

LKQ called to account for soot draining into Webster Lake



Damaging runoff like this from the LKQ Auto Parts lot above Webster Lake needs to be contained, Glenn Krevosky of EBT Environmental Consultants in North Oxford says.

BY ROD LEE

The folks at LKQ Route 16 Auto Parts on Old Douglas Road in Webster are undoubtedly familiar with Glenn Krevosky and Mr. Krevosky's concerns about runoff from the company's property onto land owned by at least one client of his and into Webster Lake.

Mr. Krevosky is the owner of EBT Environmental Consultants

Inc., a North Oxford-based firm that has been in business since about 1986. He describes himself as a wetland scientist, a restoration professional and a cold water fishery expert. His forte is ecological science and regulatory policy.

By his own count, Mr. Krevosky is working on more than seventy projects at any given time, while trying to get LKQ to adhere to an Order of Conditions imposed on

it by the town of Webster approximately two years ago.

Recently, Mr. Krevosky reached out to The Yankee Xpress in an effort to call new attention to the situation.

"LKQ is the largest polluter of soot that goes into Webster Lake,"

LKQ

continued on page 2



Oxford Town Manager Jen Callahan, a former Massachusetts state representative.

Callahan stresses teamwork as Oxford town positives

BY JANET STOICA

When Oxford Town Manager Jennifer Callahan was asked what the town's major accomplishments have been, the overview she gave was quite remarkable. She was quick to mention the teamwork and achievements of all town employees.

"Oxford is very fortunate to have exceptional employees who work for the benefit of all of us. Our town employees come to work each day and do the best job they can. This is why at our town meetings

we vote for the best benefits we can for our town workers," she said. "Teamwork is essential for our town's success."

"Last year we had a lot of great success coming out of the pandemic and trying to pick up our normal business routine," said Ms. Callahan, "but I can't be more thrilled about our master plan and the well-measured spending of our resources for capital projects and community

TOWN MANAGER

continued on page 2

YOUR SERVICE DESERVES OUR REWARDS!!!



Are you one of our Community Heroes?

If you have served or currently serve in the military, law enforcement, firefighter, EMS, healthcare or teacher, we want to celebrate and REWARD you for your service. Our national program has REWARDED over 50,000 heroes with total rewards exceeding \$100 MILLION. If you are buying or selling a home let us say THANK YOU with a REWARD check equivalent to 25% of our commission with an additional 5% given to the Homes for Heroes Foundation to help other heroes in need.

Call to schedule your free consultation and let us get started on presenting you a REWARD check.



Jo-Ann Szymczak
774-230-5044

Diane Luong
774-239-2937



RE/MAX Advantage I
25 Union St.
4th Floor
Worcester, MA 01608

TAKE
10%
OFF

YOUR NEXT SERVICE VISIT
OF \$50 OR MORE.
Must present coupon at write-up.
Valid until 2.28.2023



WHITINSVILLE | WEBSTER

(508) 499-3510

harbroauto.com/service

LKQ

continued from page 1

he contends. “They have been getting away” with it even though the Webster Conservation Commission, the Webster Lake Association, the EPA and the Commonwealth are aware of the problem.

According to Mr. Krevosky, the Webster Lake Association, of which he is a member, has a

“I just want them to comply with the Order of Conditions. You have to stabilize that yard, for heavy, silty, clay soils. This is clay and silt. Bigger basins are needed. I told them they had to crush-stone their yard. When it rains you can’t see a quarter inch into the water, and I have a client just below there. Rocks are coated with silt and algae, out comes a plume of silt on leaves and rocks. It’s truly ‘Brown’s Brook’ during a rain event. This is

French River, to clean it up in my lifetime, and I’m in my 60s.”

Sadly, he adds, of damaging runoff from the LKQ property, “with rain it will show its ugly head again; and our rain events are now several times a year.”

He identifies LKQ as “a Fortune 500 company” whose principals may not be that alarmed about the matter.

As this is written, messages have gone out to LKQ, to Joseph Wigglesworth and Dawn Portman of the Webster Conservation Commission, and to the EPA, with no response to date.

On Thursday, February 2nd, Dave Deegan in the Office of Public Affairs with the EPA’s New England Region, replying to a follow-up email, wrote “thanks for the reminder—I’ll recheck for you.”

“This is in EPA’s hands right now,” Mr. Krevosky says. “I don’t trust them.”

In an email on behalf of the US EPA, Dave Deegan wrote “as you know, in 2012 EPA announced a settlement with LKQ Northeast Inc., for alleged violations of federal storm water requirements at several of their facilities, including in Webster. EPA’s enforcement action against the company was for the discharge of pollutants (including sediment). Under the settlement the company is required to implement improvements to their site’s best management practices in order to have pollutant concentrations come below their industrial sector’s benchmark thresholds.

“In addition to taking specific actions to mitigate the excess pollution to the surrounding environment, the settlement requires the company to provide regular reports to EPA documenting the progress and compliance with terms of the settlement agreement.”

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



An overhead view of Webster Lake with Lakeview Marine on Thompson Road in the foreground.

“Stream Team” that monitors the condition of such waterways as Mine Brook, Sucker Brook and Brown’s Brook.

The issue involves fifteen acres of “exposed canton soil” from which contamination leaks, especially during periods of heavy rain.

The LKQ property sits high above Webster Lake. As soon as water that is “crystal clear” up to that point hits the LKQ yard “you have chocolate coming out of that site,” Mr. Krevosky says.

an ongoing issue.

“Nine, ten years ago, I went there for water-quality testing. A basin was required and the EPA was involved. The basin only receives 1/6 of that drainage.”

There are those who say “it’s all been rectified. Look at it during a rain event and it’s not fixed,” Mr. Krevosky says.

Mr. Krevosky is a veteran of such battles.

In 1979, he said, “I took on the

TOWN MANAGER

continued from page 1

planning. Our financials were addressed in a very positive way. The success of our accomplishments is reflected in the \$6 million in grants we received.” Examples are the \$2.8 million MassWorks grant received to provide sewer access across Route 20; a \$200,000 Green Communities grant; \$302,000 street grant; and an ADA grant of \$182,000 to increase ADA access.

“These are huge opportunities,” said Ms. Callahan. “We also have the Leicester Street bridge project which will make over that structure using multi-million dollar state funding. We have many other grants that will help Oxford like the Open Space Recreation Grant. I’m proud of all our departments working together to obtain this funding. An example is the Lowe’s Pond Dam that will be replaced with assistance from the Department of Conservation which is a significant infrastructure project. Another great asset to our town has been the appointment of Laura Wilson as our Senior Center director. We have seen a very positive response from our town’s celebrated senior population to her appointment. Her hard work and dedication has been a great success for all of us.”

The Mass. School Building Authority has recently granted funding for new roof replacements in the town’s two elementary schools and the town has also recently begun a feasibility study for its Community Center. “The building needs upgrades and a final report is due in February,” said Ms. Callahan. “We realize this building is a valuable asset to our town and we want to ensure it remains that way.”

Successful town activities launched and well-attended by

townspeople include the Winter Festival, Movies-on-Main, Teddy Bear Picnics, Carbuncle Pond activities, and the Holiday Parade. “Our master plan and public-ity has attracted people to come downtown and enjoy the camaraderie of their fellow neighbors. It brings people closer together. It’s so positive,” said Town Manager Callahan.

“We have been so very successful working together in all our town departments,” said Ms. Callahan. “Our employees have been great. Other projects that we’re looking forward to include grant funding for the French River Bike Trail by having discussions with adjoining towns, our Visitor Center on Charlton Street, and our Store Front Enhancement Program that will offer assistance to our local businesses for their façade improvements in the areas of signage and landscaping. We hope to work on unique storefront enhancements. We are also looking forward to the Orchard Hill improvement and expansion project. This looks like it could be several hundred million dollars of new investment in Oxford that includes beautiful townhouses. I am very excited about the work we do here. I said when I came to Oxford four years ago that I wanted to make sure we improved the town for all residents and I believe with the hard work and great accomplishments of all our town employees we are well on our way to achieving our goals.”

“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.”

— Andrew Carnegie

Contact Janet: jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

The Yankee Xpress

Published on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Direct mailed to nearly 65,000 homes and businesses each month and available on news stands through the region.

2nd Friday: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford & Webster - 1/2 of all addresses
2nd Friday: Blackstone Valley South: Douglas, Northbridge & Uxbridge
4th Friday: Auburn, Charlton, Dudley, Oxford & Webster - other 1/2 of all addresses
4th Friday: Blackstone Valley North: Grafton, Millbury & Sutton.

Contact us:
 Rod Lee, Editor: rodlee.1963@gmail.com
 Submit business news and community events to news@theyankeeexpress.com
 Request advertising information: ads@theyankeeexpress.com
 Diane Galipeau, Advertising Sales Manager: dgalipeau@theyankeeexpress.com
 Laura Gleim, Billing & Sales: lgleim@theyankeeexpress.com
 Bill Cronan, Blackstone Valley Sales: bcronan@theyankeeexpress.com

Kimberly Vasseur, Production Manager
 Sally Patterson, Graphic Artist / Carol Kosth, Graphic Artist
 Contributing Writers and Columnists: Tom D’Agostino, Christine Galeone, Amy Palumbo-Leclaire, Janet Stoica

The Newspaper Press, LLC/©2023
 168 Gore Road, Webster MA 01570 • 508-943-8784 • www.theyankeeexpress.com

WELCOME!

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

Vacuums always 75¢

BIG KAHUNA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 50%;">• BIG KAHUNA CARNUBA WAX <li style="width: 50%;">• SHIELD “HIGH GLOSS TOTAL PROTECTANT” <li style="width: 50%;">• UNDERCARRIAGE WASH W/ROCKER BLASTER <li style="width: 50%;">• SPOT FREE RINSE <li style="width: 50%;">• X2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK <li style="width: 50%;">• LASERDRI <li style="width: 50%;">• HIGH PRESSURE WASH <li style="width: 50%;">• FOAMING POLISH <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$18</p>
DELUXE WASH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 50%;">• UNDERCARRIAGE WASH W/ROCKER BLASTER <li style="width: 50%;">• SHIELD “HIGH GLOSS TOTAL PROTECTANT” <li style="width: 50%;">• X2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK <li style="width: 50%;">• SPOT FREE RINSE <li style="width: 50%;">• HIGH PRESSURE WASH <li style="width: 50%;">• LASERDRI <li style="width: 50%;">• FOAMING POLISH <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$15</p>
SUPER WASH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 50%;">• UNDERCARRIAGE WASH W/ROCKER BLASTER <li style="width: 50%;">• TOTAL PROTECTANT” <li style="width: 50%;">• X2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK <li style="width: 50%;">• SPOT FREE RINSE <li style="width: 50%;">• HIGH PRESSURE WASH <li style="width: 50%;">• LASERDRI <li style="width: 50%;">• SHIELD “HIGH GLOSS <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$12</p>
BASIC WASH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 50%;">• X2 PASS FOAMING PRESOAK <li style="width: 50%;">• TOTAL PROTECTANT” <li style="width: 50%;">• HIGH PRESSURE WASH <li style="width: 50%;">• SPOT FREE RINSE <li style="width: 50%;">• SHIELD “HIGH GLOSS <li style="width: 50%;">• LASERDRI <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">\$9</p>

Xpressly Yours ... a letter from the editor

Women's Success Network, BV Chamber spread a little love

February may be a short month, but it is also one of substance thanks to the Women's Success Network and its parent organization: the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce.



