



Dr. Beata Stancel-Grabias and Dr. Piotr Grabias have forged successful medical careers after immigrating to the United States.

A nation of immigrants: Dr. Beata Stancel-Grabias

BY JANET STOICA

This is the second in a series of articles about local immigrants and their lives in the United States, why they came, how they lived, and what their outlook is about this country.

In 1992, after winning a green card lottery held by the Polish government, medical students Beata Stancel-Grabias and her

husband, Piotr Grabias, took those green cards and made their way to the United States of America. Their destination was Atlanta, Georgia. Their newborn son, Michael, was their most precious carry-on parcel when they boarded their jet to America. Their goals were to become medical doctors in the United States.

"In Poland, at the time, becoming a doctor was certainly not as comparable as it was in America,"

said Dr. Stancel-Grabias. "Medical students were assigned via contacts made in the governmental bureaucracy. It was very difficult and career advancement was very challenging. The economy was not in good shape. My husband and I decided to try to make it here

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Navy Vet Adelard Leo Marier is grand marshal for Memorial Day Parade

A Grand Marshal has been defined as a person who has been honored as the ceremonial leader of a parade. They can be seen in open convertibles, waving at throngs of onlookers standing along a predetermined route.

Famous Grand Marshals include: Frank Sinatra, Erma Bombeck and Shirley Temple. The Grand Marshal's tenure is usually for a single parade and he or she is not to be confused with the Drum Major. The D-M is always the tallest dude, wears a visored bearskin headpiece, carries a mace, leads the band, and knows how to strut. The whistle is his or hers for as long as they want to keep it.

Del Marier has been honored by the Webster Dudley Veterans' Council in being named Grand Marshal of the 2023 Memorial Day Parade.

Del is a lifelong resident of Webster, having been born in 1932 in a modest home on Upland Ave. He has resided in almost every neighborhood in town. Del is content anywhere, as long as it is in Webster. Although the name 'Adelard' is of German origin, Del's father was French and his mother was Polish...and, he says, that is why he went to St. Joseph School. Eight years with the



Felician Sisters prepared him for his stint at Bartlett High School, but not for the tragedy that would soon occur. Del's dad was involved in a serious accident that would keep him out of work for a long time. Del was an only child. He left school at age sixteen and entered the workforce to help out with expenses at home. He found steady work at the Webster Shoe Company. Job Title: Rougher!

In 1951 there was a war on the Korean Peninsula that got the attention of the United Nations. Del and two of his buddies, Bob Lavallee and Roger Daviau,

PARADE

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IMMIGRANTS

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in America. If we failed then we would return to Poland.”

The couple found jobs as medical assistants in an Atlanta medical practice. As English grammar was taught to them since elementary school in their native country, they did have a basic start on their new country's language, which improved during their employment and patient interactions.

“We always seemed to become acquainted with Americans who helped us along the way. We felt so very fortunate. We decided to take our medical boards, passed those boards, and were accepted into the medical residency program at UMass Medical School in Worcester. We had to prove ourselves and felt that more doors would be open to us if we studied hard and

applied ourselves to our ultimate goal. This is the only country in the world where you can do this. If you work hard and focus on your objective, you can do anything and be anything,” Dr. Stancel-Grabias said.

“It was a very long and challenging road but we did it. We were very privileged to have the help of our parents who came to the U.S. to help with caring for our children. They took care of our children while we studied at the local library. We were in that library on a daily basis, we persisted. We knew what we wanted and we wanted to be a success.”

In 2000, Dr. Stancel-Grabias and Dr. Piotr Grabias became U.S. citizens. Dr. Stancel-Grabias related that knowing the English language was most important to passing the 120-question test. She also mentioned that since medicine's universal language is Latin-based, it was a defining factor in their medical

education classes. When some days became frustrating and they were weary, the couple coped by lifting each other's spirits and just kept going. They certainly persevered.

“If it weren't for communism, we'd never be here,” said Dr. Stancel-Grabias. “The land of opportunity, America, welcomed us. I've always tried to be an optimist but sometimes life can be demanding. We're glad that we took the chance to come to this country as we couldn't be happier.”

After their graduation from UMass Medical, Dr. Piotr Grabias was offered a practice in Framingham. Then, word came that Hubbard Hospital (now known as UMass Memorial Health/Harrington Hospital) in Webster was searching for a Polish-speaking physician.

Dr. Grabias visited the hospital, toured the town of Webster, liked the environs, and told his wife that this location would be a

good choice. Even though Atlanta was calling them back, they opted to stay in New England. After Dr. Stancel-Grabias completed her schooling one year after her husband's graduation, Hubbard Hospital also offered her a position to take over a retiring doctor's practice. It was a daunting situation to be in but she was able to transition and make it all a success.

In 2004, Dr. Beata Stancel-Grabias and her husband, Dr. Piotr Grabias, established their internal medicine practice in Webster and have become well-known and revered by their patients. Their practice is very busy but they do accept new patients. Because of their superior academic achievements while at UMass Medical School, both doctors were offered professorships at UMass Medical School where they still teach students about internal medicine to this day.

