Brandes, Brook, Brook Street Extension, East Main, and First Streets. Also, Grenier and Klebart Avenues, Kosmas Street, Lake Parkway, Lincoln Street, Nipmuck Lane, Park Avenue, Perryville Road, Poland Street, School Street, Stephen Drive, Third Street, Thompson Road, Upland

Avenue, Valley and Whitcomb Streets.

The rehabilitation process includes the cleaning and lining of 12,100 feet of pipe and selected excavating of spot repairs. Conclusion of the first phase is expected in November and the second phase should be completed by next August.

Contact Janet: jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com



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Southwick's Festival of Illumination returns with new features

Southwick Zoo's popular Festival of Illumination is back for a four-month run, bigger and better than ever.

Belinda Mazur, marketing manager for the Festival of Illumination, said this year's theme is "Once Upon a Time." The event began September 1st and continues through December 31st from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m.



Ms. Mazur said a VIP kickoff held on September 7th was well-attended and featured remarks by Sen. Ryan Fattman, Rep. Brian Murray, Bill Burns of the Performance Food Group, Peter Brewer who is president of Southwick's Zoo, Past President Justine Brewer, Betsey Brewer of Earth Ltd. at Southwick's Zoo and Justin Corsa and Meng Liu of the Zigong

Lantern Group.

Working again with the award-winning Zigong Lantern family, the Festival of Illumination will offer zoo visitors a look at extraordinary Chinese lanterns utilized in larger-than-life exhibits to showcase myths, legends and fairytales from around the globe.

Ms. Mazur described the experience as "a journey through forgotten stories of myths, legends and fairy tales. So amazing!"

There is also a new twist for 2022 that will add an exciting component to the production. There will be live entertainment, Chinese acrobats, an Asian marketplace, interactive exhibits, specialty foods, and more.

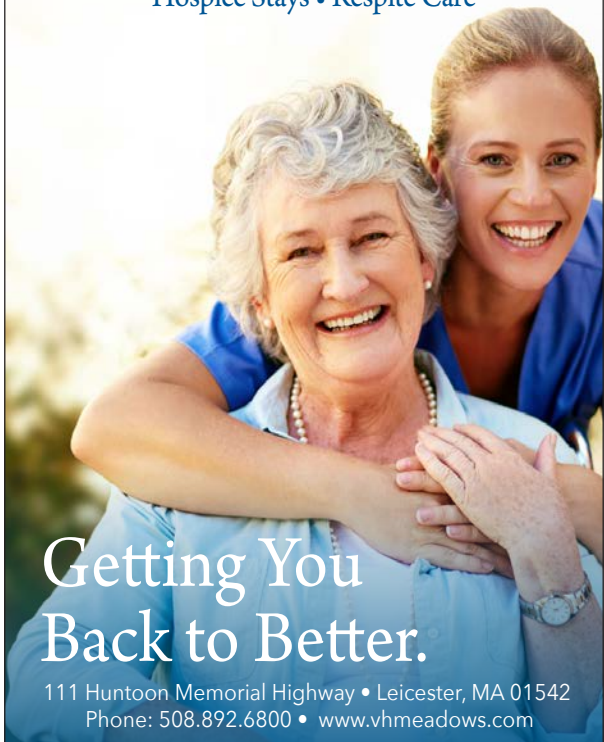
Then on November 26th zoo patrons will be able to enjoy Southwick's traditional Winter Wonderland holiday lights in combination with holiday-themed Chinese lanterns.

Ms. Mazur recommends that those planning to take in the Festival of Illumination purchase their tickets in advance. This can be done at www.festivalofillumination.com or www.southwickzoo.com.

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NOTE: Community bulletin board-type items are welcome for inclusion in the *Happenings!* section of the *Xpress* newspapers. Please allow enough lead time for publication. Email your calendar or event notice to rodlee.1963@gmail.com.

UPCOMING AT INDIAN RANCH

• October 8, Jamey Johnson Live in Concert, 1:00 p.m. Tickets are available at www.indianranch.com, by calling 1-800-514-3849 or at the Indian Ranch Box Office.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER

• The Auburn Historical Society and Museum, 41 South St., in conjunction with the Ebenezer Learned DAR Chapter, is hosting an exhibit to celebrate Constitution Week. The museum is open 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday and Tuesday to view this display.

THROUGH OCTOBER 2

• The Big E, Massachusetts' state fair, continues in Springfield.

THROUGH OCTOBER 29

• An art exhibition featuring alcohol and ink paintings by Linda Littleton will be on display in the café gallery of Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster. A reception for the artist is scheduled for Friday, October 14th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Call 508-949-6232 for further info.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

• The Douglas High School Celebration Graduation Committee is hosting a pasta dinner fundraiser at Douglas High School, 33 Davis St., from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Included are pasta, meatballs, sauce, salad and breadsticks donated by Olive Garden; also desserts. Cost is eight dollars for adults and five

dollars for children under twelve.

• A Halloween-themed Paint Night with Jean Walker will be held at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Paint your own wooden picket fence in a fun, seasonal design just in time to display for Halloween. The finished piece is four-foot tall and four slats wide. Cost is \$39. Space is limited. Call 508-949-6232 to register.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

• The Village Congregational Church's Harvest Festival, a local tradition, will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the Town Common in Whitinsville. Rain Date is Sunday, September 25th from noon to 4:00 p.m. This event features arts, crafts, plants, a food court, farmers market products, a bounce pad, entertainment, children's activities and games, music, a large variety of raffle prizes and a special handmade quilt raffle. VCC is looking for volunteers and vendors. Call 508-234-7901 for further details.

• The Friends of the Uxbridge Free Public Library, 15 N. Main St., are hosting a Book and Bake Sale from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Home-baked pies, cakes and cookies and an assortment of children's, young adult and adult books will be available. There will also be a Treasure Table of "really cool items."

• The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary's Church, 77 Mendon St., Uxbridge, will host its annual Friends of the Poor Walk/Run to help those in emergency situations who are struggling to make ends meet. The event starts at 9:00 a.m. Registration is in the parking lot behind the parish hall. Donations can be made online at www.fop-walk.org for St. Mary's Uxbridge MA. For more information, contact

Donna at 508-278-2226.

• A Fantasia Drag Show will take place at Samuel Slater's Restaurant at Indian Ranch in Webster at 7:00 p.m. Call 508-943-3871 or go to indianranch.com/events for further info.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

• A seminar, "Health Care and Your Retirement," is being offered at the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, 2 Lake St., Webster, in advance of Medicare Open Enrollment, which begins October 15th. Registration is at 5:45 p.m. The seminar starts at 6:00. The increasing cost of health care is a growing concern for current and future retirees. In fact, thirty years ago, retirees spent almost twice as much on food as health care. Now the amounts are nearly equal. Dennis Antonopoulos, a financial advisor with Edward Jones, and Lynne Mussulli, a Medicare specialist, will be presenters, discussing these topics: Medicare coverage and traditional medical expenses long-term medical expenses and strategies for addressing uncovered expenses. Register for the seminar by September 23rd by contacting Karen Rieser at 508-832-5385 or karen.rieser@edwardjones.com.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

• Open Sky Community Services will host a free Health Fair at the Whittin Mill, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event will feature a variety of free exercise classes including Brave Yoga, Beatz Dance Studio instruction and Tai Chi with Ron Allen. Exhibitors representing different areas of health and wellness will be present: Nutritionist Michelle Mix from Hannaford, students from the Blackstone Valley Vocational Technical High School Health Services shop, Special Olympics Massachusetts

representatives and others. There will be a chili cook-off and healthy snacks. Those interested in helping out at the Health Fair are asked to contact Shannon Gwinn at 774-922-7577 or Shannon.gwinn@openskycs.org.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

• The Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's "Back to Business" breakfast meeting with Attorney General and gubernatorial candidate Maura Healey appearing as guest speaker will be held from 7:15 to 9:30 a.m. at the Charles F. Minney VFW Post, 16 S. Main St., Millbury. Go to <https://blackstonevalley.org> for more information or to register.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

• Nick Bosse and the Northern Roots will appear at Samuel Slater's Restaurant at Indian Ranch in Webster. Showtime is 8:00 p.m. Call 508-943-3871 or go to <https://indianranch.com/events> for more info.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

• Douglas' Octoberfest will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the area of Main and Depot streets, with live music, games, rides, foods, a car show, fundraisers and little dog races. New this year is an all-ages pinewood derby race with a \$300 prize for fastest car and a \$100 prize for best-in-show. Local brewer Greater Good will be represented in the Octoberfest Beer Tent, featuring music by Rusty Spike and the Brian James Quartet. Returning are the event's soda-jerk experience, a second train, and tricycle racing for all ages. This year, Koopman Lumber will be providing a hay ride from the Douglas elementary and middle schools to the event, and there will be additional parking at Soldier's Field. Prospective vendors can obtain more information by visiting



American country music singer and songwriter Jamey Johnson, whose hits include "The Dollar" and "That Lonesome Song," performs at Indian Ranch in Webster on October 8 at 1:00 p.m.