BY ROD LEE

The first day of February marked the start of the Women's Success Network's "New Mother Collective Drive," with donations of such items as baby formula, diapers, wipes, baby toiletries, new clothes (size newborn-4T), new baby equipment (car seats, bouncy seats, pack and plays, etc.), gift cards, handmade items (blankets, hats, toys, etc.) and items to pamper mom being accepted at a number of convenient drop-off locations.

Homefield Credit Union is one of those and pleased to be a participating, according to President and CEO Karl Moisan and his managers and staff.

"This is our first time," Mr. Moisan said, of the second annual event, which runs right through the 28th. But giving back is nothing new for Homefield Credit Union, whose employees engage with community through such activities as the Frosty stop with the Grafton Fire Department, the Grafton PD's annual toy drive and night out initiatives, the UMass Cancer Walk and Family Night at the Bandstand in Milford.

This past fall, Homefield worked with the Grafton PD to collect seventy-five toys for the "fill-a-cruiser" campaign, and with the Post Office Pub to arrange for sixty meals for local senior citizens—complete with a slice of apple pie.

Homefield has been involved with the Chamber's Women Success Network for just under a year. The New Mother Collective Drive coincides with the start of

the credit union's "twelve months of giving," Mr. Moisan said.

Day One of the New Mother Collective Drive was also a "Rewards Day" for Homefield employees, in which they are allowed to dress down in recognition of efforts they have made in the credit union's ongoing "quest for the best" push.

UniBank, Millbury Federal Credit Union, the Chamber and the Whitin Community Center are also all drop-off sites for the drive. Donations will be distributed to local food pantries and nonprofit community agencies serving new mothers in the Blackstone Valley.

In the case of the banks and credit unions, donations are being accepted at all branches. All of the banks and credit unions participating are active on the giving-back-to-community front.

Individuals and families that want to donate an item not listed among those that are being accepted for the New Mother Collection Drive are asked to email administrator@blackstonevalley.org or to call 508-234-9090.

Pat Hurton notes that the Women's Success Network is always looking for new members as a way for women to expand their business opportunities through access to prominent speakers, educational workshops and networking social events.

February and March are busy months for the Blackstone Valley Chamber.

On Friday, February 10th at 10:30 a.m. there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Spicy Water Distillery at 108 Elm St. in Millbury. The new distillery specializes in creating unique handcrafted flavor experiences with such offerings as Caribbean-inspired rum, gluten-free vodka, a variety of gins and an American agave spirit.

A "Love Your Legislator" breakfast at Galliford's Restaurant & Tavern at Southwick's Zoo in Mendon will occur, appropriately enough, on Valentine's Day—Tuesday, February



14th—as a salute to the region's legislative delegation. The event will give attendees a chance to ask questions about pending bills in the Massachusetts House and Senate and other action taking place on Beacon Hill.

Then on Saturday, March 25th, the Chamber's annual Home and Community Expo returns for the twenty-third time at the Northbridge High School Field House.

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

Pictured from left: Karl Moisan, Jen Marble, Stephanie Antaya, Maureen Wojnar, Julie Tripp and Kelly Benoit prepare to accept donations at Homefield Credit Union in Grafton on February 1st as the Women's Success Network's month-long New Mother Collective Drive kicks off.

Economy Canvas & Awning Co.



Pool Cover Repairs
Over 34 years of service in the community

Retractable & Stationary Awnings
Boat & Truck Covers and Related Products

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




115 Hamilton St., Southbridge, MA
508-765-5921

www.EconomyCanvasAndAwning.com

HANK'S LIQUORS

94 East Main St. • Webster, MA

Fine Wine • Spirits • Craft Beer • Lottery • Bottle Redemption • In-Store Specials

Excellent Selection • Convenient Store Shopping • Discount Store Pricing
Fine Cigars • 99¢ Nips



We have the perfect Wines, Beers and Spirits for Valentine's Day!



Gift Certificates Available!

BEER IS NOW COOLED BY SOLAR POWER!

Hours: Mon-Sat 8 am-11 pm • Sun 10 am - 10 pm

Adult Day Health Program serving your community

Family Owned and Operated



- Reliable Partner Assisting Families
- Offering Skilled Nursing
- Personal Care
- Case Management

- Recreation
- Homey, Fun & Secure
- Nutrition and Transportation Services
- We Follow CDC/MA COVID-19 Guidelines

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

--Marcia T



ADULT DAY CENTER

10 Cudworth Road, Webster, MA 01570
508-949-3598
www.accorddaycenter.com

Booklovers' Gourmet to host special mid-winter concert

Booklovers' Gourmet's reputation as a bastion for artists of all kinds will take another leap forward on Saturday, February 11 when the Webster-based married duo Mark Mandeville and Raianne Richards perform a variety of folk songs from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in "an intimate listening-room setting."

Booklovers' Gourmet is

located at 72 E. Main St. in Webster.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the show and general-admission tickets are limited. Call 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com to reserve a spot.

Beverages and snacks will be available.

Mark and Raianne have produced more than seventeen

albums and toured regularly in the U.S. and Canada.

Attendees of the concert will get to know the couple through their vocal harmonies, poetic lyrics and down-to-earth persona.

Their music reflects the experiences of factory workers, teachers, community organizers and natives of post-industrial mill towns in Massachusetts.



The Webster folk duo Raianne Richards and Mark Mandeville.

Evident in their work are memories of days gone by and the toils of history, in such songs as "The Old Machine" and "Winds of Change."

They will utilize the guitar, harmonica, ukele, penny whistle, electric bass and possibly clarinet in delivering songs that are musically uplifting and

spiritually captivating.

Home to new and used books, gifts and jewelry, journals, a café, author appearances, exhibitions, poetry readings and the like, Booklovers' Gourmet has earned its place as a favorite stop for aficionados of art and literature.

INCOME TAXES

Personal & Business



WILLIAM N. KRING

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

103 W. Main Street, Dudley • 508-949-1439

20% DISCOUNT FOR NEW CLIENTS



Now Hiring For:

**Cooks • Servers • Dishwashers • Housekeeping
Skilled & Visiting Nurses***

***May be Eligible for \$3K - \$20K Sign - On Bonus**

**Full Benefits Starting Day 1, Free Meals, Tuition Reimbursement, 401K w/Company Match,
Best in Industry Mileage Reimbursement for Traveling Positions \$0.62.5 per Mile**

88 Masonic Home Rd, Charlton, MA 01507

Direct Line: (508) 434-2325

E-Mail: DL-Recruiting@overlook-mass.org

www.overlook-mass.org/careers



I've been DECA-fied, and proud of it

BY JANET STOICA

Last year, a teacher I know in my local school system asked me to be a judge at a competition for high school students at the DCU Center in Worcester. I enjoyed that competition so much that I enrolled as a judge again this year for the January 12th activity.

The event, entitled DECA ("Distributive Education Clubs of America") District 7 Competition, involves students who prepare business presentations while in groups of two. They are given their assignment after they have arrived at the competition venue and must use their prep time wisely team-collaborating to not only prepare their marketing techniques but also to practice their public-speaking skills. The students are bussed in from high schools as far as Palmer to Grafton and all towns in-between. Judges are teachers, sales reps, managers, lawyers, and every profession in-between.

The judges are seated in various large conference rooms awaiting pairs of student presenters who must use presentation standards established by DECA. Each presentation involves a scenario for marketing a product or service. These young women and men in attendance are dressed in business attire such as suits, business dresses, or jackets and ties. Do teenagers really dress like this? Is this for real? Yes, it most definitely is...seeing is believing, and immediately gives us judges a refreshingly excellent first impression of our future leaders of tomorrow. Most of these high schoolers are in their junior or senior years but a few are also freshmen and sophomores. I



must give a large amount of credit to the freshmen and sophomores for their ability to qualify for this district event.

Once formal introductions are made by the students to the judges, much like that in real life if one were presenting an idea/product to a business, the students have up to 15 minutes to make their pitch. They review what they are about to present for their marketing goals and then dive into the salient points of their presentation. One student will begin the presentation and hand off the next section to their partner. After their address, judges ask the team prepared questions and listen intently to their responses. Students are then thanked for their time while judges, using

an e-tablet or laptop, must then score the students on a scale of 1-8 (with 8 being the high score) on various aspects of their presentation skills. Judges' comments are also encouraged and appreciated for the benefit of student review.

I was blown away, once again, by the professionalism and imaginations of these future leaders of our country. Not only were they exact and extremely proficient in their presentations but their courtesy to one another as they finished each piece of their report was truly exceptional. Their parent(s) and/or

caregiver(s) are to be commended for their teenager's manners and mindset. Their instructors are to be praised for their coaching skills assisting our future leaders to stay on course and to the point. I mean, these students were extraordinary, they were stupendous, they were rock stars! Of course I'm impressed and you would be too after seeing, reading, and hearing too much negative behavior that seems to permeate our society these days.

Listening to the words and watching the behavior of all the young men and women at the

DECA competition will remain with me for months to come. I was astounded by their competence, their mannerisms, and their style. I have truly been DECA-fied and hope to continue judging at this most important event which will always serve to rejuvenate my faith in our best and brightest younger generation. "Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family." Kofi Annan

Contact Janet at jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

CAPITOL SIDING & HOME IMPROVEMENT COMPANY, INC.

Custom Exteriors • Vinyl Siding • Roofing
Replacement Windows • Seamless Gutters

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

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

AP Mandella Landscaping

STUMP GRINDING
Chip Removal • LOAM & SEED

Free Estimates Fully Insured

Small Backhoe Services

Call Anthony @ 508-340-1640 • Auburn, MA

We're Cheap

LEBLANC
EST. 2008
OIL LLC
508-248-1444
24 HOUR SERVICE

- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Automatic Delivery
- Fuel Assistance Accepted
- Burner Service
- Licensed in House Technicians (NO subcontracting)
- Oil Tank Installations (Free Estimates)

We do NOT add biofuel to our product

DELIVERY AREAS

MASSACHUSETTS: Auburn, Brimfield, Brookfield, Charlton, Cherry Valley, Dudley, East Brookfield, Fiskdale, Holland, Leicester, North Brookfield, North Oxford, Millbury, Oxford, Rochdale, Spencer, Southbridge, Sturbridge, Sutton & Webster.

CONNECTICUT: N. Grosvenordale, Quinebaug, Thompson & Woodstock.

Monday-Friday 7:30am-5pm Saturday 9:30am-2pm

5¢ OFF PER GALLON OF OIL OF 175 GALLONS OR MORE

Must present coupon. Offer cannot be combined.

OFFICE LOCATION: 34 NEWMAN AVE., SOUTHBRIDGE

United Way is Our Way

BY JANET STOICA

“What I like about the United Way is that they support so many non-profits,” said Denise Gorski, Campaign Chairman of the South Central United Way organization, “donation dollars given go a long way. There’s such a great bridge of support for so many different needs in our community. When I worked for IBM 16 years ago, I became a member of their local planning committee and then served on their board. When I returned to this area, I served on the local board. Three years ago we merged with three other towns becoming the South Central United Way. Those towns are Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge, and Webster.”

