

May 12 - June 9, 2023

BVEF celebrates connections and partnerships

BY ROD LEE

Rob Knapp knows a little something about the importance of the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation. The BVEF in turn understands the worth of what he does as a teacher of physics and engineering in the Milford Public Schools.

Mr. Knapp was one of five individuals and organizations saluted as grant recipients of the Foundation during a forum held at the Myriad Ballroom in Mendon on the evening of April 13th.

"It's probably my third grant," Mr. Knapp said, beaming, the award he was presented with in his hands as he watched the ceremony unfold. "I use it for equipment for a maker space. It's a way to get infrastructural purchases."

Like Mr. Knapp, the other grantees have put dollars received through the Foundation to good use. Jill Foulis of Blackstone-Millville for "Introduction to College Field Trips;" Amanda Gallerani of Uxbridge for "Robotics at the TAFT Learning Center;" Keriann Kimble of Northbridge for "Preschool Social-Emotional

Core Materials," and Jill Redding of Northbridge for "Preschool Social-Emotional Learning Core Materials."

The night afforded Joscelyn Young, executive director of the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation, and Danielle Wence, marketing director, a chance to honor partners involved in "connecting activities."

Included among these were the Grafton Public Schools and the Blackstone Valley Education Hub for a strengthened collaboration to help shape current and future programs at the Foundation; Central MassHire for its steadfast support of the Foundation with funding; the "Tom and Tom Team" for providing such items as coolers, beer, glasses, T-shirts, snacks and WooSox tickets; Mike Baldassarre and Peter Marano for their efforts in the area of professional development; UniBank and Osterman for their financial support of school grants to "help students grow and flourish;" and Lisa Donovan of Arts in the Valley and Macy Hutchinson of the Green Bean Project for "integrating arts" as a way to help children



Tara Bennett, president of the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation Board of Directors and principal of Douglas High School, welcomes an audience gathered for a BVEF forum and awards ceremony in Mendon on April 13th.

A neighborly Boston Marathon for Douglas's Kelly Manning

BY ROD LEE

Kelly Manning, who is assistant fire chief in the town of Douglas, knows all about the heart-break that can come to runners in the Boston Marathon; and not just from that famous hill competitors have to deal with late in the race.

Taking part in the 127th Boston Marathon on April 17th—her third—Ms. Manning finished with a time of 4 hours and 24 minutes.

"It was not my best but with this being the tenth anniversary of the bombing I wanted to run," she said during a telephone conversation on May 1st.

Assistant Chief Manning is used to overcoming challenges, as for instance when she puts in the work on trails and obstacles courses necessary to be in condition to run 26.2 miles.

Also, in 2020, she was named full-time assistant fire chief in Douglas after fourteen years as a call member of the Douglas FD. Her promotion generated a flood of congratulations. "Hell of a firefight-

er and an absolute vault of knowledge. Any department is lucky to have her," Sean Matthew wrote on Facebook. "A well-deserved promotion and it's fantastic to see female leadership in the fire service," was the comment posted by Michelle Wills.

Disappointed as she was with the clocking she posted in the nation's most famous foot race, Ms. Manning was pleased that she was presented with a medal at the finish line by Wanda Reynolds of Webster. Entirely a coincidence, but satisfying in that Ms. Manning knows members of Ms. Reynolds' family; it was a neighbor-to-neighbor moment that left both smiling. It is also one of those many stories that come out of the Boston Marathon that makes the event a world-renowned drawing card.

As evidence that she is not deterred by her performance, Ms. Manning was planning to run the

BVEF

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MARATHON

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BVEF

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develop “high-demand employability skills.”

“I want connections,” Charlie Bateman, senior external relations manager for Saint Gobain in Northborough, said, in explaining his reason for attending. “We are looking to get more involved in the STEM pipeline. Sometimes the educational system beats that out of people.”

For 2022-23, the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation funded a total of \$21,990.35 of the \$32,783 that was requested. Sixteen applications were funded, serving nine school districts and more than 5100 students.

Typical of these grants was the \$1,452 received by Blackstone-Millville, funded by Osterman, for a Social Emotional Learning



Blackstone Valley Education Foundation grant recipient Rob Knapp with his award; and Foundation Executive Director Joscelyn Young inviting those in attendance to join her for a ceremony saluting BVEF honorees.



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MARATHON

continued from page 1

Providence Marathon the first weekend in May in an attempt to qualify for Boston 2024.

Her Boston debut came in 2019 when she ran in memory of fallen Worcester firefighter Chris Roy, in support of Firefighter Roy’s daughter.

As for Ms. Reynolds, she is apparently one of the thousands of volunteers who keep the Boston Marathon working like a fine watch. They hail from at least forty-four states and nineteen countries, and include medical personnel, law enforcement and security, according to the Boston Athletic Association.

Ms. Reynolds did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment about her experience greeting Ms. Manning on race day.

Meanwhile, a longtime volunteer, who has been associated with the Boston Marathon for approximately thirty years, snapped a photo of Ms. Reynolds with Ms. Manning on Boylston Street; he wishes to remain anonymous, saying “this story is about them, not me.”

Ms. Manning describes the Boston Marathon as “one of the

toughest” races, requiring “a lot of training.”

She can take pride in the fact that both elite women’s marathon running, and, similarly, amateur participation in the sport, is growing, hitting new heights every year, according to The New York Times.



Douglas Fire Department Assistant Chief Kelly Manning receives her medal from Wanda Reynolds of Webster after finishing the 2023 Boston Marathon.

Boston’s ranks are expanding even faster, year-to-year, than those of the men. Fourteen of this year’s elite women runners at the start of the Boston Marathon had previously run a marathon in under 2:21.

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Xpressly Yours ... a letter from the editor

Northbridge salutes Harry Berkowitz for dedicated service to the town

By his reckoning, Harry Berkowitz first got involved in town politics in Northbridge in 1972, when he served on a study committee for Lasell Field—prior to the complex being turned over to the School Department.

BY ROD LEE

So even though the plaque Mr. Berkowitz received recently from the Northbridge Board of Selectmen in appreciation of his more than thirty years of service to the community was entirely fitting, he has actually been active in municipal matters for a much longer period of time.

He still is, in fact. Yes, he has shed some of the roles and responsibilities he previously shouldered. But he remains a member of the Cable Advisory Committee and

president of NCTV. He remains a stalwart supporter of Town Meeting and a dedicated voter. He also hosts several local-access television shows and a radio show on WCRN 830 AM. He has forged strong connections with the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Northbridge Senior Center.

Many residents of Northbridge will undoubtedly associate Mr. Berkowitz's name with the Planning Board, for good reason. As a former member and former chair of the Planning Board, he has consistently advocated for development and growth in the interest of making Northbridge a more desirable place to live and work.

"I want people to know we are not anti-business. I have always been pro-business for Northbridge," he said during a conversation in the living room of his home on Benson Road on April 25th.

During his lengthy stint as a community warrior, he has served in a number of capacities. None of



Harry Berkowitz was recently presented with a plaque by Northbridge Selectmen Chair Russ Collins, congratulating him for more than thirty years of service to the town.

Linwood Mill and the Whitinsville Plaza, and construction of a new fire station—which is now underway. He has championed such projects as the Stone Hill Condominiums on Church Street for 55-and-over adults and is eager to see "retail and condos" come to land opposite the sewer beds on Providence Road.

With NCTV, working in concert with Director Bill Tartaglia and his team, he has overseen the steady expansion of the station's programming lineup—one of the most diverse around.

NCTV owes much to Mr. Berkowitz's influence during its transition from a small storefront on Church St. to Providence Road and eventually to more suitable quarters at the American Legion Post in Rockdale; and to establishing itself as a nonprofit, independent of the Board of Selectmen and the town.

"It has been easy for me to be involved because I love it," he says. "It keeps me young."

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these are dearer to his heart than Planning Board and NCTV. With the Planning Board he

has led the applause for creation of a new police station and a new Walmart, redevelopment of the



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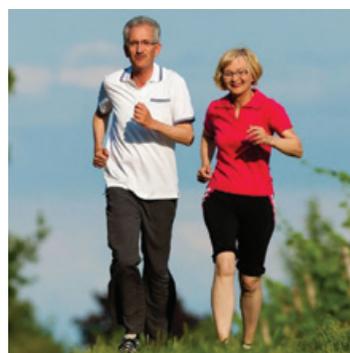
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When can you choose retirement?