Douglas Octoberfest's website, at facebook.com/douglasoctoberfest or by emailing douglas_octoberfest@yahoo.com.

• An Historical Walking Tour of Whitinsville with Ken Warchol starts at Northbridge Town Hall at 10:00 a.m. and continues until noon. Arrive by 9:45 a.m. Pre-registration for this event is required. Contact Mr. Warchol at 508-680-3440 or kenwarchol2@msn.com.

• The Sutton Historical Society will present a Wagon and Cart Show from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the M.M. Sherman Blacksmith Shop, 6 Singletary Ave.

• Dudley Grange #163 will host an Apple Festival at its grounds, 139 Center Road, Dudley. Vendors are welcome. Contact Karen-Beth at 508-341-6289 to reserve a spot.

• Live acoustic music with Cameron Sutphin will be presented from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster. Donations will be accepted and CDs will be available for purchase. Cameron Sutphin is an American singer and

guitar player. In 2017, as a solo act, he released his debut Nashville-recorded CD Heartbreak Town.

SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 1, 15 & NOVEMBER 5

• An Introduction to Digital Photography workshop series led by 'Bil' Gardiner of William Gardiner Photography in Worcester will be held at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Cost for the entire series is \$75. Contact deb@bookoversgourmet.com or call 508-949-6232.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

• The New England Country Music Club presents live music by Crossfire at the Progressive Club, 18 Whittin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. with entertainment from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

• An Evening with Physic Medium Leo McCarthy will be held at Book-

HAPPENINGS!
continued on page 10

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HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 9

lovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 per person and limited to the first ten attendees.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

- An Indian Prince lake tour will take place at 9:45 a.m. Call 508-943-3871 or go to <https://indian-ranch.com/events> for more info.
- Upton VFW Post 5594 will wrap up its summer series of flea markets at 15 Milford St. (Rt. 14). Spaces are \$10 each or \$15 if a

banquet-sized table is needed. Parking is free. Call David Kennedy at 508-529-3314 or visit the Post's Facebook page for more details.

OCTOBER 8-9

- "The Battle for the Airfield WWII Re-Enactment" will take place at the American Heritage Museum, 568 Main St., Hudson. This is a WWII living history event with over 350 re-enactors representing several branches of Allied and Axis military in two large-scale battles daily. Re-enactor encampments will be open all day for both Axis and Allied soldiers. There will also be a WWII veterans roundtable

daily in the hangar. Tank rides will be available all weekend for an additional charge. Visit www.americanheritagemuseum.org for more info.

OCTOBER 9-23

- The Friends of the Simon Fairfield Public Library in Douglas will conduct a fall online auction, with all proceeds doing toward the Library Building Fund. The Friends are seeking donations of crafts, services, gift baskets, antiques and "what-have-you" for this event. For more information, visit mysfpl.org.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

- Duranarama will take place at Samuel Slater's Restaurant at Indian Ranch in Webster. Show time is 8:00 p.m. Call 508-943-3871 or go to <https://indianranch.com/> events for more info.

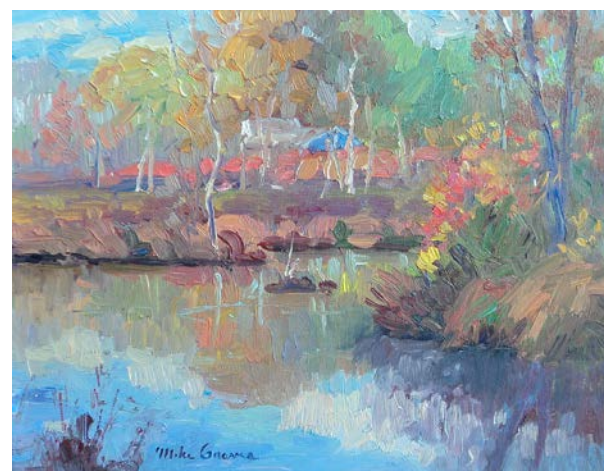
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

- St. Patrick's Fall Recycling event will take place from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 7 East St., Whitinsville. Profits will benefit upcoming YIA (Youth in Action) service projects. There will be on-site paper shredding, electronics recycling for a fee and a collection of bottles and cans and textiles. For more information and pricing, call 508-234-5656 or email officesupport@mystpatrickss.com. Cash preferred.

- A Harvest Supper to benefit the Auburn Historical Society and Museum will be held at Pakachoag Church on Pakachoag St., Auburn, at 6:00 p.m. The menu is roast pork, seasonal vegetables and apple crisp. Patrons can dine in or dine out. There will be gift baskets for sale and a 50/50 drawing. Tickets are \$15 each and may be purchased at the museum, 41 South St., on Tuesday or Saturday between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased by calling 508-832-6856 or with a check to the museum, 41 South St., Auburn 01501. Tickets must be purchased by October 8th. Baskets will be on view at the museum the morning of October 15th and tickets for the 50/50 may be bought then too. Winners do not have to be present for the drawing and will be notified.

OCTOBER 15-16

- Waters Farm Days, a fall tradition, will take place at 53 Waters Road, Sutton, offering attendees an opportunity to learn about New England farm life in the 18th and 19th centuries. Highlights include tours of the farm house and the



An original painting by award-winning Millbury artist Michael Graves will be among the items up for purchase during the Friends of the Simon Fairfield Public Library's Online Auction, October 9-23. Open bidding for Mr. Graves' painting and such other featured items as a Harry Potter signed first edition, a handcrafted knife by Jim Saviano, beautiful gift baskets, gift certificates, vacation packages, antique and vintage items and items of local historical significance has started. The Friends thank sponsors for donations that make this year's auction catalog the best ever. All proceeds benefit the library's building fund campaign including handicapped access. Go to <https://mysfpl.org> to place your bid(s).

maple sugar house, a blacksmith at work and shingle making. There will also be tractor pulls, displays of farm equipment, a car show, farm animals, children's activities, crafters and more.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

- The New England Country Music Club presents live music by Rustic Country at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. with entertainment from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

- The Pike 100.1 Halloween "Boos" Cruise with Chuck Perkins is scheduled for 5:45 p.m. Call 508-943-3871 or go to <https://indianranch.com/events> for more info.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

- Millbury Senior Center's Halloween Party: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Center, 1 River St. Call 508-865-9154 to RSVP.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

- The New England Country Music Club presents live music by Al Carter at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. with entertainment from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

- The Blackstone Valley Wine & Chocolate Tasting with a live auction, raffles, prizes and vendors will be held at Blissful Meadows Golf Club, 801 Chocolog Road, Uxbridge, at 7:00 p.m. This event is offered in collaboration with Marty's Fine Wines, The Candy Shoppe and The Afterglow Boutique. Tickets are \$40, \$50 at the door and may be purchased at Uni-Bank in Whitinsville or Uxbridge or online at www.facebook.com/BVWinetasting. Proceeds benefit the Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter and the Blackstone Valley Rotary Scholarship Fund.