Ms. Gorski stated that the South Central United Way serves 70,000 residents and supports 21 non-profit agencies such as the Tri-Valley Meals-on-Wheels program (providing meals for our disabled and senior population), The Boys and Girls Club, Guild of St. Agnes, Big Brother/Big Sister Organization, Care Central (VNA and hospice services), and Our Bright Future (an academic youth program). “Our campaign goal this year,

which ends in September 2023, is \$584,000. We’ve raised 70% of our goal and look to the local citizens of our towns to help us in meeting our target. Without the help of our area community, we could never reach our goal to help so many in our own neighborhoods. We have seen an increase in our workplace campaign contributions which is so very rewarding. We’d like for everyone to find it in their hearts to support us as the money stays right here in our area. It’s for the good of all of us,” she said.

Workplace campaigns are overseen by United Way and there are large donors that the local chapter is extremely grateful for: Cornerstone Bank, Karl Storz Endovision, Dexter-Russell, Incom, Inc., and Savers Bank. The chapter has recently created a 365 Small Business Circle to bring together smaller businesses to help with meeting their donation goal. These businesses can help improve the lives of struggling families by showing the community they care.

The local United Way chapter’s overhead is 7% which means that 93 cents of every dollar given goes directly to each non-profit agency supported by your donation. This overhead amount falls into the highest ranking category of Charity



Volunteers are crucial to the United Way’s mission, which includes programming like robotics. Denise Gorski is a campaign chair.

Navigator, the nation’s most-utilized charity evaluator, which states that a charity organization that has an overhead below 15% is one of the best.

February kicks off with the United Way accepting non-profit agency applications for their annual Day of Caring. This is a project where United Way volunteers assist non-profits with projects such as indoor or outdoor painting, cleanups, etc. This year the event is scheduled for June 3rd and volunteers are always welcome.

“I get satisfaction from helping people and seeing the results of our programs that help people. When you see the outcome of your efforts it’s a good feeling,” said Ms. Gorski.

It’s true! A rising tide does lift all boats! Your donation to the United Way of South Central Massachusetts, no matter how small, will surely benefit not only those who need your help the most but will also be passed on to the local economy. To donate, to volunteer, to make a difference, please contact the local office at (508) 765-5491.

On-line giving forms can be found on their website: www.uwscm.org United Way of South Central Mass., 176 Main Street, Suite 400, Southbridge MA 01550

“For it is in giving that we receive.”

– St. Francis of Assisi

Contact Janet at jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Fred D. Giovaninni
HANDYMAN SERVICE

ALL TYPES OF REPAIRS • IN & OUT
NO JOB IS TOO SMALL

- FREE ESTIMATES
- GENERAL CARPENTRY
- DRY WALL REPAIR
- RENOVATIONS
- ITEMS ASSEMBLED
- INTERIOR PAINTING
- ETCETERA....

MA# 155844 INSURED
CALL (508) 904-9728 DUDLEY, MA

OXFORD FARMS

TREAT YOURSELF TO THE INCREDIBLE TASTE OF FRESH LOCAL

Vegetables

Freshly picked
 No Chemicals
 Natural sources of fertility
 Mineralized soils

Sign up for a Farm Share today!

Oxford Farms
 103 Federal Hill Road, Oxford, MA
 617-697-8602 • oxfordfarmsma.com

New chief in Dudley

Dudley Police Lt. Marek Karlowicz was sworn in as the town’s next police chief by Town Clerk Lori A. Smith on January 9th. Chief Karlowicz was the unanimous choice of selectmen to succeed retiring Chief Steven Wojnar, effective at noon on January 13th. Lt. Karlowicz was hired as a reserve officer in 2000. He became a full-time patrolman in 2002 and was promoted to sergeant in 2019. He was sworn in as Lt. in January. The town extends its congratulations to Chief Wojnar on his retirement and to incoming Chief Karlowicz.

Highway superintendent gives update on Webster road work

BY JANET STOICA

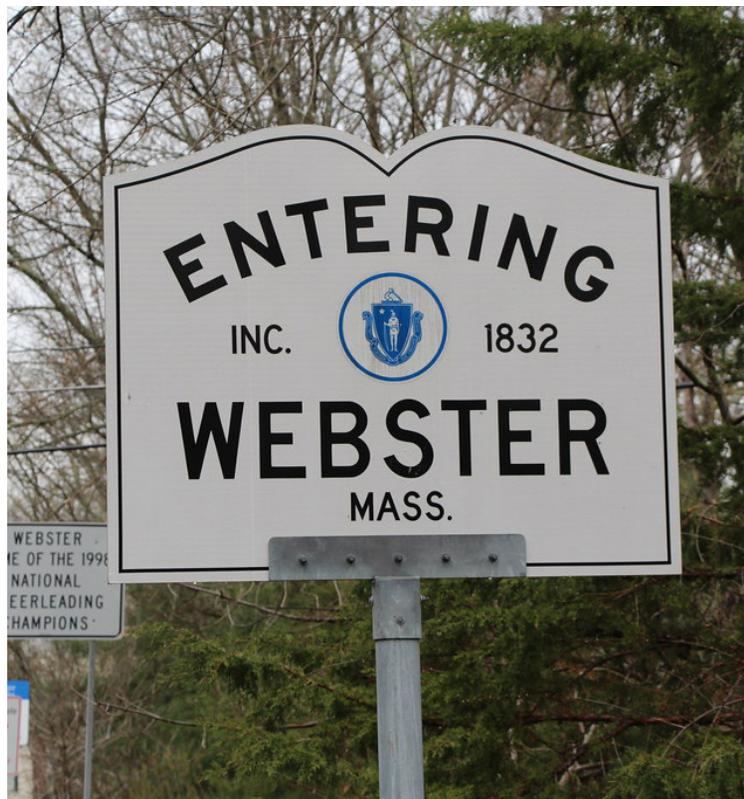
According to the town of Webster's website, the following roads are scheduled for utility updates beginning in January and running through March. The National Grid Gas Division has scheduled the roadwork in order to install new gas main replacements. Residents and drivers are asked to exercise caution when negotiating the following byways of town:

- East Main Street/Route 12 (Worcester Road)
- Thompson Road Intersection – East Main Street to Second Island Road
- Thompson Road/Kosmas Street
- Lake Street/Thompson Road Intersection
- Racicot Avenue

As many residents are aware, there has been much water and sewer main road construction in the Lake Street area as well and Highway Superintendent Ken Pizzetti stated that due to road construction supply hold-ups it will be a few more months before completion of the project. The backup in construction is expected to last until April of this year.

"By the time road settlement occurs in a 60-day period, the road should be finished and striped by August," he said, "and if all goes well, the road may be finished earlier but with supplies being delivered later than expected, we are being cautious with our completion dates. We have no control over the manufacturers. So much depends upon the winter weather which is so unpredictable. Temperatures could be 30 degrees for three days and then 50 degrees for the next three days delaying the supplier's manufacturing process."

National Grid's nine-year new gas main project is nearing its end in the Webster area. Webster's gas main replacement project is most likely in its seventh year. "National Grid has the capability to dig and complete their projects through the winter," Mr. Pizzetti said. "This will allow us to pave in the spring and summer. With a decent winter, we might have three of their street projects finished soon. We have to allow the road to settle first and then paving can begin. We're definitely ahead of the curve based on their timeline. The rest of Granite Street is on the schedule too. We hope to begin the remainder of the Granite



Motorists entering the town of Webster will encounter a number of road construction projects that are due to be completed soon.

Street project by April 1st."

The old steel gas pipes were more susceptible to leakage. The new gas main material is rated to have a 100-year life and is manufactured using a high performance, bi-modal, medium density polyethylene resin which exceeds industry standards and provides excellent environmental stress crack resistance and outstanding long-term stress rupture performance and the trenching is cleaned and packed well once the new mains are installed.

When asked about how the highway department treats the local roads in winter, Mr. Pizzetti explained that pre-treated salt is used. "All road salt is EPA-rated," he said, "it's safer for the environment and is just a better product. Road materials are much better too. When treating the roads during the winter you just don't put a cost on the material used as it's a public safety issue. Webster was

one of the first towns in the area to use pre-treated salt resulting in neighboring town highway departments visiting us and observing the product usage and its better results. It saves us money in the long run and is much better for road cleaning too. There's no use for sand anymore which also saves money on road cleaning. There's a lot of planning that goes into the clearing of our roads when snow and ice hits. We keep our snowplows in great shape and are well organized with a great crew. They are a very talented group. We hold monthly meetings for updates and for obtaining feedback from our staff."

Contact Janet: jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

Prayer



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

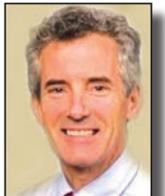
If you pray three times a day, three consecutive days, you will receive your intention, no matter how impossible it may seem. Praise and Thanksgiving please the Heart of God. **Believer**

HEARING AIDS

We help you bring your hearing back to life



Jim & Ralph - CT Licensed and Board Certified Hearing Instruments Specialists
Call today to schedule your Hearing Evaluation and FREE Better Hearing Test Drive.



amplisound

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

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



www.amplisound.com



Shipping made easy!



- Packing • Shipping
- Packaging Materials
- Fax, Copies & Printing
- Document Scanning
- Mailbox Rental • Office Supplies

Monday-Friday 10am-5pm
Saturday 9am-1pm • Closed Sunday

626 School St., (Rte. 44), Putnam, CT 06260
860-963-7815 ExpressShippingPutnamCt.com

Sweets for your Sweetie!

Chocolate-Dipped Pretzels & Oreos, Giant Marshmallows & PB Cups, Heart Pops Gourmet Coffee & Teas



PLUS: Valentine Cards, Gnomes & Plush Handmade Jewelry, Soaps & Soy Candles

Cute Valentine Children's Books

20% OFF

with this ad - exp. 2/14/23



Booklovers' Gourmet
Books • Coffee • Gifts

72 East Main Street, Webster (near CAP Auto & The Flower Garden) 
Hours: Tues.-Sat. 10-5, Wed. 10-6 • www.bookloversgourmet.com • 508-949-6232
Shop online: bookshop.org/shop/bookloversgourmet

Webster's Gladys E. Kelly Library visitor numbers increase by 300%

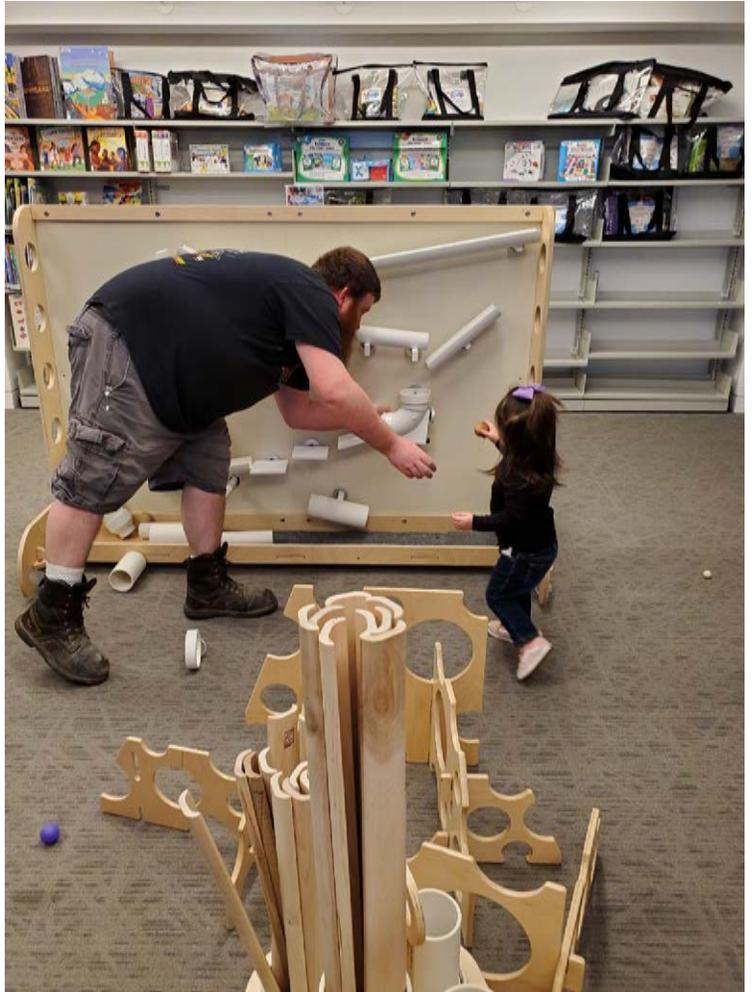
BY JANET STOICA

The Gladys E. Kelly Library is alive, vibrant, and pleased to report a 300% increase in patrons visiting the educational institution over the past year. In 2021, visitors were tallied at 1,000. In 2022, the library experienced an increase to 4,000 users. The number is incredible and a testament to the voters of Webster who saw the future benefit of their library's building and expansion of services offered.