Mark Freeman

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Many people of retirement age have achieved this type of control. In fact, two-thirds of workers ages 65 and older say they work primarily because

they want to, not because they have to, according to a 2021 study by Edward Jones and Age Wave. But that means that one-third of workers in this age group feel financially compelled to work. This doesn't necessarily mean they dislike the work they do — but it's probably fair to say they would have liked the option of not working. How can you give yourself this choice?

You can start by asking yourself these questions:

- **When do I want to retire?**

You'll want to identify the age at which you wish to retire. You may change your mind later and move this date up or back, but it's a good idea to have a target in mind.

- **What sort of retirement lifestyle do I want?**

When you retire, do you anticipate staying close to home

and pursuing your hobbies, or do you hope to travel the world? Would you like to spend your time volunteering? Open your own business or do some consulting? Clearly, some of these choices will require more resources than others, so you'll want to follow a financial strategy that aligns with the retirement lifestyle you intend to pursue.

- **Am I saving and investing enough?**

As you chart your course toward your retirement journey, you'll want to assess the sources of income you'll have available. If you think you may be falling short of achieving your retirement goals, you may need to consider saving more.

- **When should I start taking Social Security?**

You can begin collecting Social Security benefits as early as 62, but your monthly payments will be much bigger if you wait until your "full" retirement age, which will likely be between 66 and 67. Your decision about when to take Social Security will depend on several factors, including your other sources of income and your family history of longevity. Of course, as you're probably aware, the Social Security system is facing significant financial stress, so it's possible that we may see changes to Social Security, based on actions Congress could take. In any case, you might want to be fairly conservative in estimating how much Social Security can contribute to your retirement income.

By addressing the above questions, you can get a clearer

sense of when you might reach the point at which work is optional. But you'll also need to consider other factors, too, such as how much you enjoy working or when your spouse or partner is planning to retire. In any case, the sooner you start planning for this next phase of your life, the better position you'll be in when it's time to make the transition.

If you would like to discuss your personal situation with a financial advisor contact:

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A Walk in the Park—and at Uxbridge Town Meeting?

An impressive turnout for the Uxbridge Historic District Commission's "A Walk in the Park" spring house tour despite inclement weather gave UHDC Chair Jane Keegan every reason to believe voters at Town Meeting would approve passage of an article expanding the historic district for the first time since 2004.

A vote—a second attempt to get this done—was to be taken on May 9th.

A Walk in the Park occurred on Sunday afternoon, April 30th, despite inclement weather, and was "a blast" according to Peter Frabotta III, who owns 46 Capron St.—"Barbara's Blue House." The residence is named for his mother in celebration of her

favorite color and has been in the family since 1968.

Tim Johnson, who owns the Zadock (Taft) House at 115 So. Main St. with his wife Kristina, agreed. They have big plans for the home, one of the town's oldest, dating to the 1700s.

"It went great!" Mr. Johnson said. "We had over seventy-five guests come in!"

Four properties were open to the public for the event. The Donaldson home at 35 Capron St. and "the Beane Compound" at 236 Mendon St. (the former "Keegan House") were the others.

"We had people from all over the Valley," Mr. Frabotta said. He was ecstatic with the results and delighted with the chance to show off all of his decorating

touches.

"Close to two hundred. People who knew my parents," Mr. Frabotta said.

Ms. Keegan could not have been happier.

"Remarks during the event were super positive so we can only hope the excitement generated will translate to attendance at TM" for the vote, she said. "Crossing fingers and cautiously optimistic for the 9th.

"In spite of the 'misty' Sunday we had more than one hundred fifty people driving, walking or riding the Senior Center bus! From what I hear from others, reports on social media were 'glowing.' Certainly those I spoke with that day expressed positive thoughts and all were encouraged



Tim and Kristina Johnson on the front porch of the Zadock (Taft) House at 115 So. Main St. in Uxbridge. The home was one of four vintage properties on exhibit for "A Walk in the Park," all with unique individual characteristics.

to attend TM. I am what they call 'cautiously optimistic.' We have unanimous support from [the] FinCom and Planning Board (go

figure) while the BOS voted the opposite (go figure)."

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Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

BY CHRISTIE VOGT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recyclables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

During the business's early days,



Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the backend while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at EMC," he says. "Fast forward 17 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has

Business spotlight

helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

As for Uxbridge, Northbridge and Douglas, in particular Schadler says they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really



Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the Blackstone Valley," he says.

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On February 25th, we adopted five purebred Icelandic sheep. In transferring them into the fenced enclosure, four of the five sheep ran off. After three hours we got all but one of them back. The last sheep was so fast and would bolt when approached, so we named her Lightning.

Our wonderful Douglas community would call the farm with sightings. A plan was laid out to capture her, but to no avail. She had quite the adventure while away “on the lam.” She would dart in and

out of a horse barn to eat hay, made a dog friend, and surprised the locals by walking down the street. It’s not every day you see a sheep hanging out in your neighborhood.

Then something miraculous and magical happened late at night on March 9th. Farmer Nick was checking on the animals at the farm when much to his surprise he spotted Lightning. She was standing beside her four buddies, though on different sides of the fence. When Farmer Nick walked toward her she bolted and ran, consistent with her MO. She ran across to the farm’s country store. But then, much to Farmer Nick’s surprise, she went around the back of the farm and up through an open gate that connects to the pas-

ture where the four other Icelandic sheep are—and plowed through a fence to be with them. Farmer Nick was able to rush around and close the gate behind her!

Now she is happily reunited with her sheep family.

We don’t know how it happened that she made her way back to the farm after so many sightings on Pine Street.

We would like to thank all the people on Pine Street who were involved in trying to capture her and the worry that was involved in trying to get her back to the farm.

We end this missing sheep story on a great note! And again we appreciate all the comments and reaching out from our local community. There were over five



hundred likes and many comments on Facebook during Lightning’s escapades!

You can come to Douglas Orchard & Farm in Douglas to see our five Icelandic sheep girls, happily together again.

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BVT announces second trimester Commendation List

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) has released the Superintendent-Director's Commendation List for the second trimester of the 2022–2023 school year. To be named to the Commendation List, students must meet rigorous standards, such as maintaining a grade point average of 88 percent or above in each technical, related, and academic course for the trimester. To view the complete list, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/2commendationlist.

The following students, grouped by grade level and hometown, were named to the second trimester Commendation List:

SENIORS (CLASS OF 2023)

DOUGLAS Brett Staples, Electronics & Engineering Technology; and Julia White, Cosmetology.

NORTHBRIDGE Sam Grilli, Drafting & Design; Maya Laydon, Construction Technology; Noah Malkasian, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Gradie Sanford, Drafting & Design; and Emily Wildfeuer, Drafting & Design. Sutton Benjamin Judson, Automotive Collision Repair & Refinishing; Samuel Judson, Drafting & Design Technology; Haley Kirouac, Engineering & Robotics; Ryann Lombardi, Health Services; Colin Medeiros, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Olivia Oikle, Health Services, and Evan Theberge Electronics &

Engineering Technology.

UXBRIDGE Mackenzie Barnicle, Culinary Arts; Isabel Cahill, Multimedia Communications; Isabella Gannon, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Maxwell Guyton, Engineering & Robotics; and Sunny Moscatelli, Cosmetology.

JUNIORS (CLASS OF 2024)

DOUGLAS Laney Beahn, Engineering; Mary Chrul, Health Services; Jack Dooner, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Baron Sherry, Engineering; Tyler Stevens, Information Technology; and Sorcha Twohig-Mann, Health Services.

NORTHBRIDGE Giovanni Biagioni, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Logan Feehan, Painting & Design Technology; Yaliz Jimenez, Health Services; Catherine Kingsbury, Culinary Arts; Izzamar Laboy Villegas, Information Technology; Lily Marshall, Dental Assisting; Ella Rogozenski, Engineering & Robotics; and Jonathon Spiller, Painting & Design Technology.

UXBRIDGE Yara Alomar, Health Services; Savannah Brodeur, Cosmetology; Noah Cahill, Engineering & Robotics; Victoria Cieply, Dental Assisting; Avery Herrick, Multimedia Communications; Trevor Horgan, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Sean Knox, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Grace Mathieu, Engineering & Robotics; Marissa Osimo, Health Services; and Samuel Waugh, Electrical.

SOPHOMORES (CLASS OF 2025)

DOUGLAS Dale Boudreau, Electrical; Haley

Chamberlain, Cosmetology; Kaylie Ciccone, Health Services; Justin Dooner, Engineering & Robotics; Emily Muniz, Engineering & Robotics; Om Patel, Engineering & Robotics; Samantha Pinto, Health Services; Jaden Roddick, Multimedia Communications; Addison Taylor, Health Services; and Willow Windoloski, Electronics & Engineering Technology.