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Prepare your garden for winter's onslaught

Individuals who don't live near the equator or in another warm climate know that winter will rear its chilly head this year. Cold temperatures and snowy conditions may be excellent for skiing and sledding, but gardeners recognize these conditions are not ideal for their plants.

The inevitable slowing of activity in the garden during fall marks a time to shift attention from

constant plant care to preparing the landscape for next season. It may be tempting to simply let Mother Nature take over, but a little pre-winter TLC can ensure gardens make it through winter unscathed.

Remove spent plants
Decomposing organic material is the basis for compost and other fertilizers. However, vegetable plants that are left to sit can lead to decay in the gar-

den. Decaying plants can serve as hosts for pest populations and diseases. Rotting vegetables also can drop unwanted seeds into the soil, which eventually can strip nutrients that normally would go to next year's crops.

Ornamental plants and perennials can be cut back in fall. Cut down stalks and remove leaves.

Plant a cover crop
The gardening resource *This Is My Garden* recommends planting a cover crop to set the stage for a successful spring. A cover crop protects the soil and can return nutrients to it. When the soil is bare during winter, weed seeds can easily blow in and lie in wait, ultimately becoming a problem during the

ensuing year. Cover crops can include clover or field peas, which will increase the levels of available nitrogen.

Amend the soil

Fall is a perfect time to add soil amendments, such as manure and compost. These fertilizers will add nutrients and break down gradually, enriching the soil over the winter.

Replenish mulch

Gardeners may have added mulch around shrubs and other areas of the landscape early in the season because it is attractive. But mulch also does much to reduce water loss and protect the soil from erosion. It may inhibit weed growth as well. Replacing mulch when the mercury drops can in-



Adding a layer of mulch around plants can insulate roots and the soil against hard frosts.

insulate the soil, which helps to regulate soil temperature. A thick layer of mulch around root vegetables left in the garden can offer protection against hard frosts.

Divide bulbs

Divide plant bulbs and plant them where you want flowers like daffodils and tulips to grow in the spring.

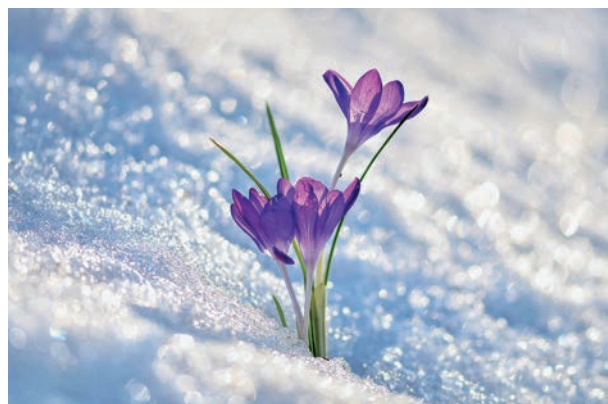
Prune dormant plants

Wait until plants are dormant to prune them and adjust their shape. Most shrubs

and trees should be pruned in late winter, right before new growth.

Move potted plants
Bring delicate plants into a sheltered area, such as a greenhouse or indoor garage, so they can continue to thrive during the winter.

Fall and winter still provide opportunities to spend time in the garden. At this point in the year, gardeners can prepare landscapes for the next season.



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Terri and Mike

Here's a tip...

By JoAnn Derson

- Apricots are a relative of the peach, and they can be ripened just like a peach can -- in a paper bag on the counter. They should be refrigerated when ripe.
- "I went to a tag sale and purchased a set of really cute flowerpots for barely anything. I like them so much that I am using them inside my house. They are holding utensils in the kitchen, and remotes and other odds and ends in the living room. They are great!" -- S.I.
- Laundry baskets can be your best friends when decluttering the house. Go from room to room collecting the clutter in a laundry basket, then bring it to a central location to sort and redistribute items that belong in each room.
- When purchasing school supplies, remember that paper, pencils, etc., typically aren't on sale mid-year, so stocking up is a good idea. Just make sure the deal you are getting is a good one. Then put it away for distribution later!
- Pint-size water bottles are great for refilling with milk. The

milk boxes at the grocery store are so expensive, and this way, I can control how chocolatey the chocolate milk is. -- C.C.

- Add these to the list of items to eliminate the odor of cooking cabbage: a heel of bread, a whole walnut or a pinch of baking soda.
 - * To travel with pleated skirts, use this packing trick: Turn the skirt inside out and straighten all the pleats. Then tape the bottom so that all the pleats are held together. Next, feed the skirt into a leg of pantyhose with the foot cut off. You end up with a nice tube, which you can tuck into the sides of your luggage.
 - * When traveling for more than a few days, stick your plants into the bathtub with a little bit of water. They soak it up, and you don't have to have someone come over and water your plants. This will only work for a week or less, though. -- John McF.
 - * I keep grocery lists on my computer. When I am going to go shopping, I print out the list and fold the paper in half. Then I slip my coupons into the fold. Keeps them handy when I am shopping. -- Reader
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A beginner's guide to fall planting and maintenance

Spring and summer are perhaps the busiest times of year for gardeners. However, fall also is a prime time to tend to gardens. The tree and bare root retailer Bower & Branch advises that soil temperatures in many regions of the country may still be warm enough to encourage root growth well into the start of winter. Furthermore, fall is often the ideal time to plant, fertilize and keep a garden going or to get a head start on next year's bounty.

Here are some tips to make the most of the fall gardening season.

- Think about fall annuals and bulb planting. Near the end of September, start planting cool-weather-loving pansies and violas for pops of color as summer flowers fade. Also, it's a good idea to stock up on bulbs that will bloom in the months to come before they sell out in stores. Wait until the temperatures really cool

down before planting them in desired spots for spring sprouts.

- Sow salad seeds. Lettuce, spinach, radishes, and arugula tolerate cooler temperatures. Try new and interesting lettuce varieties and enjoy salads well into the fall season.

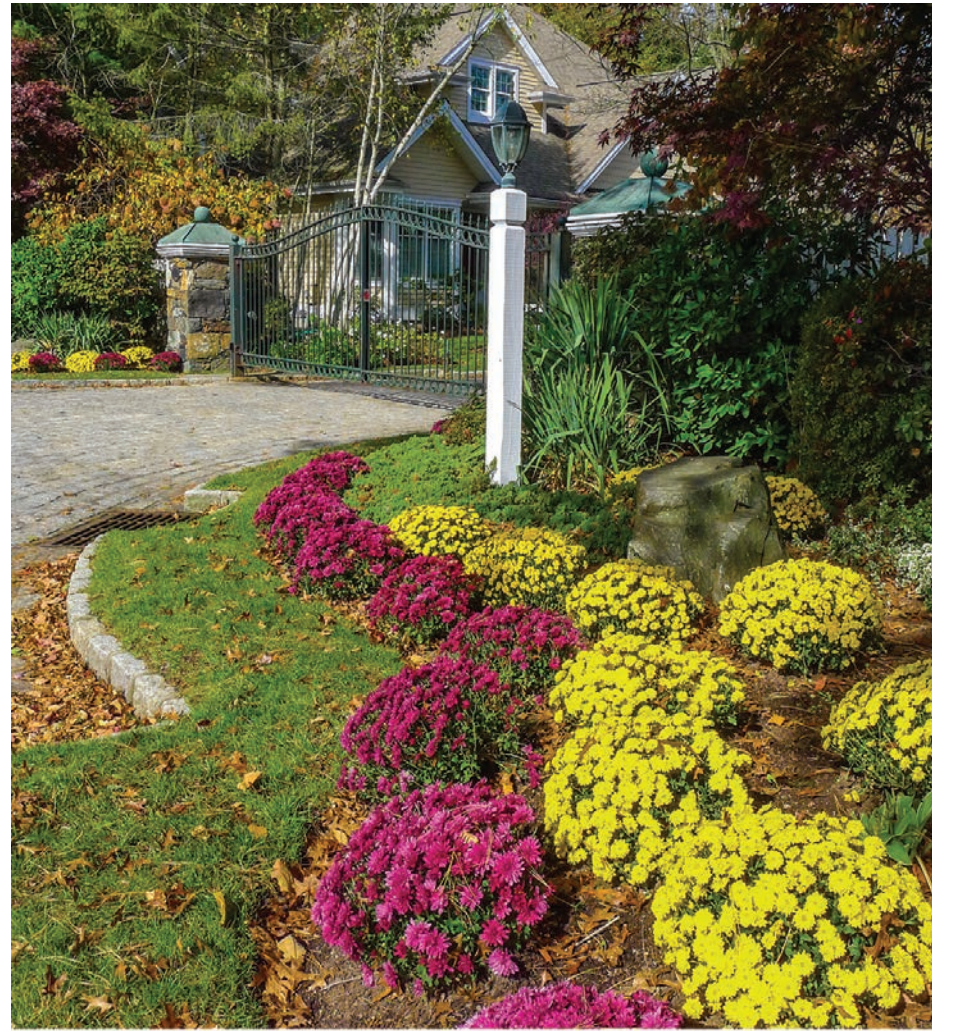
- Take inventory of the sun. Positioning a garden carefully means maximizing hours of sunlight, which begin to dwindle in the fall. Experts say gardens grow best in sunny locations that receive six hours of direct sunlight each day. This is where container gardens can be helpful, as they allow gardeners to move plants into spots that will get ample sunlight.