"We attribute our increased population to our new and regularly scheduled and dependable programs for all ages," said Sondra Murphy, Library Director. "We have recently added a full-time Program Coordinator, Randa Cox, who has been instrumental in activity development. Our entire staff has been working hard to keep our programs and activities going. We are proud of what we have accomplished." Staff members include: Evan Hale, Assistant Director; An-

drew Tai, Children's and Youth Services Librarian; Natalie McDonald, Children's Assistant; and Jen Millett and Janessa Barrette, Library Assistants.

The Library Board's agenda recently included a five-year plan in accordance with state requirements and asked the town's citizens to participate by placing the survey on the library website, in the library lobby, at the senior center, and in the town hall. As of this writing, over 100 responses had been received with a last



The Gladys E. Kelly Library's newest member tries out the new Magnetic Board with her dad.

It's Happening in THE last green valley™

Now is the Time to Experience Nature

Over 100 choices beckon you outside in the fresh air! Blossom with friends & family on guided walks, hikes, pedals, paddles, runs, events and more.

www.thelastgreenvalley.org

submission date of February 1. Community involvement is the life blood of any public entity and the library's goals have gained a great amount of momentum. "We have hired a consultant, Barbara Alevras, to assist us with our five-year plan. Our local committee consists off Donna Becker, Elaine Davies, Rena Klebart, and myself.

We've created the community survey and after tabulating the survey results, we hope to have focus groups," Ms. Murphy stated.

Brainstorming will continue with a look at the history of and future plans for the library. Once results have been compiled objectives and goals will

Call us!
508-987-9829
• Drop-off Service
• Day, Night & Weekend Appointments available
• Great Rates

TIME FOR A Change?

Has your preparer retired? Unable to help you this year?

Robert Rea & Associates

68 Years of Tax Preparation Experience
Payroll • Tax Preparation • Bookkeeping

244 Main Street, Oxford, MA 01540 • www.robertreaandassociates.com



NEW CABINETS, COUNTERS, CABINET PAINTING, REFACING...

NU-FACE KITCHENS 298 Boston Tpke., Suite #5, Shrewsbury
508.842.6677 | nufacekitchens.com
Studio Hours By Appointment Only
Sheila@nufacekitchens.com

be established for the strategic plan which will be reviewed and approved by the Library Trustees with submission to the state in October. The end goal is to use the plan to navigate the library's future. "There hasn't been a comprehensive plan done in a long time," said Ms. Murphy, "but we will use this new information to learn what the community wants as we look at and plan for the future."

Ms. Murphy elaborated on the Kelly Library's recent developments where they applied for

and received a \$9,000 grant for a Community Garden. "The Webster DPW is gracious enough to assemble the raised beds for our garden and we will be collaborating with local farmers for seedlings beginning in May. This project is part of our food literacy and outdoor education program. The garden's dimensions will be 10 feet by 50 feet. We also have other new programs in the works including a Cookbook Club where members can take home cookbooks, choose and make a recipe, and

bring that food item to the next meeting. A Spice Club is also on the menu where members can enjoy and explore new spices and their uses with the current spice-of-the-month being cardamom, a flavor native to the Indian subcontinent."

The Kelly Library was also fortunate to receive a grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for STEM funding for children. They have added 15 new learning kits to their collection such as programmable robots and children's learning games like the

new Giant Magnet Wall, a light table, and wind tunnel. There are many other exciting events spearheaded by the Friends of the Library such as the Taste of Webster Event and Books, Bites, and Blooms. A new website has also been online for the past six months making it easier to navigate the library's website. There's so much activity going on at the library that you owe it to yourself to check out their building and to check out their website. www.gladyskellylibrary.org (508) 949-3880. Gladys E. Kelly Public

Library, 2 Lake Street, Webster MA 01570.

Hours: Mon/Tues/Thurs 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Wed 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Fri 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

"Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one."

–Neil Gaiman

Contact Janet at jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com



THE MEADOWS
A Vibra Transitional Care Facility

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

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



Getting You Back to Better.



CASUAL WATERFRONT DINING ON LAKE LASHAWAY



Make your Valentines Day reservations now!

Friday Acoustics
1-13 JEFF ANDERSON
1-20 STEPHEN GEORGE
1-27 JOE MACY
2-3 ASHLEY HENSEL



OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK
11 - CLOSE
CLOSED MONDAYS

Please visit our website or Facebook page for our full menu.

308 MAIN STREET
EAST BROOKFIELD
774-449-8333
308LAKESIDE.COM

Please call 774-449-8333 for reservations, take-out or reserve online 308lakeside.com



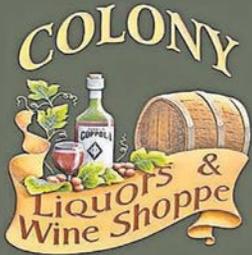
Find us on Facebook

Print & Deliver
We Print and Deliver your inserts.



Perfect for Big Events, Coupons, Menus and More!

For more information, or to schedule your insert, please contact **Laura Gleim** at 508-943-8784 or by email at lgleim@theyankeexpress.com



Colony Liquors & Wine Shoppe
Family owned and operated since 1976

Check out our instagram and follow us @colonyliquors for all of the latest product and store info!

Like us on Facebook



Call Us 508-832-9454
Address: 683 Southbridge St., Auburn, MA
Visit us at www.colonyliquors.com



Mi Amore red & rose wines
reg. \$10.99/btl
On Sale for February
\$8.99



Reunion Tap & Table ready for opening in Whitinsville

BY ROD LEE

Shawn Briggs was literally putting the finishing touches on a shelf behind the bar of the new Reunion Tap & Table restaurant in a section of the Whitinsville Plaza on the morning of February 1st: a coat of black paint.

Taking up a spot formerly occupied by Jube's that had been vacant for a while, Reunion Tap & Table has been months in the making, with a complete rebuild of the premises undertaken and now finished.

"We'll be opening next week," Mr. Briggs, one of the partners, said. "The day we get our occupancy permit, we'll be open the next day."

Reunion Tap & Table is well

known for its signature restaurant in Grafton; this one, though slightly smaller, is cut along the same lines. It will offer lunch Friday, Saturday and Sunday and dinner every day for starters. Plans are for takeout pizza too.

"We're just waiting for a delivery from Sunshine Sign," Mr. Briggs said. A banner has been strung across the front of the restaurant in the meantime.

Shawn Briggs, Josh Briggs, Sar-



Shawn Briggs, with Paul Apkarian, left, is anxious to open the doors of the new Reunion Tap & Table restaurant in the Whitinsville Plaza.



New England Steak and Seafood

Casual Elegant Dining and Banquets

PRIME RIB AND STEAKS - Prepared over our open pit-
FRESH SEAFOOD & LIVE LOBSTERS
CHICKEN & PASTA DISHES
APPETIZERS • SALADS • SOUPS
COMBINATION DINNERS • KIDS VALUE MEALS (12 & UNDER)

TRY OUR FAMOUS Cinnamon Rolls & Chowder

Lunch: Wed-Thurs-Fri Open 11:30am Dinner: Daily 3:00pm to close • Sunday Noon to close - Closed Tuesdays
Serving this area with the finest steak and seafood for over 65 years

508-478-0871 • 11 Uxbridge Rd. ~ Rt. 16 Mendon
See Our Menu on our website www.nesteakandseafood.com or on Facebook



Mexicali

CANTINA GRILL

Sun-Thurs: 11a-9p
Fri-Sat: 11a-10p
MexicalisFreshMex.com
Dine In & Takeout!

Gift
Certificates
Available

Dinner

50% off

Buy any dinner, get 50% off the 2nd lunch or dinner of equal or lesser value with beverages purchased. Dine in only. 1 per table/party. Not combinable with other offers or specials. Offer expires 2-28-23



Sundays
Wings 50c
All Day

INDOOR DINING
Take-out Always Available

Online orders with pickup or delivery

41 Worcester Road, Webster, MA • 508-461-5070

[Facebook.com/MexicalisFreshMex](https://www.facebook.com/MexicalisFreshMex) Like Us! 

gon Hanna and Paul Apkarian are all principals in the operation.

GALLIFORD'S SUNDAY BRUNCH IS A LAVISH SMORGASBORD

It may be wintertime and Southwick's Zoo in Mendon is closed at the moment but Galliford's Restaurant is going strong with lunch and dinner and most recently with a reintroduction of its popular "Sunday Brunch in Style at Galliford's"—through April 9th.

"Oh my gosh, great," Chelsea Daniels, restaurant manager at Galliford's, said on January 29th, in assessing response so far, just before the start of the brunch, which

runs from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The buffet features "something for everyone" including savory breakfast dishes, creative twists on traditional favorites, "our popular Omelet Station, Carving Station, Waffle Station, Millionaire Cinnamon Rolls, Lox, Crème Brulee French Toast, Braised Chicken Marsala, Parmesan Pesto Salmon, Eggs Benedict and so much more.

Reservations are recommended. Call 508-928-0928 or go to www.gallifords.com.

Submit your restaurant news to Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com.

GET NOTICED!

Contact Diane at 774-364-0296 or by email at dgalipeau@theyankeeexpress.com to learn how you can reach 153,000 households and businesses each month!

Monte Bianco

RESTAURANT

FINE ITALIAN & INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

Make Reservations for Valentine's Day!