NORTHBRIDGE Ava Bates, Cosmetology, Kayla Chausse, Cosmetology; Perry Derkosroffian, Construction Technology; Sosie Derkosroffian, Health Services; Zabel Derkosroffian, Information Technology; Abigail Dineen, Dental Assisting; Faith Ellis, Multimedia Communications; Conner Gomez, Engineering & Robotics; Mara Keane, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Dylan Leeds, Engineering & Robotics; Haley Marston, Dental Assisting; Markas Petone, Health Services; Sean Russo, Information Technology; Delaney Sanford, Culinary Arts; Eva Schairer, Health Services; Scarlet Sergel, Dental Assisting; and Alexa Seward, Engineering & Robotics.

UXBRIDGE Alexi Cox, Electronics & Engineering Technology; Samantha Fairhurst, Health Services; Samuel Kirby, Electrical; Mikaela Swanson, Biotechnology; and Stephanie Zaitoun, Engineering & Robotics.

FRESHMEN (CLASS OF 2026)

DOUGLAS Francesca Aquilino, Cosmetology; Maddison Dos Santos, HVAC&R; Leopaul Gamelin, HVAC&R; Caitlin Kelly, Health Services; Zachary Mitchell, HVAC&R; and Sophie Rivard, Engineering & Robotics.

NORTHBRIDGE Isabelle Balon, Biotechnol-

ogy; Autumn Gromelski, Culinary Arts; Aidan Naughton, Information Technology; Emersen Polymeros, Construction Technology; Jacob Poole, Information Technology; Allegra Sadiq, Health Services; Logan Tetreault, Information Technology; and Adalynn Wooster, Cosmetology.

UXBRIDGE Breanna Donahue, Electrical; Gabrielle Gannon, Engineering & Robotics;

Brooke Gniadek, Cosmetology; Veronica Jordan, Health Services; Isabella McLaughlin, Advanced Manufacturing & Fabrication; Daniel Noel, Engineering; Abigail Thompson, Painting & Design Technology; and Parker Waugh, Electronics.

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Corridor is rich in opportunities for volunteer involvement

There are many opportunities to volunteer in the Blackstone Valley River Valley National Heritage Corridor this year. If you would like to get involved with the Volunteers-in-parks program, reach out to Molly Cardoza, director of volunteer and community engagement at mcardoza@BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org. On April 19th, during National Volunteer Week, Independent Sector announced that the hourly value of a volunteer increased from \$29.95 to \$31.80. Learn more at <https://independentsector.org/resource/>

value-of-volunteer-time/. The (second) First Strike Festival is happening at Old Slater Mill National Historic Landmark at 67 Roosevelt Ave. in Pawtucket on Saturday, May 13th from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Nearly two hundred years ago, more than one hundred women weavers launched the first wage workers' strike in the U.S. To remember this important act of solidarity, the National Park Service will host a free festival each May at Old Slater Mill. Learn a new dance, participate in a community songwriting workshop, pay an

old-fashioned game, or enjoy live music. The Kelly and Ashton Mill Junior Ranger Booklet is a self-guided adventure around the Blackstone River State Park. Aspiring Junior Rangers of all ages are encouraged to pick up a booklet and explore the history and natural beauty of this area. These Junior Ranger activities inspire creativity, reflection, imagination and stewardship. Booklets can be picked up at the Kelly House Museum of Transportation, 1075 Lower River Road, Lincoln, Rhode Island, dur-

ing operation hours. Booklets are also available at Old Slater Mill. Ranger Walkabouts resume on Thursdays evenings at 6:30 p.m., June 1st through August 31st. Find all the details at <https://www.nps.gov/blrv/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>. Join a National Park Ranger for a bike ride along the Blackstone River Bikeway on Wednesdays starting July 5 through September 27 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Each week will feature a different theme. Learn more at <https://www.nps.gov/thingstodo/bike->



National Park Service rangers are a backbone of all that happens in the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor; as are volunteers.



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the-blackstone.htm. Robert Wakeling has joined the BRV National Historical Park as a seasonal park ranger. Mr. Wakeling hails from Mansfield and has worked for the NPS at other park sites including the Adams National Historical Park. For more on all of the activities and events happening in the Corridor, go to www.BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org.

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Ribbon cuttings on the horizon for BV Chamber

With its annual Charity Golf Tournament at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton—a major fundraiser—now in the books for 2023, the Black-

stone Valley Chamber of Commerce supports the Chamber, the BV Education Foundation and the BV Hub in support of essential programs for students and schools in the region. Present-

ing Sponsor is UniBank. Major Sponsor is Goretto's Supermarket. Partner Sponsors are C&S Wholesale Grocers, bankHometown, Gaudette Insurance agency, East Commerce Solutions, and MATCH Cunningham & Associates. Supporter Sponsors are TD Bank, Linders The Intelligent Alternative, Omi Control Technology, Job Corps, Primetals Technologies, MCU, Compound Effect, Core XP Business Solutions, RH White, and The Shoppes at Blackstone Valley. Friend Sponsor is Homefield Credit Union.

In addition to a ribbon cutting on May 11th for Heirloom Emporium at the Manchaug Mills

in Sutton, the Chamber will be celebrating Conceirge Physical Therapy with a ribbon cutting on June 2nd at 22 South St. in Hopkinton and another on June 16th for The Pewter Pot at 670 Linwood Ave. in Whitinsville.

Interested in sponsoring one of the Chamber's 2023 events? Call 508-234-9090 for more information.

The BVCC's Women's Success Network will once again enjoy a "Ladies on the Lake" night aboard the Indian Princess in

Webster on June 22nd. This event features networking, "quintessential hors d'oeuvres," libations and spectacular views. Register at www.blackstonevalley.org.

The Chamber's Food, Beverage and Hospitality Network will host a Business After Hours at Rushford & Sons Brewhouse at 8 Grove St. in Upton on June 6. Hours are 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.



Rushford & Sons, a family-owned nano brewery, will host a Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours on June 6.

stone Valley Chamber of Commerce is turning its attention to other upcoming events, including ribbon-cutting ceremonies.

The Charity Golf Tournament

ing Sponsor is UniBank. Major Sponsor is Goretto's Supermarket. Partner Sponsors are C&S Wholesale Grocers, bankHometown, Gaudette Insurance agency,



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Seniors get their groove on to disco at Plummer Place

Seniors and older adults danced the afternoon away to music from the Disco Era of the 1970s at Plummer Place on April 27th. The event was sponsored by the Friends of Northbridge Elders (FINE) and AdviniaCare of Northbridge.

Attendees celebrated in their psychedelic disco-inspired attire that included colorful sequined tops, sparkly leisure suits, bellbottom jeans, wide collar shirts, funky scarves, chokers and tie-dyed T-shirts.

Some participants even adorned Afro-style wigs, bold colored hair pieces, patterned head bands, and glittery jewelry.

DJ Steve Charette kept the crowd movin' and groovin' to hits by the Bee Gees, Diana Ross, KC and the Sunshine Band, Earth Wind and

Fire and Donna Summer to name just a few.

"The music was electrifying, and the people were nostalgic," Sheri Tomasetti, a volunteer for the event, said.

"It was a fabulous event! I loved watching all the dancers on the dance floor and was surprised at how many good dancers there were!" Carol Snow, A FINE member and chair of FINE's fundraising committee, said.





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An on-site luncheon was provided by FINE to go with the DJ and dancing and included an assortment of deli sandwiches, salads and desserts prepared by Plummer Place Chef Pete Sabourin. Beautiful themed baskets provided by FINE were raffled off.

"The party was so much fun!"

said Harriet Platt. "I loved everything about it and if anyone out there missed the party, shame on them!"

For more information about Plummer Place and its programs and events, contact Amy Cowen at 508-234-2002.

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Birds Taking Flight highlights new season at Southwick's Zoo

Southwick's Zoo is officially open for the 2023 season with an exciting array of activities including new wrinkles for visitors of all ages.

"Birds Taking Flight" is literally the case with Avian Adventures presentations on Mother's Day



Bird attractions are just one of many reasons to visit Southwick's Zoo. (Photo: rayaonasignment.com).

weekend (May 13 and 14) in the Show Arena at 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Beginning Memorial Day weekend (May 27), the Birds Taking Flight program will be offered daily at 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the Show Arena.