- Fill in landscaping gaps. Some fall plants can add color around the landscape and brighten up homes to add curb appeal. In addition to pansies and violas, asters, kale and chrysanthemums are fall blooms. Keep in mind

that mums can come back year after year. So take them out of those flower pots and get them into the ground. They can be enjoyed next year as well, sprouting in early spring and developing leaves and buds through late summer.

- Clean up unwanted growth. Fall is an ideal time to cut back spent vegetable plants and get rid of errant weeds. Rather than bagging leaves, mow them with a grass catcher and then add the mix to a vegetable garden as an excellent soil insulator. The nitrogen and carbon will fertilize the soil, enhancing growing possibilities and limiting weed growth.

- Propagate plants in the fall. As temperatures gradually begin to cool, start taking cuttings from perennials, gathering seed pods from azaleas and rhododendrons and dividing hardwood cuttings, says the resource Gardening Know



How. Consult with a garden center or horticulturist on the proper ways to propagate stems using rooting hormone and other techniques.

- Continue to water

plants. Water is essential in the fall and winter as roots can still be growing. Gradually reduce watering duration as plants go dormant.

Fall planting and

maintenance can extend gardening season and improve the chances of growing a healthy spring garden.

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Fireplace trends help create attractive, comfortable rooms

Fireplaces are useful features in a home. Fireplaces are sources of ambient heat and also add style to indoor spaces.

Fireplaces can complement just about any interior style. Fireplaces can be traditional and burn wood or connect to a home's natural gas supply for on-demand ambiance.

What's more, fireplaces may come in vented or ventless varieties, depending on homeowners' preferences and what is allowed by community building codes. That means a chimney or flue may not be needed. Expand the list of rooms where a fireplace can be installed.

Certain trends have emerged among fireplace fans in recent years. Here's a look at what's getting consumers fired up about these home decor elements.

- Minimalist style: Many

fireplaces are designed in neutral colors with minimal trim that directs focus on the fire and not the appliance. When the fireplace is not in use, it blends in with surroundings and will not compete for attention with other design elements.

- Convertible fireplaces: Homeowners can choose between open or sealed fireplaces. A convertible fireplace enables homeowners to have the best features of these options. A convertible fireplace can be converted to wood from gas, or the opposite, in as little as 30 minutes.

- Nature-inspired materials: Natural stone continues to be a material of choice in fireplace surrounds. Light colors work well for a fireplace, and also fit with today's lighter color interior design preferences. Natural stone

also works perfectly with both contemporary and rustic decor.

- Vintage fireplaces: Vintage continues to be a buzzword in 2022, and the choice to go vintage also applies to fireplace styles. A room decorated in vintage elements can be complemented with a vintage fireplace or one designed to look vintage.

- Integrate into wall decor: Fireplaces that are built right into a wall save space. One can have a television and a fireplace on the same wall. These types of fireplaces work well in modern home designs. Other fireplaces may be built into bookshelves or other wall features.

Fireplaces can improve the appeal of a home. Various trends are popular this year, making fireplaces highly coveted features.



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Once Upon a Time

7 characteristics of modern houses

Homes contain a variety of components that appeal to homeowners with different ideas about the perfect place to call home. That starts with the style of a home.

Buildings are classified according to share components. A Craftsman style home will have a covered porch with a set of wide base columns, while a Cape Cod home is often defined by a gabled roof and dormer windows. Modern houses, which are sometimes called contemporary homes even though the terms are not interchangeable, will have their own sets of unique characteristics. Here's a look at seven features that make modern homes unique.

1. Minimalist approach: Contemporary and modern homes both employ an approach that leans toward minimalism, including clean

design lines. Spaces are open and airy without the clutter of too many ornate architectural details. While modern homes may have some curvature to their design, contemporary ones are all about an angular look.

2. Neutral color palette: Modern homes tend to utilize a neutral color palette. Modern homes may use 'earthy' elements, such as wood and brick, in ways that do not look rustic. Contemporary homes rely on a color palette of black and white with shades of gray or other neutral colors.

3. Geometric shapes: Modern homes have strong horizontal and vertical elements that showcase geometric shapes in their designs. Contemporary homes often have flat roofs, while modern homes may not.

4. Large, unadorned windows: Most modern homes showcase a lot of natural light by utilizing large windows that are not covered up by heavy window treatments or elements like shutters and thick trims. Large windows are the focus of the interior and shift attention to the view outdoors.

5. Open floor concept: A hallmark of modern interior design, the open concept floor plan removes many of the walls that tend to separate common areas of a home. This helps to foster the spread of natural light and maintains the emphasis on simplicity of design.

6. Smart elements: Thanks to the proliferation of smart technology, smart homes are cropping up with greater frequency. While smart devices can be included in any home



style, they tend to feel like they were designed specifically for modern homes. In a similar vein, modern homes may include environmentally friendly elements, such as solar panels, upcycled materials, added insulation, and energy efficient lighting.

7. Updated kitchen spaces: The clean lines and attention to technology and open space generally extends

to modern kitchens. Modern kitchens tend to feature efficient, top-tier appliances with additional storage and space amenities that keep the room from

feeling cluttered. While some may consider modern homes austere, many others are right at home among their clean lines and airy spaces.



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Signs your gutters are in need of repair

Fall is a great time to tackle projects around the house. The weather each fall allows homeowners to make improvements to their homes' exteriors without worrying about extreme heat or cold, while interior projects like painting are made easier because homeowners can open the windows to allow for proper ventilation.

Fall also marks a great time to prepare for upcoming projects that can make winter work that much easier. For example, fall is a great time to take stock of your gutters so you can address any issues before leaves begin to fall or the first snowstorm touches down.

Compromised gutters can contribute to water issues in basements and adversely affect a home's foundation if not addressed immediately, so it behooves homeowners to learn the signs that gutters are in need of repair or replacement.

- Gutters hanging off the home: Gutters were once installed predominantly with spikes. However, many industry professionals now install gutters with hanger brackets. Why the change? Spikes loosen over time, leading to the gutters hanging off the home. That can contribute to serious issues if left untreated. Gutters hanging off the home need not necessarily be

replaced, but rather secured to the home, ideally with hanger brackets instead of spikes. Brackets hook into the front of the gutter and are then screwed into the fascia of a home. A professional who specializes in gutter repair can perform this task relatively quickly, and it's an inexpensive yet highly effective solution.