Tuesday, February 14th

Serving Dinner 12:00 noon-9:00pm
OFFERING VALENTINE SPECIALS ALL WEEKEND LONG
ALSO SERVING OUR REGULAR MENU




140 Main Street • Webster, MA
508-461-5016 or 508-461-5017
WWW.MONTEBIANCORESTAURANT.ONLINE 



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.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 24

• ValleyCAST, the arts and culture arm of Open Sky Community Services, is partnering with the New England Sculptors Association for the second annual Inside and Out Exhibition. Seventeen sculptors from around New England have created over thirty works that will be on display in the Spaulding R. Aldrich Heritage Gallery, 50 Douglas Road, Whitinsville, and outside on the grounds of the Whittin Mill complex at the same address. The inside exhibit opened with a wine and cheese reception on Friday, January 13th. The public is encouraged to attend the closing reception, which will include announcement of three People's Choice Awards, on Friday, February 24th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Voting ends at the end of the day on Friday, February 17th and the exhibit will end right after the closing ceremony on February 24th. For more information visit opensky.org. To schedule a visit to the gallery, call 508-234-6232 or email Cristi.Collari@opensky.org.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

St. Peter Parish, 39 Church Ave., Northbridge, is hosting a Ham Dinner starting at 5:30 .m. in the Parish Hall. Tickets are \$17 per dinner, with salad and dessert included. To-go meals are available for pickup at 5:00 p.m. and all orders must be purchased in advance. "Pay it forward" and buy an extra dinner and it will be delivered to someone in need in the community. Call 508-234-2156 or email parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org to purchase tickets or for more information.

FEBRUARY 11-12

• The Grafton Public Library, 35 Grafton Common, is hosting a Book Sale from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

• Enjoy an evening of live music with the Webster duo Mark Mandeville and Raianna Richards at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The show starts at 7:00. Email deb@bookloversgourmet.com or call 508-949-2322 to reserve your seat.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

• "The Hanoi Hilton POW Experience Exhibit" opens at the American Heritage Museum, 568 Main St., Hudson, fifty years after American POWs release from the prison that became synonymous with the Vietnam War. There, hundreds of American aviators shot down over North Vietnam were subjected to torture, isolation and malnutrition while housed in squalid cells during years of captivity. The AHM has built a lasting tribute to these POWs with a reconstruction of the last two remaining original cells that held Americans, first-hand accounts of their ordeal and interactive displays.

Ready to go for 2023

The Webster-Dudley Veterans Council held its installation of officers for 2023 on January 4th. Pictured in front from the left are Senior Vice Commander Ronald Prest, Commander Victor Jankowski and Junior Vice Commander Randy Snow. Standing are Meeting Chaplain Kevin Kozdzal, Funeral Chaplain Joseph Sendrowski, Sergeant at Arms James Brinker, Adjutant Andrew Kozlowski and Treasurer Robert Guenther.



www.americanheritagemuseum.org
 • The Uxbridge Historical Society will present "Uxbridge: Crossroads of the Underground Railroad" at 2:00 p.m. at the former Uxbridge Unitarian Church, Rt. 122, with narration from notable town historians. Presenters will reveal how Uxbridge residents ran stations along the Underground Railroad, opened schools to teach those seeking freedom to read and write and became leaders in the national anti-slavery movement. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

• The Intrepid Readers of the Simon Fairfield Public Library, 290 Main St., Douglas, will discuss Beryl Markham's "West with the Night," in which the author describes growing up in an Africa that no longer exists, training and breeding race horses, flying mail to Sudan and being the first woman to

fly the Atlantic, east to west. Copies of the book will be available. All are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

• Enjoy a BVT buffet breakfast that includes waffles, pancakes, bacon, sausage, home friends, scrambled eggs and toast, 65 Pleasant St., Upton. Cost is \$7.50 per person plus gratuity. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. Sign up on the main office no later than February 1st. This is a self-drive, self-pay program.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

• A "Women's Health Forum with Dr. Maggie Lunch & Learn" program will be held at the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland

St., Whitinsville, from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. Lifestyle choices impact the aging process. Come and learn about diet, nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement for older adults. Space is limited. Priority will be given to those who have not yet attended one of Dr. Maggie's health forums. Sign up with Amy Wednesday-Friday to attend.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

• Samuel Slater's Restaurant at Indian

HAPPENINGS!
continued on page 12

ONE FREE ADMISSION

LIMIT ONE PER PERSON. NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS. NO COPIES. NOT FOR RESALE.

YANKEE EXPRESS

JENKS PRODUCTIONS LLC PRESENTS THE WORCESTER

RV & CAMPING SHOW

FEB 24 - 26

DCU CENTER
50 FOSTER STREET • WORCESTER, MA

FRI 4PM-8PM • SAT 10AM-6PM • SUN 10AM-5PM

ONE FREE ADMISSION

LIMIT ONE PER PERSON. NOT TO BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS. NO COPIES. NOT FOR RESALE.

YANKEE EXPRESS

JENKS PRODUCTIONS LLC PRESENTS THE WORCESTER

Home Show

MARCH 10-12

DCU CENTER
50 FOSTER STREET • WORCESTER, MA

FRI 4PM - 8PM • SAT 10AM - 6PM • SUN 10AM - 5PM

SPONSORED BY:

TICKETS: ADULTS \$10 • SENIORS (65 & over) \$8 • KIDS (12 & under) \$5 • WWW.JENKSPRODUCTIONS.COM

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE:

www.TheBradleyPlayhouse.org

BOX OFFICE: (860) 928-7887
30 Front Street - Putnam, CT 06260

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

Presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com

FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 5

FRIDAYS + SATURDAYS at 7:30pm
and SUNDAYS at 2pm

Based on the bestselling novel by Paula Hawkins and the DreamWorks film, Adapted by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel, this show follows Rachel Watson who longs for a different life. Her only escape is the perfect couple she watches through the train window every day, happy and in love. Or so it appears. When Rachel learns that the woman she's been secretly watching has suddenly disappeared, she finds herself as a witness and even a suspect in a thrilling mystery in which she will face bigger revelations than she could ever have anticipated.

TICKETS ON SALE!

SCAN ME

SAVE 50% ON ONE TICKET FOR OPENING NIGHT!

ADULTS: \$23 STUDENTS / SENIORS: \$20
FIRST RESPONDER/ MILITARY: \$20
(PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE TICKET FEES)

PURCHASE A SEASON PASS OR FLEX PASSES & SAVE!!
10+ GROUP DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

FOLLOW THE BRADLEY PLAYHOUSE

HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 11

Ranch, 200 Gore Road, Webster, present a night of comedy featuring Steve Sweeney with Graig Murphy and Chris D, 6:30-9:30 p.m. This is a 21-plus event. Go to www.samuelslaters.com or call 508-943-1639 for more details.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

• "Take a Hike" with the Plummer Place Walking Club, 10:00 a.m., weather permitting. Call the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, at 508-234-2002 for locations.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

• "The Violin Kat," music by Violinist Kathryn Haddad, will be presented at the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Kat is an eclectic freelance violinist based in the Worcester area. She has performed to many crowds. Light refreshments will be served. Sign up at the main office.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

• A CPR, AED and Epipen Training Class will be held at the Northbridge Senior Center, 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Instructor Scott Celikbas from the Northbridge Fire Department will train participants in these important lifesaving

techniques. A heart-saver certification will be awarded at the end of the course. The cost is \$55 per person, check or cash due to the instructor on the day of training. Sign up at the main office.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

• Ice cutting expert Ken Ethier will present his popular program describing the methods and tools used to harvest ice from lakes and ponds two centuries ago, when ice was the only way to keep things cool. His one-hour talk will be held 11 a.m. at the Samuel Slater Experience museum in Webster. Ethier will demonstrate ice harvesting techniques with his own collection of antique tools, the often-dangerous scoring



The notorious Hóá Ló Prison—the Hanoi Hilton, where American POWs were held during the Vietnam War—is highlighted with a new immersive exhibit at the American Heritage Museum in Hudson. Visit www.americanheritagemuseum.org for more information.



430 Main St., Oxford, MA

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

- Commercial and Residential -

Sales • Service • Installation

800-605-9030 508-987-8600

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



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

Many new styles and colors to choose from.

Visit our display by appointment

and cutting on the ice field and describe the transport of harvested ice to ice houses for storage and delivery to peoples' homes. This free program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Webster Cultural Council. To register, email admin@samuelslaterexperience.org or call 508-461-2955. Visitors wishing to tour the Samuel Slater Experience afterwards will be offered a reduced admission fee.

Society for a talk, "The Nipmuc Lithic Trail," at the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Road, Sutton, at 7:00 p.m. Go to www.suttonhistoricalsociety.org for further info.

TUESDAY, MAY 9

•The Sutton Historical Society welcomes Carol Crossed curator of the Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum, bot a talk, "Vintage Tweets: A Book of Suffrage Era Postcards," at the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Road, Sutton, at 7:00 p.m. Go to www.suttonhistoricalsociety.org for further info.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

•The Sutton Historical Society welcomes Joe lamartino of the Thompson Historical



Reach more than 73,000 homes with our 2023 *Spring Home & Garden*

Reach thousands of local readers focused on enhancing their indoor & outdoor living spaces when you advertise in our Spring Home Improvement & Garden Guide.

Coming April, 2023
Reservation deadline:
March 8, 2023

Reserve your space today by contacting Diane Galipeau at 774-364-0296 or by email at dgalipeau@yankeeshopper.net

The Yankee Xpress
BLACKSTONE VALLEY Xpress

Auburn | Charlton | Douglas | Dudley
Grafton | Millbury | Northbridge | Oxford
Sutton | Uxbridge | Webster

Webster Five steps up for African Community Education



Pictured in front of ACE's new building are Biodun Akande, board chairperson, and Kaska Yawo, executive director and co-founder of ACE. (Photo courtesy of the organization).

Webster Five recently donated \$25,000 to African Community Education (ACE), a Worcester organization dedicated to assisting African refugees and immigrant youth and families in achieving educational and social stability. The donation will go towards ACE's campaign to renovate the new ACE Center and expand program access.

ACE's programs include after-school and family education programs, mentorship opportunities, community outreach and more. ACE currently serves 6.3% of African-born immigrants and their children living in Worcester within 200%

of the poverty line. With their 2022 move to a larger headquarters, ACE looks to expand its programs and grow its reach to serve even more families.

"Webster Five is proud to support the important work African Community Education is doing to increase access to resources promoting personal growth and stability in our community," Don Doyle, president and CEO of Webster Five, said.

"African Community Education is extremely grateful for Webster Five's generous contribution to our organization," Kaska Yawo, executive director and co-founder of ACE, said. "This gift will have

a tremendous impact as we renovate the new ACE Center and expand access to education, outreach and workforce development programs for thousands of African refugees and immigrants in Central Massachusetts. We are thankful Mr. Doyle and the Webster Five leadership

team recognize the important role this project has in our local community and believe in our work at ACE enough to be an early supporter of these efforts."

To learn more about ACE's mission and programs, visit <https://www.africancommunityeducation.org>. To learn more

about Webster Five's charitable giving, visit <https://www.web5.com/about-us/our-story/our-news/>.

SAMUEL SLATER'S

HAPPY HOUR

AT SAMUEL SLATER'S RESTAURANT

1/2 PRICE APPS

BAR \$5 BEER • \$6 WINE • \$7 COCKTAIL

*ONE PER PERSON MAX. CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS OR SPECIAL EVENTS. PORTIONS MAY VARY. THESE PRICES ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE. BAR OPTIONS ARE ROTATING.