Brand new at Southwick's Zoo this year is Elm Farm Creamery on site, with hard ice cream, milk shakes and frozen treats.

Drop by Galliford's Restaurant & Tavern for lunch or dinner. Call 508-928-0928 for reservations.

Southwick's Zoo jumped into the season with an Earth Day Trash to Treasure event, featuring workshops on Composting presented by Home Harvest Central Massachusetts, conservation info from EARTH Ltd., a fossil exhibit, recycled goods, conservation vendors, beer vendors and music by Matt Genese.

June events at Southwick's include Passionate About Primates on the 11th, Father's Day Weekend on the 17th, and Zoo Neighbors Day on the 26th.

Field trips and group outings are welcome. Bring your classroom to life at the largest zoological experience in New England, home to over eight hundred fifty animals.

Go to www.southwickzoo.com for more details.



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The American Heritage Museum in Hudson invites all interested persons to enter to win a trip to The Tank Museum in England to ride the Tiger I Tank in 2024.

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The winner will depart from Boston to London to travel to the premier tank and armor museum in the UK.

Buy your ticket(s) before May 30th.

Go to <https://americanheritagemuseum.org> for all the details.

A World War II Tank Driving Experience at the AHM over the

Memorial Day weekend will give visitors a chance to ride aboard or even drive a real tank from that conflict...the M24 Chaffee Light Tank or the M4A3 Sherman Medium Tank.

Being a crew member or driving a tank is not particularly comfortable.

These metal beasts are all business, designed to go over most obstacles with ease and destroying another in their path. Once in a tank, it is clearly evident that you are driving a machine with great power.

From May through October, the American Heritage Museum will offer tank riding and driving programs in the Chaffee and Sherman. You will be transported back to 1944 as you step aboard!



the American Heritage Museum.

The offer is part of the "Tiger and the Generals" 2023 fundraising sweepstakes at the AHM.

The winner earns an incredible getaway, perfectly suited for the history lover, which will bring them first to the AHM for a day of tank driving instruction aboard the M4 Sherman and the M24 Chaffee tanks along with a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum.

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Transportation talk at SSE: Canals, trains and trolleys

Boston businessmen were more than a little perturbed in 1828 when the newly built Blackstone Canal gave Worcester merchants direct access to Providence and the sea for transporting freight. At the time, raw materials and finished goods were moved most efficiently via water routes.



But just two decades later, the first train carrying freight and passengers between Providence and Worcester made the Blackstone Canal obsolete, and it was closed. The train had turned a two-day journey into a two-hour trip and didn't freeze in winter.

Trains were followed by trolleys for local transportation, though trolleys disappeared too with the advent of cars and better roads.

Historian Ken Ethier will talk about early transportation in Worcester County on Saturday, May 20th at 11:00 a.m. at the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster.

The event is free register at Eventbrite.com.

Ethier is the Auburn town historian, board member of the Auburn Historical Museum, member of the Auburn Historical Commission,

board member and past president of the Auburn Historical Society, board member of Waters Farm in Sutton, the Straw Hollow Engine & Tractor Club, and a member of the Central Mass Gas & Steam Engine Club. He is also a volunteer at Samuel Slater Experience.

Samuel Slater Experience opened last year to tell the story of Samuel Slater, the beginnings of the American Industrial Revolution, and Slater's impact on mill towns such as Webster. Described as "Disney-like," Samuel Slater Experience employs state-of-the-art 4-D digital technology with immersive video and interactive exhibits to recreate two time periods: the early 1800s and the early 1900s.

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BY ROD LEE

Some businesses don't change much, over the years, and shouldn't. They are familiar. Old favorites.

Carl's on Main Street in Oxford Center is just such a place.

From a parking spot in front of the diner on a recent Thursday morning, it didn't even look as if the lights were on inside.

Entry from the side, either side, is by way of a sliding door that has stood the test of time.

Back at the one-and-only Carl's, in Oxford

There was only one person at the counter at 8:30 a.m. Soon, however, more people began trickling in.

The décor is the same as it has been for quite a while. The menu that is posted just below the ceiling is handwritten. The stools are black leather. One was missing a seat. A sunflower was sticking out of the post that would have held the seat. Signage is of a jocular nature. "Danger Men Working." "No Whining." A mannequin occupies spot in the middle of the floor.

Joey Patrock, who works for the Patrick automotive dealership, showed up at 8:45 for a prearranged breakfast. He had issued a forewarning via text message the evening before: "Don't judge me. I love bacon!"

The reply was, "Carl's is the right

place for that."

Joey was told of a visit to Carl's with two brother-in-law's years ago, how impressed they were with the portions that they received.

"We don't get that back in New York State," they said.

The conversation quickly turned to fishing, a pastime that Joey enjoys.

"I feed the bass at the pond at my mom's house hot dogs," he said. "They love them!"

"Really? Raw?"

"Yes."

"My mother said to me 'they're not getting Kayem anymore. They'll get Market Basket hot dogs!'"

After that it was the Celtics and how they had blown Game 5 against the Atlanta Hawks at TD Garden twelve hours or so earlier; agreement that Jason Tatum deserves some of the criticism that comes his way for occasional sloppy ball-handling and passing—even though he is a great offensive threat.

Joey ordered eggs, bacon, home fries and toast. With a chocolate milk. I ordered pancakes and bacon. With coffee. Carl's threw in home fries as an extra for me.

"This is breakfast, lunch and



The counter at Carl's in Oxford on a weekday morning, just before the breakfast rush began in earnest.

dinner," I joked, straining to finish what had been put in front of me on separate plates.

Goodbyes were exchanged. "We'll do this again," we said.

A month, a year from now, Carl's will look and feel no different.

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

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

THROUGH MAY 31

• Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, presents "The Sea of Art is Endless," a group show featuring Bartlett High School student artwork in various media including digital, 3-D and prints of original work. Every new generation of art supplies the art world with a seemingly endless amount of creative ideas and new perspectives.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

• The Second Annual Pout Pond Fishing Derby, a free event, will be held from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Pout Pond, 70 W. River Road, Uxbridge. All anglers are welcome. Awards in age categories 3-7, 8-12 and 13-17 will be presented for the heaviest fish, longest fish, and most fish caught. All participants must be pre-registered starting at 7:00 a.m., and by 9:00 a.m. Bring your own

fishing equipment and bait. Contact Justin from the Pout Pond Recreation Committee at 508-250-8760 for further details.

• The Northbridge Historical Commission in partnership with the Northbridge Historical Society and will funding provided by a grant from the Northbridge Cultural Council hosts its popular Trolley Tours with three times offered: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. Space is limited. The tours begin at the 1770 Fletcher House, 1 Main St., former home of James Fletcher and now the home of the Northbridge Historical Society. Northbridge Historian and Teacher Ken Warchol will serve as guide for this two-hour tour of Northbridge Center and the Historic District of Whitinsville. The tour will take participants back to 1772, when Northbridge received its town charter.

Information will be provided about the vital role Northbridge played in the Industrial Revolution with establishment of the Whittin Machine Works as the most prominent textile machine shop in the world by the end of the 1920s. There is no charge for the tour. Registrations are required. Maps of the walking district are available for \$5, and donations are accepted. To register and for more information contact Ken Warchol at 508-680-3440 or email kenwarchol2@msn.com. Leave complete contact info including full name, contact number and email and preferred time and the number of seats requested.

• The General Ebenezer Learned Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Chapter of Oxford will present "A Button String

and Charm Story" featuring local historian and renowned storyteller Bob Moffatt in the Community Room of the Oxford Police Department, 365 Main St., at 1:00 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Donations to the Oxford Food Bank would be appreciated.

• An Open Mic Poetry Share will be held at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., Webster, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Join in for this monthly round-robin style event; bring original pieces to share. Sign up to reserve your spot by calling 508-949-6232 or email deb@bookloversgourmet.com.

• The Northbridge Fire Department will host its annual Spaghetti Supper with dine-in and pick-up options available between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. at current NFD headquarters, 193 Main St., Whitinsville. Homemade

meatballs, spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert will be served. All proceeds go towards the Northbridge fireworks display to be held on July 15th, organized by the NFD. Contact eventsNFD@gmail.com for further info.

• Take a Hike for Hope & Wellness, sponsored by the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Riverbend Farms DCR, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge. www.blackstonevalley.org.

• A Visioning Workshop for the Whittin Pond Dam will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Uxbridge Progressive Club, 18 Whittin St.. After a brief discussion participants will walk to the Whittin Dam for a "walk-shop." Then on Thursday, May 18 at 5:30 p.m., also at the Progressive Club there will be a follow-up presentation led by Fuss & O'Neill.