- Gutter separation: Gutters that are no longer fastened together can leak and contribute to issues that affect the home's foundation, siding and appearance. Clogs and the accumulation of debris can cause gutters to separate because they are not designed to hold too much weight. Replacement of separated gutters may or may not be necessary depending on how big the problem is and the condition of the existing gutters. If replacement is not necessary, separated gutters may be remedied by securing the joints,

another relatively simple and inexpensive fix.

- Peeling exterior paint: Paint that appears to be peeling off of your home may indicate that water is seeping over the edge of the gutter closest to your home. When that happens, water is coming down the side of the house, causing the paint to peel. In such instances, replacing the gutters is often necessary.

- Basement flooding: Not all signs of deteriorating gutters are outside a home. Many a homeowner has been flummoxed by flooding in their basements, and such flooding can be caused by aging, ineffective gutters. That's because deteriorating gutters sometimes allow water to leak near the foundation of a home, contributing to basement flooding.

Fall is an ideal time to inspect gutters and have any issues fixed before leaves begin to fall or harsh winter weather arrives.

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Gourds, squashes and pumpkins, oh my!

Halloween takes place during a time of year characterized by earth-colored chrysanthemums, leaf-lined walkways and crisp autumn air. As colorful as the costumes children wear for trick-or-treating may be, nature's beauty is unsurpassed this time of year, and the scores of pumpkins, gourds and squashes on display only add to that colorful melange.

The Cucurbitaceae family may be best known for pumpkins, squash and gourds, but there actually are 800 species that belong to this family. While they share many of the same properties, these fruits each have their own unique attributes.

The main differences between squashes, gourds and pumpkins is their intended purposes - whether they're ornamental or edible.

Squash

Squashes come in summer and winter varieties.

Winter ones do not actually grow in the winter; in fact, they're harvested in late summer and early fall, but the name references the hard shell casing that protects the tender pulp inside. Zucchini are summer squash because their outer flesh is tender, while butternut, acorn, spaghetti, and hubbard squashes are winter squashes because they feature a tough skin. Even though it takes some effort to crack that shell, the dense, nutrient-rich flesh inside is well worth the workout.

Gourds

Gourds are essentially ornamental squashes; they aren't cultivated for eating. Instead they are bred to look beautiful and unique in autumn centerpieces. Types of gourds include autumn wing gourd, warted gourds, turban gourds, and bottle gourds. Each gourd is

unique in its shape and color.

Pumpkins

Pumpkins come in ornamental and edible varieties. Even though all pumpkins can be consumed, some taste better than others. Small pumpkins tend to be decorative because, according to Nutritious Life, they do not have enough meat inside to make them worthy of cooking. However, sugar pumpkins are best for baking and cooking favorite recipes, states the resource Pumpkin Nook.

The festive hues and flavors of squashes, gourds and pumpkins are one more thing that makes Halloween and autumn special.



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BY ROD LEE

Every so often, as has again been the case in recent days, the subject of all the restaurants in the Blackstone Valley that have been lost to time comes up.

Several of these, including the Klondike Inn on Providence Road in South Grafton, have been shuttered and for all intents and purposes abandoned for years.

Not until the topic of the disappearance of these once-popular dining establishments is addressed in conversation does the full picture of their unfortunate fate come into clearer focus.

There is the Klondike, there is Sammy's (formerly Riverside and before that the Bungalow) in Northbridge, along with Jube's in Whitinsville, the Blue Jay in Sutton and of course the Cocke 'n Kettle in Uxbridge which is the one whose status is most intriguing.

With the exception of Jube's in the Whitinsville Plaza at Plummer's Corner, which only of late shut its doors, and the Blue Jay, which was ravaged by fire and subsequently became the site of the new Sutton Police Department building, all are showing telltale signs of neglect and ruin. In August of 2020, in a post on Facebook, Cliff Valarose, a member of the Blackstone Valley Reminiscent Society, asked for recollections of the Klondike, which he said had been closed for more than twenty years.

"Tom Remillard cooked there for years," came one response.

From Janneke A. Schotanus came the observation that she had looked into buying and renovating the property "as a massage and wellness center"

Once-popular restaurants, now closed and forgotten



with "a yoga barn."

Susan Boutiette Ellbeg, a neighbor of the former Klondike, noted that the property is owned by the Cheng Du family of Westborough and that the liquor license is still active. But nothing has happened with it and the grounds are overgrown and the building is in disrepair.

The Klondike was famous for its fish 'n chips, prime rib and banana cream pie—among other fare.

Nick and Marge Sampson and the Sampson family owned and operated the Cocke 'n Kettle until its closure in 2008. It was subsequently purchased

by Odisefs "Tom" Tsimgiannis of Harry's Pizza in Whitinsville for \$781,000 in 2014.

The Cocke 'n Kettle was renowned for both its atmosphere with dark

woods and studded leather chairs and its menu, which included corn fritters (popovers) that people still talk about, French onion soup and much more.

It was also a frequent



Clockwise from above: The Cocke 'n Kettle in Uxbridge, closed since 2008; Sammy's Restaurant in Northbridge, closed since around 2015; The Klondike Inn in South Grafton, closed for more than two decades.

destination for birthdays, anniversaries and weddings; and meetings of the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Contacted a few days ago and asked if anything was developing with the Cocke 'n Kettle, Mr. Tsimgiannis said "no news is good news." He then added "I am a very private person and don't want to talk about it."

What's interesting is that in the case of the Klondike, Sammy's and the Cocke 'n Kettle there is not even any evidence that the properties are being marketed.

Signs posted at the Cocke 'n Kettle declare it is private property and say "no trespassing."

Sammy's when it was the Riverside, before Sultan Salahuddin bought it, was owned by brothers Al and Larry Vinca, who were friendly and who made improvements to the old Bungalow; among these was a new bar.

The Riverside was open for lunch and dinner. Sammy's had established a good reputation for pizza,

pasta and seafood.

All five of these establishments are fondly remembered and curiosity remains about what will become of them.

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LIVING WITH LUKE

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Still a puppy—Luke goes on his first vacation

BY AMY LECLAIRE

Luke's first vacation was everything expected—and then some. He sniffed out the plan on a morning that stated the obvious. Luggage piled up in the kitchen. His parents moved with a distinct haste. Something wasn't adding up. "Is my family leaving me?"

A month prior, my husband had considered just

He grabbed his stuffed avocado to share in the joy that would be his first vacation. "Seriously? You're bringing me?" He wiggled around the kitchen, his six month old frame resembling a small dog or a stocky puppy, depending on one's perspective. "Hold on. I just have to go pee-pee!" His disposition favored the latter. He dashed to the back yard and returned to the garage in record speed.

Of all the dogs I've owned, Luke has been my easiest travel companion. This trip proved no exception. He sat regally in his travel crate with his head

tucked away in a parking lot surrounded by gladiolas and plush shrubbery. "We're here!" As dogs do, Luke sensed our arrival before I stated it. Still, he awakened with a slowness that has led to one of many nicknames.

"Lazy Luke – we're here. Let's go check out the hotel." I unzipped the door of his bed while he retracted so that I couldn't quite reach him, a habit reminding me the day we picked him out of a litter of three males. "That's him." I knew Luke before I actually knew him. He was the bashful pup in the back of the hatchback, buried in the warmth of his brother.

After a moment of pause, I managed to coax Lazy Luke from the car before — nose to ground — he obsessed on new scents in the parking lot. The hotel's front entrance boasted a set of secure (and massive) doors. "Who opened that door???" Spooked by the doors' automation, Luke put on his puppy brakes. "This place is possessed!" Making matters worse, a staff worker maneuvered an enormous, screeching dolly on wheels into the same area. "Something is definitely wrong with this place!"