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER

PRIX FIXE MENU

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

\$69 PER PERSON | 4 COURSES | 4 PM - 9 PM

NOT INCLUDING TAX AND GRATUITY

EXPLORE MENU AND MAKE RESERVATIONS AT SAMUELSLATERS.COM

PRIME RIB WEDNESDAYS

12OZ PLUS TWO SIDES FOR \$22

LIMITED TIME OFFER • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • DINE-IN ONLY

<p>THE DELOREANS: 7 PIECES OF BRASS KICKIN' 70'S & 80'S FEBRUARY 11 • 8:30PM</p> <p>COMEDY NIGHT AT SLATER'S WITH STEVE SWEENEY PLUS GUESTS GRAIG MURPHY AND CHRIS D FEBRUARY 17 • 7:30PM</p>	<p>WINTER CHARCUTERIE BOARD PAINT & SIP FEBRUARY 22 • 6PM-8PM</p> <p>JON STETSON: PSYCHIC MIND-BLOWING COMEDY SHOW WITH AMERICA'S MASTER MENTALIST FEBRUARY 25 • 7:30PM</p> <p>MUSIC WITH CROSSFIRE MARCH 11 • 8:30PM</p>	<p>ST. PADDY'S DAY O'STRAVAGANZA COMEDY NIGHT FEATURING MIKE DONOVAN PLUS GUEST SEAN SULLIVAN HOSTED BY DAVE RATTIGAN MARCH 17 • 7:30PM</p> <p>JOANNA THE PSYCHIC MEDIUM MARCH 31 • 7:00PM</p>
---	--	--

RESTAURANT HOURS: WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY: 4PM-9PM • SATURDAY: 12PM-9PM • SUNDAY: 12PM-8PM

TICKETS & RESERVATIONS AT WWW.SAMUELSLATERS.COM

OVERLOOKING WEBSTER LAKE • 200 GORE ROAD, WEBSTER, MA

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

FUEL OIL - PROPANE - KEROSENE

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION

Heating - Air Conditioning • 24 Hour Burner Service

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

WORCESTER COUNTY LAWNMOWER

ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE AT THE LOWEST PRICE

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

508-987-2775
492 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540

WWW.WORCESTERCOUNTYLAWNMOWER.COM

New to the Pacific War Exhibit!

SBD-5 Dauntless Dive-Bomber

American Heritage Museum

Scan QR to see website.

568 Main Street
Hudson, MA (978) 562-9182
www.AmericanHeritageMuseum.org
Open: Wed. - Sun., 10 AM to 5 PM



LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

The multiple-personality aura of Luke Valentino

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

There's something about Luke that has us talking. We can't put our finger on exactly what has us so crazy in love with him. Perhaps my son says it best. "He has an aura." Truth. His personality is full of innocence and curiosity, fragrance, and flaw. I've never met a puppy quite like him. He's about to celebrate his first birthday. I couldn't help but reflect on traits that have earned him a few nicknames.

PROFESSOR LUKE



Luke is a Watcher and a Thinker. He's the first pup I've owned who adores sitting on the front steps to watch what's happening in the neighborhood. He's a thoughtful observer, seemingly ahead of his time for a puppy. Amid his research, he's drawn conclusions about who he will and will not accept. Chest puffed out, he sits regally on those steps, a giant teddy bear on the look-out. There he has made dog friends and human friends. His tail senses good and bad vibes. Fortunately, he's experienced more of the former. He wears his love for others in a kind, "bear cub" expression. I've watched his nose twitch while a

serious mouth breaks open to a casual smile every time a guest arrives. "Hi! My name is Luke Valentino." He lowers his head and wiggles, humbled by the goodness of Dog People, who happen to be one of the more understanding breeds, I've found. I trust my dog's instincts.

"Hi Luke!" Known for his columns and charisma, Luke has become popular in the neighborhood. "You wanna' play in my yard?" Dog walkers make their way onto our lawn. Luke can barely believe his luck. His tail wags. He fights to restrain his joy (not wanting to come on too strong) but his love for people and the various dogs that extend from people, explodes on that very step. "I'm so excited that you're here! I want you to know, I'm well trained. I have my moments, but for the most part, I know how to behave." The owner approves of Luke. Professor-style, he lifts his head, and the two dogs exchange sniffs. "Are you a dog? I'm a dog. Are you a boy? I'm a boy. Are you nice? I'm nice." Trust established, the owner unclips the leash and—BAM—two dogs rumble in my front yard.

I used to worry about Luke amid spontaneous play. What if the dog is more experienced? Overly aggressive? "I'll take you down if you keep it up." I've since watched my pup take a cheap shot at a loose collar. Needless to say, I'm over it.

Still, watching my pup develop the realization that not every dog likes him, or wants to play with him, is hard for a Dog Mom. He once approached a unique dog couple at the dog park. The dogs entered together, side by side. They were obviously tight and their owners, also best friends, stated the obvious. "These two are boyfriend and girlfriend."

Luke, nevertheless, didn't understand the history or intimate nature of the long-term dog relationship. He trotted over to their side and used his famous shoulder move to greet them. "Wanna' play?" Boyfriend snarled and shunned my pup. "Get away from my girlfriend!! Just go away!" His

growl was aggressive. Luke turned away from the dogs and joined me at the park bench. "Someone's having a bad hair day." I felt bad for my pup. He sees the best in every dog, despite the feeling not always being mutual. "It's okay, Luke. You're a good boy. They're be another dog to play with."

My concern faded upon watching him take a stand for bad behavior on future playdates. "I DON'T LIKE YOU ANYWAY!" I've seen him bark back in the face of a hater.

"Let it go, Luke." My pup's ego was bruised.

"YOU'RE UGLY and SO ISN'T YOUR MOTHER!!"

"Luke!" My pup's temper has warranted another nickname.

LUKEY V

Lukey V is the side of Luke known to show some sass—the "bark at me and I'll bark back louder" side, the Valentino (Italian) side that was suspicious of our front yard snowman. "You're cold and you're still and you don't belong



here!" My son built the snowman with love, but Luke refused to accept him. He barked, backed away, and snapped his head around, as though paranoid of the snowman's next move. "Mess with me and I will destroy you, Frozen Man."

"Luke, be nice. The snowman can be here," I pleaded with my gangster pup. "He's a phony, Momma." He gazed up at me, then back at the Snowman. "He's pretending to be a person, but he's full of cold air. Look at the Stiff. I've seen his type." Days passed. January rain beat down on an innocent snowman who somehow had caused bad blood on our front lawn. He melted. He slouched. He aged. Worse, Lukey V lifted his leg and peed on his bottom ball.

POOPY LUKEY

Puppies poop a lot, exposing a more vulnerable side to their character. Luke is no exception. Our

puppy slept in a comfortable crate until the age of six months, when he outgrew a bed designed to look like a piece of furniture. I lined it with a plush mattress and blankets. It was beautiful. Still, my husband



and I heard our growing puppy jostle and struggle to try and get comfortable through the night. We could have purchased an extra-large crate but, instead, came to the same conclusion. "Luke needs to move around and sleep comfortably. Let's give him a chance to sleep outside of the crate."

We were both on eggs that first night. We gated the stairs and shut the bathroom door. Luke had the entire downstairs to himself. We also left the crate door open, should he want to go back in. Was he ready for his own apartment? What if he chewed on table legs? Tearing apart the shag carpet? There were so many unknowns. Despite our fears, I entered our kitchen in the morning to find him curled up beneath the kitchen table. Of all places he could have slept, he chose the confines of an enclosed area, a cave of sorts. "What a good boy you are, Luke!"

Weeks passed and Luke became more liberated to try out new sleeping spaces. He slept on his plush bed by the bay window. He slept by the front door. He toggled between spots. Then, to our surprise, he pooped on the dining room carpet.

"Ohhhh Luke. What happened?" Suspicious of his own accident, he inspected the mound with a stiff sniff. "How did my poop get in the house?" He couldn't help it. Nevertheless, the odor was horrible. I gagged, cracked a window, and began the unfun process of cleaning poop from an expendable area rug. My mind traced back through his diet. Admittedly, he had some junk food at a friend's house the night before, bones said to be "all natural" but they all claim such. He had also been chewing on rained-on sticks drenched in bacteria. Both inges-

tions, I knew, were a culprit to his maturing digestive system. Poor Luke. He can't hop onto a toilet when a bad stomachache strikes. I forgave my pup. Then I bagged his poop and threw it outside for him to see. "Poopy goes outside." I treated the stain with a small army of toxins. Digestion issues (and diarrhea) are not uncommon for puppies. He watched me scour the carpet, head over paws, as though to say, "I'm sorry, Momma. I know my poopy is stinky."

Luke's stools hardened with each passing day. He became more "regular" with clean eating, a close monitor on snacks (and sticks), and mounds of freshly cooked white rice. My family celebrated progress. "Lukey did poopies outside!" We visited the spot on the rug for gentle reminders. "Noooo." I stretched out the word and kneeled to a spot overly fragrant. "Lukey does poopy outside." He glanced up at me then looked away. "Can we move on, please?"

BABY LUKE

Baby Luke emerged, suitably, when my pup was about eight weeks old. I'd cradle him in my arms like a baby so that he could gaze into my eyes, then chew on a dangling sweatshirt tassel. The habit continued as he grew, and even until he reached a stocky sixty-five pounds. Baby Luke doesn't realize he doesn't qualify for the standard of a lap dog. I return home from teaching Zumba classes to find him ready and waiting for our special routine in the family room. "Let's do Baby Luke!" He hovers about my gym bags and winter clothes, holding me to it. I collapse to the



floor and maneuver Baby Luke onto my lap. He licks my neck and face. We cuddle like a pair of honeymooners, and I think to myself, "Of all of my puppy's sides, this just might be my favorite."

Write to me at amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Visit Luke on Instagram @living-withlukevalentino

WWW.TLCPETHAVEN.COM

Over 30 years in Business
Denise and Bill Jones

TLC

Dog and Cat Grooming & Boarding

Luxury Suites Available

Doggie Daycare

In-Home Services Available

PET HAVEN & Mobile Groom-In-Vans

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

REAL ESTATE

Where will you go if you sell? You have options



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

There are plenty of good reasons you might be ready to move. No matter your reasons, before you list your current house, you need to consider where you'll go next.

In today's market, it makes sense to explore all your options. That includes both homes that have been lived in before as well as newly built ones. To help you decide which is right for you, let's compare the benefits of each. Regardless of which option you choose to explore, working with a trusted Realtor throughout the process is essential.

First, let's look at the benefits of purchasing a newly constructed home. With a brand-new house, you'll be able to:

1. Build your dream home. If you build a home from the ground up, you'll have the option to select the custom features you want, including appliances, finishes,

landscaping, layout, and more. Building means customizing, instead of wishing your home had a certain kind of flooring, a sunroom or some other special feature, you'll be able to tailor the property to your exact needs. You also won't be limited to a specific location or neighborhood.

2. Take advantage of builder concessions. In today's market, a lot of home builders are working hard to sell their current inventory before they add more to their mix. That means many of them are offering concessions and are more willing to negotiate with buyers. That could work to your advantage in the process.

3. Minimize home repairs. Many builders offer a warranty, so you'll have peace of mind on unlikely repairs. Plus, you won't have as many little improvement projects to tackle. If something goes wrong with your new home, not only are there likely some manufacturer warranties in place, but many builders also include additional home warranties.

4. Take advantage of energy efficiency. When building a home, you can choose brand-new, energy-efficient options to help lower your utility costs, protect the environment, and reduce your carbon footprint.

Now, let's compare those to the perks that come with buying an existing home. With a pre-existing home, you can:

1. Explore a wider variety of home styles and floorplans. With decades of homes to choose from, you'll have a broader range of floorplans and designs available.