• The Grass Roots Coffeehouse's Spring Concert featuring the band Blackstone Valley Bluegrass will be held at the Rockdale Congregational Church, 42 Fowler Road, Northbridge. Admission is \$15; \$5 for students under 18. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Rockdale Congregational Church. The band is beginning its 26th season. Members include original guitarist Bob Dick, Mandolinist Tim St. Jean, Peter Tillotson on bass and Pete Fein on banjo. Go to www.rockdalechurchonline.org, email aplantdbob@aol.com or call 617-429-0347 for more information.

HAPPENINGS!

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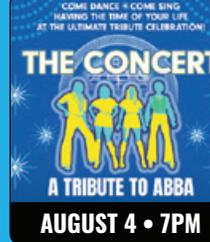
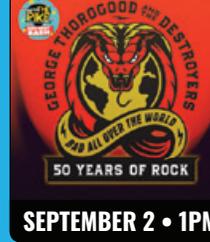
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 LAKE TOUR / JULY 9 / 10AM
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HAPPENINGS!

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MONDAY, MAY 15

• "Social Security: Your Questions Answered," featuring Dennis Antonopoulos, a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Auburn, will be offered at the Brookdale Eddy Pond West, 669 Washington St., Auburn.

Registration is at 5:45 p.m. and the seminar begins at 6:00 p.m. Such questions as "how does Social Security fit into my retirement income plan," "when should I start taking benefits" and "what about taxes" will be addressed. Social Security will likely be the

foundation of your retirement income. Before you retire, it's important to understand your options and the effect your decisions will have on your retirement. To register, call Karen Rieser at 508-832-5385 or email Karen.rieser@edwardjones.com.

FRIDAY, MAY 19

• Enjoy the music of the New Leaves Duo, playing Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, John Denver, Neil Diamond and more at Plummer Place (the Northbridge Senior Center), 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Light refreshments will be served. Sign up at the office.

SATURDAY, MAY 20

• Yard Sale, 46 Glen Drive, Whitinsville, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Host family recently downsized. Ping pong table, weight machine, poker table, full-length standing mirror and many other household items.
 • The Dudley Grange is participating in the Dudley Agricultural Commission's second annual "Dudley Grows Together" Plant Hop from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The Grange will be offering a variety of vegetable, herbs and some "uncommon" house plants for sale. There will also be Strawberry Shortcake tickets available for sale for the Grange's annual Strawberry Festival to be held on June 15th on Dudley Hill at 139 Center Road.
 • Historian Ken Ethier will talk about early transportation in Worcester County in a special appearance at the Samuel Slater Experience, 31 Ray St., Webster, at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Ethier is the Auburn town historian, board member of the Auburn Historical Museum, member of the Auburn

MAY 15-17

• Douglas's Silver Club is sponsoring a three-day trip to Maine (Portland and Kennebunkport) that includes guided tours of both places, a tour of the Victoria Mansion, a visit to the Seashore Trolley Museum with a trolley ride, two nights lodging, two breakfasts and two dinners (one of them lobster) as well as some free time for shopping. Cost is \$399 per person. Call Sue at 508-476-5820 for further details.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

• A guest speaker from the DA's office will discuss creating a safe environment for seniors at Plummer Place (the Northbridge Senior Center), 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Sign up in the main office.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

• The Auburn Historical Society & Museum will host Author Elena Palladino and the "Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley," drowned by the Quabbin, at 6:30 p.m.. The program will be presented at the Auburn Sportsmen Club, 50 Elm St., Auburn. Contact auburnmuseum@verizon.net or call 508-832-6856.

HAPPENINGS!

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Whitin Park
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HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 18

Historical Commission, board member and past president of the Auburn Historical Society, board member of Waters Farm in Sutton, the Straw Hollow Engine & Tractor Club, and a member of the Central Mass Gas & Steam Engine Club. He is also a volunteer at Samuel Slater Experience. www.samuel-slaterexperience.org.



Lillian Burnat and her husband Mike take a turn around the dance floor at a recent gathering of the New England Country Music Club at the Progressive Club on Whitin St. in Uxbridge. See Happenings listings for upcoming dates, a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

• Dove award-winning artist Jason Gray along with Dave Pettigrew will offer an evening of worship, stories and songs at 7:00 p.m. at Valley Chapel, 14 Hunter Road, Uxbridge.

MAY 20, JUNE 10 & 24

• Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 E. Main St., hosts Arteria's Arts Journal Making Course from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. Learn how to make a small journal from scratch in three lessons.

Cost is \$60 and includes all materials to bind, stitch and create your own journal. Call 508-949-6232 or stop in the store to register.

SUNDAY, MAY 21

• The New England Country Music Club hosts the Farmhands Band for entertainment and dancing at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:15 p.m. with live music from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub.

TUESDAY, MAY 23

• The Douglas Historical Society welcomes Janice McIntyre from the Jenny Baby's Doll Hospital back to the E.N. Jenckes Store Museum for a presentation on doll repair and restoration.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

• A Music Therapy Program featuring live dialogue and demonstration from Evy Amato will be held at Plummer Place (the Northbridge Senior Center), 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Light refreshments will be served. Sign up in the main office.

MAY 27-28

• World War II Tank Demonstration Weekend takes place at the American Heritage Museum, 568 Main St., Hudson, featuring the M4 Sherman, the M24 Chaffee, the M5 Stuart, the M18 Hellcat, the M26 Pershing and the first-ever event for the AHM's new M35 Jackson Tank Destroyer. Times are 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. www.americanheritagemuseum.org or call 978-562-9182 for further details.

MAY 27-29

• Discover how New England farmers used the wool from their sheep in the 1830s at Old Sturbridge Village's annual Wool Days. Farmers will give their sheep their annual "haircut" while costumed historians

demonstrate the entire wool textile process, from scouring and carding the wool to dyeing, spinning and then knitting the dyed yarn.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

• The new Dull Men's Club at Plummer Place (the Northbridge Senior Center), 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, meets from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Coffee and donuts. Contact Amy Cowen to sign up.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

• St. Peter's Parish, 39 Church Ave., Northbridge, is hosting a Yard Sale and Vendor Fair from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Rain date is Saturday, June 10th. Volunteers will be available to pick up donated items. Vendors are welcome. Vendor tables may be secured for \$40. Call 508-234-2156 or email parishoffice@stpeterrockdale.org for more information.

• Valley Chapel in Uxbridge will host the

Iron Sharpens Iron National Men's Conference from 8:30 a.m. to 12:55 p.m. This is a half-day Equipping Conference with seminars specific to men of all ages and walks of life. For more information or to register go to <https://ironsharpensiron.net/>.

• "A History of Howard Johnson's: How a Massachusetts Soda Fountain Became an American Icon," with historian, author and current professor of history at Boston University Anthony Sammarco as presenter, will be held at Plummer Place (the Northbridge Senior Center) from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. A Q&A will follow. Light refreshments will be served. Sign up in the main office.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

• The Sutton Preservationist 4H Club will host its second annual Coffee with Cows event on the Sutton Town Common. Last year the club reached out to other nonprofit organizations including the Lions Club, the Green Bean Project, the Congregational

Church, the Historical Society and the Cultural Council to join in staging this event.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

• Join the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce's Food, Beverage and Hospitality Network for a Business After Hours net-

HAPPENINGS!

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working event hosted by Rushford & Sons Brewhouse, 8 Grove St., Upton, 5:30-7:30 p.m. www.blackstonevalley.org/events.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

• Come experience the refined folk music for modern times with Mark Mandeville and Rainne Richards at Plummer Place (the Northbridge Senior Center), 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Sign up

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UPCOMING DATES: SAT, JULY 8 & FRI, AUG 11




HAPPENINGS!

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at the main office.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

• The Sutton Historical Society will host a Brown Bag Picnic Reunion on the Sutton Town Common in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the construction of the

General Rufus Putnam Museum building at 4 Uxbridge Road. This Picnic Reunion is for anyone who attended school in the building during its time as both an elementary and a high school. For more information or to share memories about the many uses to which the building has been put, including as a Masonic Hall, a DAR facility, a public school and a library, email Sutton1704@gmail.com.