The incident reminded me of a Scooby Doo episode, wherein I played Shaggy and my frightened pup was about to jump up into my arms. His legs wobbled like a camel's while I led him to a comfortable living room section, and my husband tackled check-in details. I pet my pup's head and spoke to him with the reassurance of a caring Dog Momma. "This is such a nice place, Luke." I cupped his frightened face in my hands and couldn't believe what I saw. My pup's entire head shivered as though he were seated in a freezer. "Oh, Luke. I promise it's going to be okay." Worse, his teeth chattered. "Poor thing. He's unsure. Still a puppy." A sweet elderly couple offered condolence.

We made our way up the elevator (another possessed door?) and Luke loosened up upon sight of a suite he couldn't help but fall in love with. "A sofa! And pillows! And beds!" He raced from room to room. "There's even a toilet here!" Room 225 was making sense. "Let's play!" He grabbed his avocado and thrashed about the room. We relaxed, un-



Luke, "the cutest puppy ever," settles in at the Green Mountain Suites in Vermont for his first vacation, and spends time with mom in Burlington, shopping.

packed and enjoyed a night out on the town. Little did we know, Luke's skepticism would return.

"Woo, woo, woo, woo, woo!" My husband and I snapped awake. The digital clock read 12:30 a.m. when Luke learned something new. Hotels are full of people who make creaky noises on the other side of the walls. "Luke, you have to go to sleep." We were so grateful for the Green Mountain's Suite's acceptance of our pup. We wanted to respect the privacy of other sleepers.

We hauled his bed, a plush dog mattress, to the foot of our bed. "Come sleep with us, Luke." Satisfied, he slept soundly through the night and even waited for us to get up before we all had breakfast at the hotel's outdoor courtyard.

"Can I pet your puppy?"

The question had a domino effect all week long. Luke greeted family after family. He posed for picture after picture, and accepted compliment after compliment with the grace of a movie star. "That is the cutest puppy I've ever seen!" Outdoor restaurants became a venue for his social circle. Servers brought him bowls of water "Does he want some ice to go with that?" Burlington, VT was as delightful as it was dog friendly. Shoppers put their bags down to kneel beside our puppy on vacation. "I love his crimped hair!" Hikers stopped hiking. "Luke Valentino has his own Instagram page?" Luke be-

came the talk of a town that wine and dined him. The vacation was a score, yet as Luke was about to remind us, it wasn't home.

We had gone for a stroll one morning, and approached the sidewalk of the front hotel lot when Luke stopped in his tracks. "What's the matter, Luke?" Then I saw what he saw, and watched what he watched. Doors slammed. Parents unloaded bags. Children bickered. A new family had just arrived at the hotel and their van seemed suspiciously open to cute puppies. "I knew I shouldn't have dug up the grass on Daddy's lawn!" Luke did the math. "I can't look at them. Please don't leave me with that family." He pulled me to the shelter of a shrub while I pondered his worry. On the day we took him from the breeder, we had also been in a parking lot. He was almost eight weeks when we had carried him in a basket from the trunk of our breeder's vehicle to our own backseat. He sat up during the car ride, but was uncertain of his new family (us) and home at first. "Where are you bringing me? Where are my brothers? Whoa. The outdoors is so big." He dashed straight for the comfort of his dog crate when we brought him inside our home.

Fast-forward six months. Luke has developed an obvious trust for us and now adores his home. He loves to sit out on the front steps, curl up to sleep beneath the kitchen table, and engage us in a game of "chase" across

the kitchen floor, where he finally takes a flying leap over the step-down and into the family room.

Had Luke, as he studied this family unloading their van, subconsciously recalled the day he was taken from his puppy brothers? The vehicle sights and sounds were similar. Or do all dogs, like pups from a 101 Dalmation's film, carry an innate fear of being taken away in a van by the Cruella Deville's of the world?

I knelt by my pup's side. We've known each other for only six months, yet it seemed as though we've been connected for centuries. He snuck glances over to the family; then stared back up at me. "I just want to stay with you." He licked my full mouth and chin. I wish I could pick him up and flatten him to my chest the way I used to, but he's too big. Instead, I massage the soft fur behind his ears. "You're stuck with me, Luke Valentino."

Our ride home was smooth, though it felt long. After a fun-filled vacation, we all just wanted to be home. When we finally pulled into the driveway, one thought crossed my mind.

The grass is greener where you dig it.

Stay tuned for more on *Living with Luke*. Tell me your dog story. Write me at amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Follow Luke on Instagram: [instagram.com/living-withlukevalentino](https://www.instagram.com/living-withlukevalentino)



that. "Why don't we find someone to watch Luke? We'll be able to do more. We deserve a vacation."

We would have. We did. Yet there wasn't a destination out there comparable to the look on my pup's face when we shared the news. "We're going to Vermont and Luke can come, too!"

lifted out of a "sun roof" created by unzipping the top (nylon) section. Now tall enough to look out the car windows, he appeared a dog dressed in a jack-in-the-box costume. Then he curled up and went to sleep.

The Green Mountain Suite Hotel of South Burlington, Vermont sat

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THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aaanortheast.com

Ask dealer to check transmission codes for engine vibration



BY JOHN PAUL

Q. I have a 2015 Kia Optima with 66,000 miles on it which has had all its recommended maintenance by a dealership. It drives really well except in one respect. At slower speeds in city driving, I experience a noticeable engine vibration that is sustained whenever the tachometer remains very narrowly at or close to 1100 RPMs. It feels like the engine is lugging, if that's the correct term. It relents only if I let up on the gas or depress the pedal further to accelerate past the vibrating. In other words, I can't maintain a steady speed at 1100 RPM without the shake. I actually did mention this to the dealership at my 60,000-mile service, but they did nothing to diagnose it and I didn't pursue it further. What do you think could be causing this?

A. I would go back to the dealer and have them check for transmission codes. What you are describing sounds like the transmission torque converter is staying locked up, this is sometimes called "chuggle". Kia did come out with an update to a part called a damper clutch solenoid which may cure the issue. In addition, this could

also be a combination of the transmission design and the beginning of a very slight engine misfire. At 66,000 miles if one of the spark plugs is getting a bit worn, this could also exaggerate the condition.

Q. Several weeks ago, my 17-year-old son, purchased a car for \$4500. The car, a BMW, actually seemed to be a good deal, but he then returned to the same seller in the hope of getting a different color. The second car turned out to have a fraudulent title as well as an odometer that had been turned back. We discovered this through a Carfax report. I was informed by both my son and his mother that they attempted to get even some of their money back and return the car, but the seller refused and at this point may have actually even blocked their phone numbers. Do you have any suggestions as to how we might proceed to rectify this issue/problem?

A. The first thing that needs to be determined is if the seller was a legitimate car dealer or someone who just buys and sells cars without a license. The seller may be someone who just "jumps" titles selling a car they purchased without re-titling

it in their name. Depending on where you live, state agencies rarely get involved in private party sales. If they are a legitimate car dealer you may be able to get some help through a dealer organization or the Attorney General in your state. Odometer and title fraud are subject to both state and federal laws and can carry serious fines. At this point you may need to contact an attorney that specializes in automobile fraud.

Q. I have a 2006 Ford Mustang convertible which is in great condition but makes a clunking noise which can't be located. I have had the car checked over, but all the parts seem to be in good shape.

A. I would take one more look at all of the suspension components including the front struts and strut bearings. At 16 years old there could also be some wear in the steering column. Your Mustang like many cars uses two flexible joints that connect the steering column to the rack and pinion steer gear. If one of this joints is worn, there will be a clunk.

Q. I have a 2008 Toyota Prius with 155,000 miles on it. It is in good condition for its age,

but it will need a catalytic converter. The car drives fine, it is just noisy. Any idea how much I should ask for the car and where I should list it for sale?