2. Appreciate that lived-in charm. The character of older homes is hard to reproduce. If you value timeless craftsmanship or design elements, you may prefer an existing home.

3. Join an established neighborhood. Existing homes give you the option to get to know the neighborhood, community, or traffic patterns before you commit. Plus, they have more developed landscaping and trees, which can give you additional privacy and curb appeal.

4. Move in faster. If you have a short timeframe to move or you just don't want the process to take several months while your home is under construction, buying an existing home might make sense for you. When thinking about where you'll go after you sell your house, remember your options. As you start your search, think about what's most important to you. By working with a trusted Realtor, you can be confident you're making the most educated, informed decision. If you have questions about the options in your area, meet with a team member of marzeottigroup.net, call 617-519-1871 or a local real estate professional to discuss what's available and what's right for you.

43 East Main St., Webster
Office: 508.943.4333
Fax: 860.935.5624
Cell: 508.525.0611
Web: hope2own.com
Email: lsullivan@hope2own.com

Laurie Sullivan
REALTOR
Licensed in MA & CT
REAL ESTATE ON THE RISE!

Maribeth Marzeotti
Broker/Associate/GRI/SRES

RE/MAX
ADVANTAGE 1

25 Union Street, 4th Floor
Worcester, MA 01608

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

MLMLS
MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE
REALTOR

Maribeth Marzeotti
Realtor

Diane Luong
CBR, SRES, MBA
774-239-2937

&

JoAnn Szymczak
GRI, SRES, CBR
774-230-5044

RE/MAX
Advantage I

Together, We're
Working For You!

Providing Real Estate
Needs For:

- Retirees
- Seniors
- 1st Time Buyers
- Empty Nesters
- Waterfront Buyers
- Families
- Veterans
- Military
- Investors
- And more

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

GET NOTICED!
Contact Diane at 774-364-0296 or by email at
dgalipeau@theyankeeexpress.com to learn how you can
reach 153,000 households and businesses each month!

Looking to fall in love with a new home? I can help.

Victoria Virgilio 774-696-4120
Victoria.Virgilio@commonmoves.com
VictoriaVirgilioRealtor.com

BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY
HomeServices
Commonwealth
Real Estate

A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC.

THE BOLD LOOK OF KOHLER.

PEABODY
THE BATH Showcase Supply

101 Millbury St, Auburn, MA 01501
508-757-4543 peabodyauburn.com

TIPS ON FINANCIAL PLANNING

dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com

Don't let fear drive investment decisions



BY DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

In the past year, we've seen some big swings in the financial markets. This volatility may make you feel as if you have little control over your investment success. But the truth is, you do have more control than you might think — as long as you don't let fear guide your decisions.

Investment-related fear can manifest itself in a few different ways:

- **Fear of loss** – Some investors may emphasize avoiding losses more than achieving gains. Consequently, they might build portfolios they consider very low in risk, possibly containing a high percentage of certificates of

deposit (CDs) and U.S. Treasury securities. Yet, a highly conservative approach carries its own risk — the risk of not achieving enough growth to stay ahead of inflation, much less meet long-term goals such as a comfortable retirement. To reach these goals, you'll want to construct a diversified portfolio containing different types of assets and investments — each of which may perform differently at different times. Your objective shouldn't be to avoid all risk — which is impossible — but to create an investment strategy that accommodates your personal risk tolerance and time horizon.

- **Fear of missing out** – You're probably familiar with the term "herd mentality" — the idea that people will follow the lead of others for fear of missing out on something. This behavior is responsible for fads or the sudden

emergence of "hot" products, and it's also relevant to investing. In fact, herd mentality may contribute to sharp jumps in the financial markets as investors drive up prices by buying stocks to avoid being left behind. And the same may be true in reverse — when the market starts dropping, skittish investors may accelerate the decline by selling stocks so they, too, can get out before it's too late. Buying or selling investments should be considered as needed to help advance your long-term financial strategy — not in response to what others are doing.

- **Fear of the unknown** – Some investors fall victim to "familiarity bias" — the tendency to invest only in what they know, such as local or domestic companies. But this behavior can lead to under-diversified portfolios. If your portfolio is dominated by just a few

investments, and these investments are fairly similar to each other, you could experience some losses when the inevitable market downturn occurs. To help reduce the impact of market volatility, it's a good idea to spread your investment dollars across large and small companies in a range of industries and geographical regions. And that's just on the equities side — it's also wise to consider further diversifying your portfolio by owning bonds and government securities. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses.)

- **Fear of admitting failure** – Some individuals don't like to admit when they've been wrong about something, and they may continue the same failed activities, hoping for eventual success. This behavior can be costly in the investment arena. Sometimes, a

particular investment, or even an investment strategy, just doesn't work out, but an investor is determined to stick with it — even if it ultimately means considerable financial loss. Don't let his happen to you — if it becomes apparent you need to change your investment approach, move on to something better.

Fear can hold us back in many walks of life — but don't let it keep you from making appropriate investment moves.

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

Serving all of New England

Fully Licensed & Insured MA



RI Reg #: 4175
HIC #: 190392

- Roofing
- Siding
- Skylights
- Gutters
- Chimney
- Windows



FREE ESTIMATES

www.shineconstructioninc.com

(508) 278-3300

@shineconstructioninc

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD Rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

6-month	4.50	% APY*
9-month	4.60	% APY*
1-year	4.70	% APY*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

Dennis Antonopoulos
Financial Advisor
5 Albert St
Auburn, MA 01501-1303
508-832-5385

* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 02/01/2023. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-1867L-A © 2022 EDWARD D. JONES & CO., L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. AECSPAD



Print & Deliver

We Print and Deliver your inserts.
Perfect for Big Events, Coupons, Menus and More!

For more information, or to schedule your insert, please contact
Laura Gleim at 508-943-8784
or by email at lgleim@theyankeeexpress.com

THE CAR DOCTOR

jpaul@aanortheast.com

Reloading Sirius; storing a hybrid battery, long-term



BY JOHN PAUL

Q. I have a 2012 Toyota Sienna minivan, this past March we drove to Florida in another car leaving the Toyota in the driveway

for three weeks. The day after we returned, I went to start the Toyota but it wouldn't. I then called AAA and a tech came and replaced the battery. Using the car later, I turned on the factory radio which is AM/FM and Sirius, but the Sirius wouldn't load and read out "no signal." Is it possible the radio was damaged from exchanging the battery? Please advise as I have called Toyota, who wants \$2500 to replace it but no one can give me a definitive answer to what is wrong.

A. Generally, what happens is the radio loses its memory when the battery fully discharges. I would start by calling SXM and see if they can restart (send a refresh signal) the radio signal from their end. I had a very similar issue (no signal) with a very used vehicle I purchased, after confirming the antenna was okay, I called SXM and after about 45 minutes on the phone and multiple attempts the radio came to life.

Q. I am going to buy a new 2023 Toyota RAV4 soon, but I can't get a straight answer to a question from any of the dealers I've talked to. I will be storing the vehicle for about half the year, every year. It can be connected to a battery tender, but it will not be started or driven. I've done this with my gas-powered vehicles without issues. My question is, would this kind of storage degrade a hybrid battery? Should I stick with the gas-powered model?

A. Toyota has a bit of a vague answer to this, stating that the traction battery should be left in a 20-80 percent state of charge, but other than that doesn't mention long term storage. Based on my conversations with hybrid vehicles owners who do something similar, I would say that the battery

pack should be okay. Out of curiosity I also checked the recommendations from the all-electric Tesla and was a bit surprised to read, If the weather is extreme, whether it's extremely cold or hot and you cannot park in an isolated area and are going away for more than two weeks, then you may want to consider a different mode of transportation. If the car battery is drained completely, it could lead to battery damage since the car can no longer keep the batteries at an ideal temperature and it'll no longer be able to protect itself from harsh weather.

Q. I'm a snowbird and is it best to leave that vehicle in summer heat in Florida or northeast winter cold. Is there any difference between storing a hybrid or any car in heat or cold?

A. There are challenges with both. The summer Florida heat, humidity, heavy rain and hurricanes versus winter cold, snow slush and blizzards. The summer heat/humidity can mildew the interior and age the tires and paint as well as shorten the battery life. The bitter winter cold can cause body seals to harden and crack. I have left a car outside (under a cover) in both Florida heat and Massachusetts winter and I found the hot weather to be slightly less detrimental to the car overall.

Q. What brand qualifies as a "quality" fuel additive? I have seen you mention this but have never named a brand(s). My second question is how often should it be added? My other question is how long have you been helping people with your column and radio program, and hopefully you are not retiring anytime soon.

A. I have had the best results with Techron fuel additive, which came with the very first fuel injected Corvette. The other product which I like, is from Lucas. Both of these are simple pour-in products and work. For me I use these products more sparingly than the directions, about twice per year. I also when I can use gasoline with more cleaning additives which help keep injectors and combustion chambers clean

(www.toptiergas.com). I am in my 38th year at AAA and started a column in our own publication which expanded to live chats and placement in several newspapers and websites. I hosted my first radio program about 30 years ago and have been on the air almost continually since then (now on Sunday morning at 11 on 95.9 WATD). I don't think I'm going anywhere soon.

Q. I have a 2016, Subaru Legacy with about 47,500 miles. I have always kept it in good shape, and it runs well. For the past couple of months, I have sporadically been having problems getting the key out of the ignition switch when I shut the car off. At first, I started the car again, moved it and then tried again. This worked sometimes. Lately, I just turn the key to the on position without starting the car and then try again. Sometimes I have to do this several times. I took the car to a transmission shop and the said there doesn't seem to be any problems with the linkage or neutral switch to (whatever that is).

A. Subaru has had some issues with the shifter, I would go to the dealer and have them

reference technical service bulletin 16-112-18R.

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 questions to jpaul@aanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on Facebook mrjohnfpaul.

M&M Auto Body

Ron Moscoffian
Appr. #9537

Scott Milner R.S. #3926

**7 Industrial Park West,
Building 2
Oxford, MA 01540**
508-987-7070

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

Let us help you against winter's assault on your car!

Professional Car Cleaning
Motorcycles & Boats
Now offering Ceramic Coating

Now Offering
Ceramic Coating

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

catacchio

AUTO
DETAIL

COMPLETE AUTO GLASS SPECIALISTS

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

MOBILE AUTO GLASS SPECIALIST

Insurance Company Preferred Shop.

- Certified technicians to your location
- Foreign & domestic auto, truck, bus, motor home, windows & sunroofs
- Construction equipment, heavy duty vehicles
- Fabrication of flat glass
- Vehicles equipped with convertible or vinyl roof

- In-shop service • Free mobile service
- Saturday service
- Free pick-up and delivery within a 10 mile radius
- Quality workmanship guaranteed
- Customer safety and satisfaction is our first priority
- Servicing customers for over 25 years

201 W. Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571
800-479-7697 • 508-949-1327

Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm • Saturday 8am to 12pm

Visit Us at roysautoglass.net

U-KNIGHTED

AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR

"We perform all your car care needs"

45 East Hartford Ave., Uxbridge
508-526-3169

Custom Exhaust Experts

- Engines • Transmissions • Tires • Oil Changes
- Brakes • Converters • Welding & Fabrication Services

BUY

PAY

HERE

Payments as low as \$60 per week

Come Pick Out Your Car!