• The Millbury Women's Club will host

"Under the Tent," a concert with singing sensation Dan the Singing Trooper and his wife Mary Colarusso a coloratura soprano performing. There will be a cash bar, raffles and an evening of "incredibly beautiful and inspirational" entertainment. Contact Jane Cheetham for tickets at jane.cheetham@gmail.com. Space is limited.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

• Picnic in the Park, the Whitin Community



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Author Tom Ingrassia reads from his book "One Door Closes: Overcoming Adversity by Following Your Dreams" on April 29th at Booklovers' Gourmet on Main St. in Webster in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Independent Bookstore Day.

Center's popular event with food trucks, live entertainment, community vendors, a doll and pet parade, a dunk tank and more, returns to Whitin Park, 60 Main St., Whitinsville. Visit www.WhitinCommunityCenter.com for further details.

• St. Patrick's Church's Spring Recycling Event will take place at 7 East St., Whitinsville, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Profits will benefit upcoming YIA service projects. Accepting gently used books (no encyclopedias), gently used textiles/clothing, electronics for a fee (no propane, batteries, light bulbs), rinsed bottles/cans returnable in MA, paper shredding (\$8 a box, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. only). Please keep items for each station separate. For more information and electronics pricing, call 508-234-5656 or email officesupport@mystpatrick.com.

The Auburn Historical Society & Museum will host a Yard Sale, 40 South St., Auburn, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. No Early Birds please.

Get The Led Out performs at Indian Ranch, 200 Gore Road, Webster, 7:00 p.m. www.indianranch.com.

hosts the Rustic Country band for entertainment and dancing at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:15 p.m. with live music from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. www.facebook.com/NECountryMusicClub.

• Kip Moore performs at Indian Ranch, 200 Gore Road, Webster, 1:00 p.m. www.indianranch.com.

MONDAY, JUNE 12

• Blackstone Valley Tech's 24th annual golf tournament will be held at Highfields Golf & Country Club, 42 Magill Drive, Grafton will proceed benefitting the school's Education Foundation and Athletic Department activities and programs. Registration is \$150 for individuals and \$125 per person for a foursome and includes 18 holes on the championship course, golf cart and a buffet dinner. There will be a silent auction and raffles. To register, support the event as a sponsor or donate a raffle item, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/golftournament.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

• The New England Country Music Club

HAPPENINGS!

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HAPPENINGS!

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

• Lifelong Whitinsville resident and Telegram & Gazette writer Bill Ballou will present a history of the Whitin family at Plummer Place (the Northbridge Senior Center) from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Sign up in the main office.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

The Dudley Grange's annual Strawberry Festival will be held on the Grange's grounds on Dudley Hill at 139 Center Road. The New Sound Assembly Barbershop Chorus will perform at Plummer Place (the Northbridge Senior Center) from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Sign up in the main office.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

• The Sutton Historical Society will host its Annual Town-Wide Yard Sale from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Participant registration forms can be found at sutton-historicalsocietyinc.org. Cost to take part is \$10. New this year is the option to pay via UNIPAY. The Society accepts yard sale donations; please not items such as TVs, computers, monitors, upholstered furniture or clothes. Contact sutton1704@gmail.com to donate.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

• "What's Up Doc," a women's health forum, will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Plum-

mer Place (the Northbridge Senior Center), 20 Highland St., Whitinsville. This workshop will feature an open discussion with a panel including a female psychologist, a female psychiatrist "and our very own Dr. Maggie," a family medicine provider. Bring your questions, drop them off at the Center or email Amy at acowen@northbridgema.org. Refreshments will be served. Sign up in the main office.

SUNDAY, JUNE 25

• The New England Country Music Club hosts the Rhode Island Rednecks for entertainment and dancing at the Progressive Club, 18 Whitin St., Uxbridge. Doors open at 12:15 p.m. with live music from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. www.facebook.com/NECountry-MusicClub.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

• Dan Fontaine, an Elvis tribute artist, will return to Plummer Place (the Northbridge Senior Center), 20 Highland St., Whitinsville, for a performance from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. Lunch is a Memphis-themed barbecue. Tickets are \$10 each with a limit of two tickets per person.

SATURDAY, JULY 1

• Chase Rice performs at Indian Ranch, 200 Gore Road, Webster, 1:00 p.m. www.indianranch.com.

SUNDAY, JULY 9

• Rumours: The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac

Tribute Show, takes the stage at Indian Ranch, 200 Gore Road, 1:00 p.m. www.indianranch.com.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

• The 2nd Annual Parking Lot Craft Fair sponsored by the Auburn Historical Society & Museum will be held at 41 South St., Auburn, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., rain or shine. Vendors are welcome. Contact Helen at auburnmuseum@verizon.net to reserve a

space for \$15.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

• The Sutton Historical Society welcomes Andrew Noone, author of "Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy," at the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Road, Sutton, at 7:00 p.m. Go to www.suttonhistoricalsociety.org for further info.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

• The Sutton Historical Society welcomes Mark Savoio of the Thompson Historical Society for the presentation "The Mass 15th of the Civil War and Wilder Holbrook, Sutton," at the First Congregational Church, 307 Boston Road, at 7:00 p.m. Go to www.suttonhistoricalsociety.org for further info.

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LIVING WITH LUKE

amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Suddenly, Luke Valentino is showing an aggressive side

BY AMY PALUMBO-LECLAIRE

I grew up in the seventies, at a time when dogs got into dog fights. That was the way it was back then. We didn't talk about latest research, or things like unneutered pets, food aggression and male dominance. My dog, Max, a free-spirited mongrel said to be part Rhodesian, would taunt our next-door neighbor's dog Lido, an eternal barker with a scruffy beard and venomous teeth. Lido used to body-slam the front door when I delivered the newspaper to his house. He appeared tall and awkward, an oversized Jack Russell that would have been cute—if only he was seven times smaller.

"Sorry you're on a leash, Lido. I won't be long." Max adored Lido's yard. He would trot over and sniff overturned flowerpots while Lido stretched to the furthest point

possible to reach a wanted dog.

Until the unlucky day came. Lido broke free.

"He's going to kill him!" I watched Max rumble with the beast, not knowing that my small mongrel would take it like a champ. He limped home with one eye shut, and sipped water from an outside puddle. Then he lied down, placed a defeated head over his paws, and shook off the fight. "Win some, lose some." Sigh.

Max was my favorite. He died tragically after being struck by the last car he would ever chase on Rockland Road, Auburn. He was only seven and died in my father's arms, right in front of my house. I went to school the next day feeling nauseous.

Fast forward forty-five years. I might be old, but I'm still a Dog Person. Luke is my third male Golden, and the oldest to remain unneutered. His handsome looks qualify him to be a stud, informally speaking. But imagine if Luke could be an actual Stud? Imagine



Behaving like a gentleman at Barnes & Noble

if we could watch him grow old with a chunky Leo or Lila, one of his very own pups? The vision, along with sound research that a "later neuter" is considered better for your male, has kept me from scheduling the surgery. Consequently, Luke is fifteen months

going on fifteen. Pardon the smack talk, but he's grown a set of balls.

"Luke!!!"

As though defending me from a pack of hyenas, he shows his teeth and snaps in the face of certain males. His sudden aggression has

after the words slipped from my mouth, I wanted to take them back "Why did I say that? Everyone knows bulldogs are ugly-cute." I tried again. "Luke has been acting adolescent lately."

His adolescent behavior may be rearing its big head, but I've learned that Luke is not alone here. Other males have disrespected him. They've growled in his face and picked fights when he's tried to play. I've yelled at the offenders, using my stern teacher's voice. "You be nice to Luke! He was just trying to play!" Nevertheless, dogs will be dogs. And male hormones will rage with scents we can't quite understand. I can't help but think that Luke's intact (big?) balls are part of the problem. Worse, unlike Lincoln, a gentle giant who just wanted to play ball, Luke loves to play rough. He doesn't know when to back down. He doesn't know when enough is enough. More sadly, he's learning the hard way what Max had learned in the hood. "You win some, you lose some." Some males just want to be boss.



Playtime with Golden pal, Tucker

The German Shepherd we met at the dog park was no exception. I noticed him casually playing with a Frisbee while Luke trotted aside another girl in the play group. Upon entering the gate, I had been told that the male shepherd is "keeping everyone in line." I've always appreciated the breed, having grown up with four (at different life phases). I understand them. A German Shepherd is loyal, but often aggressively so and they're not quite as affectionate as Goldens. Given Luke's recent track record, who could judge on that front? I wanted to earn Kyle's trust. I spoke kindly to the lean shepherd and pet his head. More interested in the Frisbee, he looked away and did his own thing. Before long, Luke wanted to make friends. He trotted into Kyle's space. "Hi, I'm Luke Valentino Let's wrestle!"