A. I would list the car in www.cargurus.com, www.iasecars.com and even Facebook marketplace. Determining the price is a little tricky. The going price for this model is \$7000-\$9000 depending on condition. I'm sure you have a price on a new exhaust and catalytic

converter, which can cost up to \$2500 depending on where you take the car for service. I would scan the ads on Cargurus, Iseecars and other websites and try to find a match to your car and price it accordingly. My guess is around \$6500 is about right but used car prices are still crazy. What makes this car a bit less desirable is with any used hybrid potential buyers are going to be concerned about the hybrid battery life. Although the buyer

may be willing to take a chance on a car that gets 50 miles per gallon.

John Paul is AAA Northeast's Car Doctor. He has over forty years' experience and is an ASE-certified master technician. He will answer readers' questions each week. Email your car questions to jpaul@aaanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on Facebook, mrjohnfpaul.

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REAL ESTATE

Why today's real estate market isn't headed for a crash



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

Whether or not you owned a home in 2008, you likely remember the housing crash back then. And news about an economic slowdown happening today may bring all those concerns back in your mind. While those feelings are understandable, data can help reassure you the situation today is nothing like it was in 2008.

One of the key reasons why the market won't crash this time is the current lack of inventory. Housing supply comes from three key places: Cur-

rent homeowners putting their homes up for sale. Newly built homes coming onto the market and distressed properties (short sales or foreclosures).

For the market to crash, you would have to make a case for an oversupply of inventory headed to the market, and the numbers don't support that right now. So, here's a deeper look at where inventory is coming from today to help prove why the housing market isn't headed for a crash.

1. CURRENT HOMEOWNERS PUTTING THEIR HOMES UP FOR SALE.

Even though housing supply is increasing this year, there's still a limited number of existing homes available. Based on the latest weekly data, inventory is up 27.8% compared to the same week last year. But compared to the same week in 2019, it's still down by 42.6%.

So, what does this mean? Inventory is still historically low. There

simply aren't enough homes on the market to cause prices to crash. There would need to be a flood of people getting ready to sell their houses in order to tip the scales toward a buyers' market. And that level of activity simply isn't there.

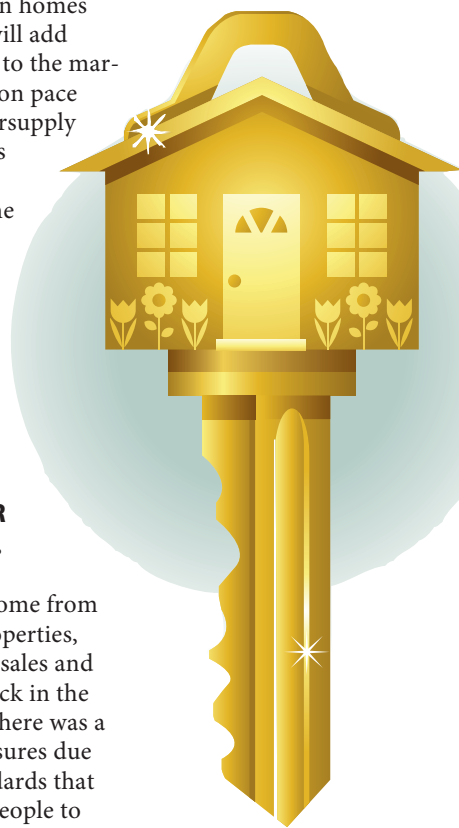
2. NEWLY BUILT HOMES COMING ONTO THE MARKET.

There's also a lot of talk about what's happening with newly built homes today, and that may make you wonder if we're overbuilding. But home builders are actually slowing down their production right now. To avoid repeating the overbuilding that happened leading up to the housing crisis, builders are reacting to higher mortgage rates and softening buyer demand by slowing down their work. It's a sign they're being intentional about not overbuilding homes like they did during the bubble. And according to the latest data from the U.S. Census, at today's current pace, we are headed to build an annual rate of

about 1.4 million homes this year. This will add more inventory to the market, but it's not on pace to create an oversupply because builders today are more cautious than the last time when they built more homes than the market could absorb.

3. DISTRESSED PROPERTIES (SHORT SALES OR FORECLOSURES).

The last place inventory can come from is distressed properties, including short sales and foreclosures. Back in the housing crisis, there was a flood of foreclosures due to lending standards that allowed many people to secure a home loan they couldn't truly afford. Today, lending standards are much tighter, resulting in more qualified buyers and far fewer foreclosures. The time around the housing crash there were over one



million foreclosure filings per year. As lending standards change/tightened since then, the activity started to decline. And in 2020 and 2021, the forbear-

ance program was a further aid to help prevent a repeat of the wave of foreclosures we saw back around 2008. That program was a game changer, giving homeowners options for things like loan deferrals and modifications they didn't have before. And data on the success of that program shows four out of five homeowners coming out of forbearance are either paid in full or have worked out a repayment plan to avoid foreclosure. These are a few of the biggest reasons there won't be a wave of foreclosures coming to the market.

Lastly, although housing supply is growing this year, the market certainly isn't anywhere near the inventory levels that would cause prices to drop significantly. That's why inventory tells us the housing market won't crash. Looking to buy or sell, reach out to the Marzeotti Group Team or a trusted realtor!

Mark Marzeotti
Realtor



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SPORTS

Adam Urato looks to lead Bartlett on the golf course

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Coming into the fall golf season, first year Bartlett High School Coach Alex Hetherman knows that he has himself a solid athlete in Adam Urato, but at this time he is not fully sure what he actually has in the sophomore on the golf course and to what extent.

The second year Bartlett athlete began playing golf at the age of five at the urging of his father.

"My dad was into golf and thought that it would be a good idea for me to try the sport," Urato said. Once I picked up the clubs I found it to my liking and have been doing it ever since. Golf is an individual game where I can be by myself while relying on my capabilities, not just physically but mentally."

Although the Bartlett sophomore doesn't recall all that much about when he first started playing the game, he has been told that he picked up the game rather quickly. At 10 he began playing in New England Pro Golf Association (NEPGA) tournaments

and while things may have started off rough in the beginning because of his nerves he has gotten better thought the years the more he has played.

"In the early stages of playing NEPGA I was hitting the ball late and it was going all over the place; I needed to focus on getting around on the ball. I would get down on myself and that only made it worse, he said. "I have been playing baseball longer than golf, so I was hitting the ball like I was playing baseball. I started to improve my game by keeping my club square to the ball."

Not only did the adjustments in his mechanics greatly help, Urato also got into the mindset that each shot was his last and eventually that also helped his game. He may not have been winning at the beginning, but he soon realized that focusing on himself and his game was much more important than what everyone else around him was doing.

Last fall as he entered the high school he was looking forward to playing golf with kids around his own age, but when tryouts came



he found the nervousness return.

"I was definitely nervous, but I soon realized that I was one of the better golfers on the course and that I could help the team," Urato recalls.

As a freshman last year, he was slated to play as the Indians' number two golfer and that seemed to originally put a lot of pressure on the young athlete. Luckily for Urato his very first high school match was on a course (Blackstone National Golf Club) that he was very familiar with, and

the nerves went flying out the window.

Urato averaged around a 44 last fall on the courses, most of which he had never played on before. Not knowing a lot about the courses he was to play on, many very difficult in his mind, attributed to his inability on the greens and accounted for his mid 40's score.

As he gets ready to step on the courses for his second year he not only has confidence in his ability to take command of them, but he is also looking to be

once again playing at the number two position, with the possibility of even taking control of the top spot.

"I am just going to go out and play my hardest while trying my best while focusing on myself and hopefully that'll be enough to lower my average down to around a 42," Urato said.

The sophomore is also going to take a different approach to his game this year, he is hoping to play smart with no more going for the risky shots and he definitely wants to stay away from the three shot

putts.

"When I miss a putt that I think that I should have gotten it only makes things worse," he said. "I was not a real good putter last year, so I worked on that aspect of my game extremely hard this summer to improve."

As the season gets underway Urato is hoping that he can help Bartlett win more matches than they did last fall, while still having fun on the course; hoping that it doesn't have any affect for his love of the game.

TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING

dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com

Look closely at open enrollment choices



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Once again, it's the season for football games and back-to-school activities. And if you work for a medium-size or large employer, it will soon be open enrollment season—the time of year when you can review your employee benefits and make changes as needed.

What areas should you focus on?

Actually, it's a good idea to pay close attention to all your benefits. Some of the offerings may have changed from last year—and you might have experienced changes in your own life, too, which might lead you

to look for something different from your existing benefits package.

You may want to start with your health insurance. If you're satisfied with your coverage, and it's essentially the same as it's been, you may well want to stick with what you have. However, many employers are increasingly offering high-deductible health plans, which, as the name suggests, could entail more out-of-pocket costs for you. But high-deductible plans may also offer something of a benefit: the ability to contribute to a health savings account (HAS). Your HAS contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, so they reduce your taxable income for the year. Also, your earnings grow tax-free, provided the money is used for qualified medical expenses (withdrawals taken before age 65 that aren't used for qualified medical expenses are taxable and subject to a 20% penalty; once you reach 65, the penalty no

longer applies, although withdrawals are still taxable as income if not used for a qualified expense).

Your next benefit to consider: life insurance. Your employer may offer a group life insurance plan, but you'll want to evaluate whether it's sufficient for your needs, especially if you've experienced changes in your personal situation over the past year, such as getting married or adding a new child. There's no magic formula for how much life insurance you need—you'll need to consider a variety of factors, such as your income, family size, mortgage and so on—but it may be necessary to supplement your employer's coverage with a private policy.

Your employer may also offer disability insurance as a benefit. Some employers' disability policies are fairly limited, covering only short periods of time, so you may want to consider a private policy.

Beyond the various

insurance policies your employer may offer, you'll also want to look closely at your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. Typically, you can make changes to your 401(k) throughout the year, but it's important to make sure your investment selections and contribution amounts are still aligned with your risk tolerance and goals. Also, are you contributing enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered? And if you're already receiving the match, can you still afford to put in more to your plan if such a move makes sense to you?

Your employee benefits package can be a valuable part of your overall financial strategy. So, as open enrollment season proceeds, take a close look at what you already have, what's being offered, and what changes you need to make. It will be time well spent.

This article was written by Edward Jones for your local Edward Jones finan-

cial advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones advisor, at 5 Albert St., Auburn, tel. 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com

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CHIEF'S CORNER

swojnar@dudleypolice.com

Restraining orders - from state to state

BY CHIEF
STEVEN J. WOJNAR
DUDLEY POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Abuse prevention orders or "restraining orders" are common dealings for police officers. These are issued under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 209A and are designed to protect family or household members from abuse. With our proximity to Connecticut, I was asked if police can enforce similar orders from another state.

The answer to this is yes. Section 5A of Chapter 209A provides in part, "Any protection order issued by another jurisdiction, as defined in section one, shall be given

full faith and credit throughout the commonwealth and enforced as if it were issued in the commonwealth for as long as the order is in effect in the issuing jurisdiction." This law is designed to protect victims of domestic violence from further abuse. A victim should be afforded the proper protection, not denied simply because they have moved to another state. Prior to the mid-1990s, these victims were required to seek assistance from the local courts or police agencies after established hours, to obtain orders of protection. This law allows them the opportunity to maintain protection while they establish residence in a new state. Upon expiration of an order

or at the end of any term or condition, the person seeking protection is required to obtain further orders from the state in which they reside. Violations of restraining orders are an arrestable criminal offense, punishable by a fine and or a term of imprisonment in a jail or house of correction.

This law is important to assist those fleeing from abuse. It eliminates an additional step in the abuse prevention process. This law protects victims and their children during a move to another state. This makes what is usually a stressful and often frightening experience somewhat easier.

For those still seeking vaccination or COVID related

information, it can be found at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling The Board of Health 508-949-8036. During these challenging times, we, at the Dudley Police Department, greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

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

Open Sky Community Services to Host Health Fair at Alternatives Whitin Mill

Open Sky Community Services invites the community to a free Health Fair at the Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Rd. in Whitinsville on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The fair will feature a variety of free exercise classes including classes from Brave Yoga, Beatz Dance Studio and Tai Chi with Ron Allen. There will be exhibitors representing different areas of health and wellness including Nutritionist Michelle Mix from Hannaford, students from the Blackstone Valley Vocational Technical High School Health Services shop, Special Olympics Massachusetts and many more! In addition, there will be a Chili Cook Off and healthy snacks.

This free event is open to anyone in the community and is a great opportunity for school groups, families, and senior citizens. We are still accepting vendors for the health fair. If interested, please contact Shannon Gwinn at (774) 922-7577 or Shannon.gwinn@open-skycs.org.

What: Community Health Fair

Who: Hosted by Open Sky Community Services. Open to anyone in the community. Dozens of local health and wellness vendors will be present.

Where: Alternatives' Whitin Mill, 50 Douglas Rd. Whitinsville, MA

When: Wednesday, September 28th, 2022, 10AM-4PM.

Cost: Free!

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TALES FROM BEYOND

tomdagostino.com

Multiple spirits haunt the Shanley Hotel – Part II

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

Here is the second part of the two-part series on the haunted Shanley Hotel in upstate New York.

In 2001 the property was purchased and renovated by Salvatore Nicosia. Sadly Salvatore passed away in 2017, and one year later, the building was once again abandoned and up for sale. It reopened under new management in 2018 and has since become a destination for paranormal enthusiasts. Connecticut Paranormal Research Team founder Christine Peer worked with Sal at the hotel on weekends for eight years. She and her husband, Dan, witnessed countless paranormal phenomena.

According to Christine, in 1915, Dr. Walter Nelson Thayer backed his car out of the alley between his home and the hotel and accidentally ran over a boy named Jonathan. Jonathan was taken to his third-floor room, where he died a few days later. His body was

taken for burial, but his spirit remained, and to this day, he is one of the more active ghosts in the hotel. Jonathan's spirit became attached to Christine more than the others. The husband and wife research team would learn much more about the Shanley during their tenure there. Christine stated, "not only are there residual haunts, most of the haunts are intelligent. Each night the occurrences guests and [I] experienced would always be different. It was like the hotel was still in operation to the deceased that once visited. You never knew which spirit was going to come through and let you know they were there. I, along with several guests, have experienced seeing an apparition somewhere in the building, hearing footsteps going up and down the hallways when everyone is in one location together and seeing and hearing door knobs turning and doors opening or closing on their own."

Christine would help

get the rooms ready for the arrival of guests. She considered those moments "quality time" with the spirits who would often call her name or use other ways to let her know they were there with her. One strange incident in particular sometimes happened while she was folding laundry downstairs.

She would hear a ball bouncing on the staircase in the hall. As she approached the staircase, she would watch the ball roll from the third-floor landing, turn the corner, bounce down the stairs to the second floor, and eventually roll into the room where she was folding the laundry. She would carry the ball back up the stairs and place it back in the room where Jonathan died. Within a few minutes, the ball would come rolling back into the room she was working in. It appeared that Jonathan felt like playing a game.

One time, while her daughters were staying the weekend, Christine decided to give them a tour of the

third-floor rooms. As soon as they came to Jonathan's room, they all heard a little boy's voice say, "Don't be scared; come in and play." Her daughters became frightened and ran back downstairs. They would later ask to buy toys for the little ghost boy so he would have some to play with. Guests also began to bring toys for both Jonathan and

Rosie.

Christine, Dan, and their paranormal research team continue to make the Shanley Hotel their home base. They are always excited about visiting there because they never know who will "pop by" to visit and chat with them.

The hotel has 35 rooms, secret passages, a basement, an attic, quite an illustri-

ous history, and plenty of ghosts. Guests can bring their own equipment, or it is furnished for use. The hotel also has ghost hunting equipment in the gift shop for sale. No weapons or alcohol are allowed on the premises. For more information and booking, go to www.thehauntedshanleyhotel.com.

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