Bad Credit • No Credit
No Problem

WE FINANCE EVERYONE!

Come Check Out Our Prices!

FARRAR AUTO BODY, INC.

204 Main Street • Oxford, MA
508-987-0022

SPORTS

Shepherd Hill girls ready to take step toward a title

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

After finishing the 2021-22 season with a 16-7 record, the Shepherd Hill girls' basketball team found themselves with a 21 seed under the new MIAA power ranking system as they entered the Division 2 State Championship Tournament. The Rams would run all over the High School of Commerce, picking up a convincing 57-22 win. Unfortunately, in the second round against Newburyport it was different story and Shepherd Hill fell 57-43.

Playing in the Midwatch B now during the regular season, Shep-

herd Hill seems to be comfortable.

"This team is made up of a group of dedicated girls who are invested in the program. We've had success over the years, but we are finding ourselves in our third league (SWCL, Midwatch A and now the Midwatch B)," Shepherd Hill Coach Maura Hackenson said. "I feel that the Midwatch B is about where we belong. Shepherd Hill is not as big of a school as many believe; some of the Midwatch A schools are three times our size and although we can compete against them it's tough."

Like every other high school athletic program, the goal is to win as many games as you can (or

now compete in) so that you can qualify for the State Tournament. Once there, anything can happen and with a little luck added to your skill you just might walk away with a State title. Shepherd Hill is no different and despite losing three starters from last year's 17-win season, Hackenson believes that her large senior class will be able to step into the vacant positions and pick up right where they left off last year.

Senior tri-captains guard Emery Mullen and forwards Olivia Krukonis and Emma Drake are expected to provide team leadership while contributing quality minutes on the court. Mullen is the offensive leader and the team's leading scorer. Last year she averaged 14 points and 9 rebounds per game.

In the early part of the season the Rams have gotten off to a rough start with all the illness the team has been battling, but they continue to fight game in and game out. Although Hackenson has yet to field a full squad through the first three weeks, Shepherd Hill has been able to get off to a 7-1 overall start and should be able to continue its success with everyone returning to the court. The Rams had different



The Shepherd Hill girls basketball team, thinking of a championship run this season.

10 players score in a victory over Westboro, which was 6-1 entering the game.

While Mullen will be the team's top scorer, sophomore guard Aryanna Sheehan has been putting up some offensive numbers through the early part of the season, giving the Rams a secondary scorer. Thus far this season Sheehan is averaging 14 points per contest.

"Emery and Aryanna will be the focal (point) of our scoring," the Shepherd Hill coach said. "We need at least one of them to be on top of things [each] night but having them both on their game together will definitely be a help and a big plus in our winning."

In addition to Sheehan and Mullen putting the ball in the basket for the Rams this season, the squad also will see some offensive output from seniors Shaylan Cashman and Drake while junior Heidi Jarosz will be the team's top rebounder. Cashman will also haul down some boards from time to time.

Although scoring is important in winning games, Hackenson firmly believes that defensive end of it is much more important.

"Defense is our top priority as we enter games, defense wins," the

coach said. "We need to go in and rebound and box out, but we also need everyone playing defense at all times if we want to win."

Hackenson will look to freshman Lily Connole for her defensive prowess; the incoming varsity athlete can cover with the best of them. Freshmen Sarah Miller and Gianna Neri can and will also play some tough defense for the Rams.

Other athletes hoping to see some floor time and help Shepherd Hill this winter will be seniors Victoria Cravedi, Meridan Wildes and Abigail Lombardi; sophomore Ashley Dickhaut as well as freshman Riley Bowes.

"Every year we evaluate the talent that we have while putting together a schedule that benefits the kids. Playing a tough schedule is better for the team in the long run," the Rams coach said. "While you need to play those top teams, you don't want the kids to get discouraged. Luckily that hasn't happened and the girls have bought into everything that we are coaching them."

Upon entering the season the Shepherd Hill goals were simple: win the Midwatch B League title and qualify once again for the Division 2 State Tournament with at least one home game. Once in the tournament Hackenson is hoping that her girls can get past the second game, unlike last year.

"During the regular season we like to play a tougher schedule against good competition so that we are ready when the tournament rolls around," Hackenson said. "We would also like to take part in the Westboro Tournament at the end of the year; this too would help us as we enter the post-season."

If all goes as planned Shepherd Hill will be entering the State Tournament as Midwatch B champions and playing some of their best basketball in hopes of winning a championship.

RIVERS EDGE
HEAVY TOWING
& Truck Trailer Repair
508-278-9924

L&D MOBILE MARINE
LAND and DOCKSIDE

We are fully licensed & Insured

website: Indmobilemarine.wixsite.com/mysite
email: Indmobilemarine@gmail.com
phone: 774-321-9000

NEW & USED PARTS
Full service marine general repair, maintenance & sales for all boating needs

10% OFF Parts & Services (With coupon) Exp. 4/15/23

QUALITY BUILDING MATERIALS
FOR ALL YOUR NEW CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING NEEDS

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE • FREE DELIVERY • ESTIMATING
Lumber & Plywood • Windows • Doors • Millwork • Roofing • Insulation • Decking • Rail Systems • Siding • Hardwood • Fasteners • and Much More!

C S LUMBER Family Owned And Operated Since 1952
124 Main St., Millbury
cslumberco.com • 508-865-4822
Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-3pm • Sat. 7:30am-noon

VISIT US FOR YOUR NEXT PROJECT!
HOMEOWNERS WELCOME!

TALES FROM BEYOND

tomdagostino.com

Dudleytown-Part 1: Demons, evil spirits, foreboding horrors

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

A deserted settlement deep in the woods of western Connecticut has been the subject of writings, short stories and even movies. Owlsbury was once the more common name for what we today call Dudleytown. The abandoned settlement is said to harbor demons, evil spirits, negative energy, and a host of other foreboding horrors that have caused people to either shun the area, or at present, risk being arrested while searching for the now forbidden ghost town. There are many narratives regarding the area and the negative energy that abounds within. Many have sworn to the old tales while others brush them off as legends created to scare the meek.

Dudleytown is nestled on a plateau in the middle of three mountains and a hill. The original owner, Thomas Griffis, took deed to the area in 1738. Abiel and Barzillai Dudley, both soldiers in the French and Indian War, took title to a parcel of land in 1747, "on the road from the meeting house to Mr. Griffis." This would soon be-

come known as Dudleytown. The Dudley family was said to have brought a family curse over from England where several of their ancestors were executed for various plots against the government.

At one point thirty-five families called Dudleytown their home. Names like Carter, Jones, Tanner, Dibble, Rogers and others unknowingly made history by settling in the small town. The chief product was charcoal, for the area was heavily wooded.

It cannot be precisely discerned when the horror stories about Dudleytown began to circulate. The 1938 Federal Writer's Project book on Connecticut gives the abandoned village but a small paragraph within its pages and not much more. It mentions the trail where hikers traverse to "the dead end and mystery of Dark Entry... no other road, other than a pack horse trail ever penetrated this forbidding region."

The writer continues; "Tradition tells of a man, who with his wife, built a cabin in this wilderness. After an absence of two days, in which he tramped to the village for supplies, he

returned to find his wife a raving maniac, driven mad by some terrifying experience which she was never able to relate."

The narrative most likely concerns Dr. William Clarke and his wife. The doctor bought a piece of land in Dudleytown and built a cabin as a summer retreat. He became one of the founders of the Dark Entry Forest Association, a group of people who bought land in and around Dudleytown to preserve the former settlement and woods around it. The entry in the book also states that there are graves deep in the woods of those who have gone in and died of starvation or an accident. The writer refers to the place as Dark Entry or Owlsbury but never once mentions it as Dudleytown. The term Dark Entry referred to a forty foot tunnel that ran from the road to the cellar of a home. Unfortunately, both are long gone but the name has stayed on, creating ominous visions for those who read of the lost town.

One very famous account is that of Richard Brophy, the last inhabitant of Dudleytown. Brophy left his land in 1901 after his house

burned to the ground. Before that, his sons disappeared after they were caught stealing sleigh robes, and his wife died of consumption shortly after. It is alleged that the man showed up at the local tavern half insane and jabbering about half man-half animal cloven hoof beasts chasing him off his property. After that, he was never heard from again.

People suffered strange calamities while living in the cursed village. One of the Dudley brothers was found hacked to death near his home, another mysteriously fell from a ladder, one more died while visiting a neighbor's home. These and many more were attributed to the curse and the demons,

both visible and invisible that were said to inhabit the land.

Tales of people going insane ran rampant. Abiel Dudley was one of those who went mad, but he also was about ninety years old when he was considered feeble of mind. William Tanner was another Dudleytowner who was considered to have become feeble-minded. He lived to be one hundred and four years old. Several other accounts tell of Dudleytowners going mad after witnessing what they called wild half human beasts. Dr. William Clarke's wife was another as previously stated, but records indicate she died in a New York hospital from a physical illness.

Part II next month.

NEW ENGLAND REGLAZE

Reg. \$399
Color, travel, may apply.

NOW \$299.00

Don't replace
your old tub, reglaze it!
Tubs, tile sinks and
much more



SAVE
\$100
WITH AD

We do any TUB!
CALL US NOW
617-895-7771
www.newenglandreglaze.com

See an Expert in Cosmetic Dentistry

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

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



Real People. Real Results.

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

www.DrTubo.com



Whitinsville
family dentistry

(508) 234-8107

12 Prospect Street
Whitinsville, MA

www.DrTubo.com

Finding yourself a little addicted to Dr. Tubo's Before and Afters?

See them when they're brand new
Follow Dr. Tubo on Instagram:



@dr.jasontubo



FOR ALL YOUR FUEL NEEDS

NEW BOILER INSTALLS

- Crown Boilers
- Williamson Furnaces
- Oil Tank Installs



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



**We do NOT
Sell Biofuel!**

Which will help prevent
system breakdowns.

**Central air conditioning
and ductless mini splits**

HELP WANTED -

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



508.434.1335
A Full Service Oil Company
24-Hour Emergency Service

WWW.LMTOIL.COM • WE DO ONLINE ORDERING

**THERE'S A SMARTER
WAY TO HEAT ANY
ROOM THIS WINTER.**



Heat the rooms you live in...
without wasting energy on
the rooms you don't.

- ◆ Uses 25-50% less energy to heat your home.
- ◆ Employs allergen filtration to reduce germs, bacteria and viruses.
- ◆ Provides year-round comfort that keeps you cool in the summer too.
- ◆ Requires no ductwork, so installation is quick and easy.



©2015 Mitsubishi Electric



**AMERICA'S #1
SELLING BRAND OF
DUCTLESS**

Contact us today for a no cost
in-home assessment!

Choose Morrissette & Son as your installer, and receive:

- Upgraded Diamond Dealer Parts & Compressor Warranty to 12 years (from standard 5 years parts/7 years on compressor)
 - Finance through MassSave with 0% HeatLoan
 - Rebates through MassSave & MassCEC (**MassCEC rebates expire 3/20/19!**)
 - Extended Labor Warranty Available
 - Highly Trained Technicians with Installation & Service
- Looking to replace your electric heat? Ask us about HUGE rebate opportunities through MassSave!



Azure

AN ORCHID EXHIBITION
FEBRUARY 11 – MARCH 19

NEW ENGLAND BOTANIC GARDEN AT TOWER HILL

NEBG.ORG

BOYLSTON, MA