Kyle snarled and snapped back. "How dare you ask me to play!! I don't play. I'm the boss of this turf." Luke did not submit, as other dogs had known to do. "What's your problem?" He growled back and showed his teeth. For a split second, I thought (and hoped) that the two males would come to an agreement. "I'm strong."

taken me by surprise. A bulldog named Jackson faced his wrath recently. Stocky and patient, the bulldog sat at the threshold of a dog-friendly bar in Millbury. By virtue of his pedigree, he wore a permanent Joker smile while he watched Luke walk in.

"What is wrong with your face!!! Did you have a fight with a frying pan?!" My pup went crazy, a big teddy bear with an unruly temper. Joker Jax, innocent and hated on, looked away. "I'm so sorry. My dog hasn't yet processed the face of a bulldog yet." Seconds

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REAL ESTATE

The Power of Pre-Approval

If you're buying a home this spring, today's housing market can feel like a challenge. With so few homes on the market right now, plus higher mortgage rates, it's essential to have a firm grasp



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

on your home buying budget. You'll also need a sense of determination to find the right house and act quickly when you go to put in an offer. One thing you can do to help you prepare is to get pre-approved.

To understand why it's such an important step, you need to know what pre-approval is. As part of the process, a lender looks at

your finances to determine what they'd be willing to loan you. From there, your lender will give you a pre-approval letter to help you understand how much money you can borrow. Marzeotti Group can provide a referral with great lenders. Give us a call today!

Essentially, a pre-approval is an indication from your lender that they are willing to lend you a certain amount of money to buy your future home. Keep in mind that the loan amount in the pre-approval letter is typically the lender's maximum offer. Ultimately, you should only borrow an amount you are comfortable repaying.

Basically, pre-approval gives you critical information about the home buying process that will help you understand how much you may be able to borrow so you have a better understanding of your options. And with higher mortgage rates impacting affordability for many buyers today, a solid under-

standing of your numbers is even more important.

Pre-Approval helps show you're a serious buyer and most times is required to even get in to see a home for sale.

That's not the only thing pre-approval can do. Another added benefit is it can help a seller feel more confident in your offer because it shows you're serious about buying their house. And, with sellers seeing a slight increase in the number of offers again this spring, making a strong offer when you find the perfect house is key.

Getting pre-approved is an important first step when you're buying a home. It lets you know what you can borrow for your loan and shows sellers you're serious. Contact The Marzeotti Group or with a local Realtor and a trusted lender so you have the tools you need to purchase a home in today's market.

cue with a firm command. "OFF!"

Kyle was oblivious. He held his ground and kept a clutched mouth on Luke's neck. I kneeled by the dogs' side and fought to pry Kyle's mouth from Luke's neck in the same way I might extract a stolen piece of tissue. I've done this a thousand times. My love for Luke began to overshadow any fear. I would not walk out of the park with nausea in my gut. I would not allow my pup to feel pain. While I worked on Kyle's mouth, the owner was able to clip him onto a leash and pull him off Luke. She was terribly upset and apologetic. I sat beside my dog and pet his head. I comforted and pet him soothingly.

"You're okay, Luke. You're okay. Let's go have some water." Luke truly was okay. He sat, smiled, and panted the way dogs do. The moment came and went. He would move on because he's a dog. Dogs don't stay stuck the way people do. Still, I hugged and babied him some more. "I'm so sorry this happened to you." I took him to the pet store to pick out a stuffed animal. Max never got a second chance. Luke did! I left the dog park misty-eyed and relieved, knowing that the incident would mark my last one for a very long time. Dogs will be dogs. But the cost of losing Luke is too great. Besides, his own puppies may need him someday.

Stay tuned for more on Living with Luke.

Find Luke Valentino on Instagram @ livingwithlukevalentino

LUKE

continued from page 22

I'm strong! I like to play. I like to play!" Let's both be strong and play? Not a chance. A full-fledged dog fight ensued within seconds. What should have been grumbling, rough play took a dangerous turn. Despite my experience in handling dogs, I felt suddenly terrified. The shepherd pinned my precious Luke to the ground by the neck. "That's a puppy!!" The owner screamed. "Get off him!!" My heart pounded. I stomped my foot down and jumped to the res-



Luke on the lookout

Write to me at amyleclaire@hotmail.com

***Please note - I have changed the name of the German Shepherd and did not mention the name of the Dog Park in order to protect the integrity of both. As dog owners and those advocating for the wellness of pets, we are doing our best. Sometimes we fall short.*

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SPORTS

Douglas softball team eyes another tournament run

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The Douglas softball team has advanced into the tournament for the past four seasons only to lose in the first round of the Division 2 Central Mass Tournament in 2018, 2019 and 2021 (there was no season in 2020 due to Covid). Last year in the Division 5 State Tournament the Tigers upset Rockport 10-0 in the first round before losing to number six seed Hoosac Valley 2-1 in a tough-fought battle in the next round. This year Douglas is looking to go further.

“We are a relatively young team coming into the season and will need to work through some stuff,” Douglas Coach John Furno said. “But once they become confident then this team is going to be one to look out for and who knows what they’ll be able to accomplish in the tournament.”

Due to graduation the Tigers only lost their first baseman and shortstop as they enter this season, but Furno believes that he has the talent to fill in those vacancies. Eighth grader Emma Kagels will slide over from second base to take over the shortstop hole and according to the coach has picked

up the position rather quickly.

First base is currently being manned by sophomore Madison McDermott, the team’s usual number one pitcher. McDermott is still recovering at this writing and will not take the circle until she is fully healed. In the meantime, the team’s regular first baseman junior Emilee Hamlen has been holding down the pitching duties.

“Emilee has been doing a great job in getting us through. She brings a much different style than Maddy; she relies on her movement and hitting her spots,” Furno said. “Maddy led all of Central

Mass in strikeouts last year and throws gas.”

Furno is hoping to have McDermott back in the circle by mid-April and once she does return he’ll take it game by game to see which girl gets the starting nod.

Behind the plate, one of the strongest catchers in the Dual Valley Conference according to the coach will be another eighth grader in Alya McDermott. The younger of the McDermott sisters will not only provide a strong presence behind the plate, but she will also lead off for the Tigers. She is a solid contact hitter who gets on base more times than not and once there she provides the team with great base running skills.

Freshman McKenna Chiasson will handle the hot corner for the Tigers this season after playing the outfield last year.

“It’s a big adjustment moving from the outfield to the infield, but she has done well and fitting in quite nicely,” Furno said.

Senior Shaylyn Emanuel will slide into centerfield to provide the Tigers with leadership in the outfield, as well as giving the two corner outfielders any help that they may need. Seventh grade twins Addison and Jasmine Trudeau will be flanking Emanuel on either side out there. The Trudeau twins are also working on



their pitching and catching skills to bolster the team’s depth for the future.

Ariana Delgado, another eighth grader, will be taking over at second base. Although a first-time softball player, Delgado is an athletic individual who also plays basketball and soccer.

Rounding out the team are outfielders Emily Torres, Alana Chang, Natalie Reade, and McKenzie Johnson.

Furno is looking for his young team to become fundamentally strong with their skills as the season progresses and with this being a daily thing at practice he is sure that it will eventually happen. After getting their skills in place the team’s goal is to once again advance into the State Tournament, where they have proven in the past that anything is possible.

Douglas opened the season 0-2 with losses to Uxbridge and Advanced Math and Science, but this is what the Coach figured. If things go as planned Douglas will turn things around and make a run at the Tournament.

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SPORTS

Numbers low but hopes high for Suzie softballers

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Taking over the Sutton softball team, Matt Milaszewski knows that this year's squad is very young, and the sport doesn't have a lot of numbers to even put together a freshman lineup. Despite the cards he has been dealt, Milaszewski is hoping to build the Suzies into a formidable team.

"We are definitely a very young team with only one senior and two juniors," the coach said. "Between the varsity and junior varsity team we have a total of 19 girls playing and we can not have the two teams play on the same day as the numbers really don't allow it."

Shortstop Carolina Padula is the team's one and only senior and has been a productive player for the Suzies for some time now. Milaszewski is looking for his lone senior to continue to play solid defense while taking a big leadership role on the team. Her continued leadership and ability to help the younger girls will bode well for the program's future.

Following Padula as the team's next to eldest players are juniors

Natalie Hayes and Emily Britton. Hayes is a versatile individual that can play numerous positions on the field and according to the coach each game will dictate where she plays that day. She is also very vocal as a leader and that in turn



helps the younger players.

Britton, unlike Padula and Hayes, is relatively new to the Suzies' squad and although she has played softball in the youth program she has not stepped onto a field in some time. She is a player who was recruited by the coach to come out for the team being the numbers were so low.

Freshman Kaila Wheeler finds herself currently as the team's most likely number one pitcher as she has shown that she can handle the responsibility at this point of time.

Sophomores Hannah Pratt and Audie Deshais are taking the next step at earning a spot in the circle and Milaszewski says they will most likely get a look at if needed and they keep up their hard work for the position.

"We'll see how things go," he said. "I really don't want to really have to rely on only one pitcher, but right now Kaila is our top pitcher."

One other athlete, who also plays travel ball during the summer, that the coach is looking to help the team build its future will be Reagan Giguere. She is an experienced player that brings stability to the field and she has made herself quite comfortable at second base.

Playing in the Dual Valley Conference, Milaszewski knows that it's not going to be a cake walk, but believes his young team has all the assets to become a team that can compete.

"We are a young team and do find ourselves in somewhat of a building year. Right now, all we can do is take to the field and do our best," Milaszewski said. "Obviously you want to win as much as you

can to qualify for the State Tournament, but things are still cloudy, and I just don't know at this point."

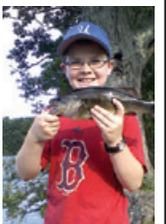
As the season moves along one game at a time the incoming coach is looking for his young squad to

take what they've learned and apply it to the field; hopefully by the time the tournament rolls around Sutton will have not only qualified but be prepared to make a run through it.

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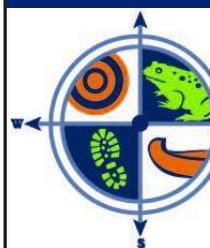
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Scan tool may resolve faulty power window switch issue

Q. On my 2014 Toyota Avalon the power window switch on the passenger side isn't working, but the switch on the driver's side with all four is working fine. Is this a sensor or something else.



BY JOHN PAUL

A. The switch communicates through a computer network to

the car's main computer. The issue could simply be a faulty switch, but

it could also be a communications problem to the computer. This can be checked with a professional level bi-directional scan tool that can read the window commands and also command the window to move.

Q. Can you tell me how much it costs to replace both front wheel bearings on my 2009 Nissan Murano SL with all-wheel drive. The prices seem to vary, and I want to make sure I'm not getting taken advantage of.

A. The wheel bearings are actually part of the front hub assembly, the bearing and

hub have a retail cost of approximately \$230 each. The labor to replace the hubs depending on shop labor fees is about \$300 (about two hours at \$150 per hour). You could save a little money with an aftermarket part, but be aware part quality can vary greatly. Once the repair is performed the vehicle should have a wheel alignment to prevent tire wear.

Q. My daughter has a 2004 Hyundai Elantra. About two months ago, the alternator was failing in heavy rain, this triggered the battery icon and also check engine light to come on. I've replaced the alternator while check engine light still reappears. The diagnostic code is PO456 indicating very small emission leak. I would like to know if an alternator issue can create and store a false code in car computer? The emission monitors become "ready" following driving enough even if the check engine light is on. I have also replaced the purge solenoid valve, charcoal canister vent valve and gas cap. Could the computer need replacement to solve the matter?

A. The most common reasons that a 2004 Hyundai Elantra has code PO456 are, most of the items you have changed. The gas cap is most common, followed by the EVAP cannister, vent solenoid, then the purge solenoid, then a leaking fuel filler neck, leaking evaporative emissions lines and in a very few instances the fuel pump was the issue. At this point, the best thing to do is find a shop that can "smoke test" the evaporative emissions system to look for a leak. At nearly 20 years old it is entirely possible the fuel filler could be the source of the leak.

Q. Why do AAA and other places charge to keep your old battery when they put in a new one?

A. All battery retailers have a battery "core" charge. In reality, the core charge is a recycling fee in some cases legally required for the sale of car batteries. These recycling fees and deposit refund programs help encourage people to properly dispose of old car batteries by returning them to retailers or manufacturers who can dispose of them for you. Several years back we had a battery round up-where we asked AAA members to bring us their old batteries and we got hundreds that were sitting in basements, garages and backyards and fields. The core charge is built into the battery cost. The old battery is palletized, and shipped back to a recycler and about 98 percent of old battery material can be processed and reused to make new batteries, limiting the

impact on natural resources.

Q. I have a 2010 Toyota Camry with 142,000 miles. Two months ago, the car just shut off on the way. The local mechanic put a new aftermarket fuel pump and it was running very well, for a while. After another month it stopped and wouldn't start. I towed the car to another mechanic, and he said the fuel pump is not good so he changed the Toyota fuel pump. It ran good for another two weeks and now after driving for 10 minutes it shuts off again. I am guessing that maybe it is time to change the spark plugs and ignition coil. What would you do?

A. Since the fuel pump at least temporarily solved the issue, I would look in this general direction. At this point any diagnosis should start with a thorough visual inspection, followed by a complete scan of the computer system. Since the engine stops running after 10 minutes, the shop should hook up their diagnostic equipment and monitor the data, up until the engine stops running. Could it be an ignition coil, perhaps, but to avoid guessing some additional diagnostic time is necessary to find the actual problem.

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 at mrjohnfpaul.

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Ghost Cats, Part II: More common than you might think

BY THOMAS D'AGOSTINO

We are not the only ones who have a ghost cat in their lives. General Stanton Inn in Charlestown, Rhode Island has three known ghosts, the general, his wife, and an unidentified cat. No one knows who the cat is, but bartenders and patrons often feel the ghostly feline rub up against their legs. Many have seen the dark shadow of a cat moving about the tavern and heard ethereal "meows" coming from areas at the inn.

Ciro's Restaurant in Woonsocket, Rhode Island has a celebrated history regarding everything from a speakeasy to a brothel. The upstairs is decorated like Henry the Eighth's Tudor mansion and hosts several paranormal entities, one being a kitty.

Several of the staff have closed up during the night and have heard a cat meowing in the castle-style dining room known as Hampton Court. One staff member saw the cat, thought it had somehow got in, and went upstairs unnoticed. She turned for a moment to bring it a drink, and when she turned back, it had vanished. A subsequent search proved no cat was ever in the building, at least no living one.

Hammond Castle in Gloucester, Massachusetts, was built by inventor John Hays Hammond Jr. He let his favorite pets, cats, run among the many ancient artifacts he displayed. Hammond was also a paranormal enthusiast and performed many experi-

ments inside the castle with the likes of a Faraday cage.

It was well known that Hammond wanted to be reincarnated as a cat after his mortal body was committed to the earth. Shortly after his death, a black cat appeared at the castle, lying in Hammond's favorite chair. From the moment the strange kitty entered the castle, it was familiar with the layout. It would go right to Hammond's favorite rooms at certain times of the day, much like the inventor did, and found solace in that same chair Hammond also found.

Each time the cat died, another would reappear in its place. Ghost? Reincarnation? Attraction from some ethereal power? No one is sure, but to this day, one can tour the castle and perhaps meet the little furry cat that seems to have dominion over the other ghosts of the castle.

The Orleans Inn, located in Orleans, Massachusetts, is home to two ghost cats that live in Room 4. The cats belonged to two women who bought the inn around 1900. They kept many cats, and two of them have survived in spirit to this day. People hear them purring and meowing, and sometimes when they open the door to the room, they feel invisible fur brushing against their legs as the ghost mousers either enter or leave the apartment.

Christy Parrish of the Oliver House in Middleborough, Massachusetts, has realized that one of the several ghosts that still occupy the house is an orange tabby named "Merragold."

Merragold belonged to Sally Hutchinson Oliver, the original and first lady of the house. The building was erected in 1769 for Dr. Peter Oliver Jr. and his wife, Sally. The Olivers may be among the several ghosts that haunt the mansion along with Merragold. Many people have seen the ghost cat wandering among the rooms throughout the years. Investigators have also caught Merragold on audio either meowing, purring, or just making the general noises that cats are known for. The house is leased for daytime or overnight investigations, as it is very active and tenanted with many who once lived there in the mortal frame.

These are just some of the stories where ghost cats still make themselves known to those who loved them. They are an amazing breed and known to be intuitive. It may be comforting to know that your little guy or girl will still be there for who knows how long, if not in the physical

sense, at least the spiritual one.

One more anecdote. In England, it was well known that a

black cat crossing your path was bad luck; in America, it is just the opposite.



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