“I always see many young patients and young students everywhere,” said Dr. Stancel-Grabias, “and it's so difficult to even get into medical school. I tell them that if you put your heart and hard work into something, you will always succeed. Anything is possible. It might not happen right away but it will happen. Never stop dreaming and reaching towards your goal. I always worked hard and was never easy on myself. I do always see the glass as half-full. Life can be hard but when we overcome we can appreciate when life is good.”

“Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants.” –Franklin D. Roosevelt

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enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After taking the oath the recruits were sent to Newport, Rhode Island for twelve weeks of boot camp. Indoctrination was not at all like high school. The boys endured the tough curriculum, graduated, and watched for the posting of new assignments. Lavallee became a Seabee. Daviau's new duty station remains a mystery.

Del Marier was ordered to report to the USS POCONO AGC-16, at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. He had won a Ticket to Paradise in the U.S. Navy Lottery. POCONO had recently been recommissioned and was being refitted. Seaman Marier was assigned to the Deck Force, a.k.a. Deck Apes, who excelled at swabbing decks and chipping paint. They were a vital part in keeping a ship 'Ship-Shape.' When work was completed at the Navy Yard, POCONO and her new crew set sail for Norfolk, Virginia.

USS POCONO AGC-16 was an Adirondack Class Amphibious Command Ship, light on weapons but a heavyweight in communications. She was fitted with two five-inch 38 single barrel gun mounts backed up by several 40mm and 20mm AA guns. A third five-inch gun mount was removed and replaced with a helicopter pad at the Admiral's request, sort of a 'rank has privileges' upgrade. The AGC was most often found at the center of the formation, protected by Cruisers and Destroyers. The Task Group also included supply ships of every kind neces-

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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 Meet-

ing 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 these are dearer to his heart than Planning Board and NCTV. With the Planning Board he has led the applause for creation



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.

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."

of a new police station and a new Walmart, redevelopment of the Linwood Mill and the Whitinsville Plaza, and construction of a

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sary for the mission. The area of operations included the East Coast south to the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, the North American Mainland, the area east of Central America and north of South America. Ports in Haiti, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Bahamas, St. Maarten and New Orleans were visited when not training. Drills were held day and night: gunnery practice, general quarters 'Man Your Battle Stations', or Man Overboard. It was tiring and a weekend on the beaches of Nassau was always a welcome diversion. USS MT. MCKINLEY AGC7 and USS ELDORADO AGC11 were seeing action in Korea. The POCONO was on 'stand by', awaiting rotation to the 7th Fleet in the Pacific. The call never came...it

was disappointing.

By this time Del had his sea legs and was as 'salty' as a sailor could be. He transferred to the Quartermaster Section and became a Helmsman, steering the ship through treacherous waters and violent storms (like in the movies). Other duties included mopping, cleaning, chipping and painting and caring for Navigational Charts and Publications. He also assisted the Deck Officer and Navigator when called upon. Occasionally, Del would write a letter to Mom and Dad....and Joan.

Del and Joan both attended St. Joseph School. Despite the fact that Joan was always one grade ahead of Del, the youngsters got along well and a romance blossomed as the years flew by. Adelard and Joan were married in 1952. Del remained at the helm of the POCONO until his commitment to the Navy expired. Joan



Del Marier, a U.S. Navy veteran and lifelong resident of Webster, will serve as grand marshal for the Webster Dudley Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. Marier as a U.S. Navy seaman; and the USS Pocono.



continued helping out at the family business.

The POCONO was homeported

in Norfolk and Del was able to hitchhike home as the schedule allowed. Early in 1955 Del took a discharge rather than a bonus for re-enlistment. The newlyweds could settle back into life together in Webster...maybe even start a family. Del went to work for Piasta Dairy, peddling milk while pumping gas at his father-in-law's garage, Bruno's Citgo, on East Main Street. Mr. Woznicki was thrilled to have Del and daughter Joan helping out. And someday his four grandchildren may even take over the business.

The Mariers were a working class family, they had the necessities, more frugal than flamboyant, both parents were gainfully employed and contributors to society. Joanie worked for the Post Office in Shrewsbury, and Del was a factory guy, cotton, wool, shoes or Security. He retired at age seventy-six when Anglo Fabrics replaced the Security Guards with cameras. It is ironic that the factory burned down shortly thereafter

Life at sea is just a memory

now. Del lives in a comfortable apartment at Golden Heights, the senior housing facility on Slater Street that gets its name from the dandelion displays, prevalent at the site or more likely it refers to the 'Golden Years' that the residents are experiencing.

The Happy Helmsman is a member of the Webster-Dudley Post 184 American Legion and the Polish American Vets. He is also the recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, and an honorable discharge. Del served his country faithfully and is deserving of the title "GRAND MARSHAL".

Seaman Marier will be back in the wheelhouse one more time, guiding a convoy of comrades through the harbor of his hometown on Memorial Day, while a grateful nation pauses in respect.

Steady as you go, Del, the POCONO ain't what she used to be!

Submitted by Don Wayman, 2023

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New Webster school superintendent is homegrown

BY JANET STOICA

She really did rise through the ranks, she did. Monique Pierangeli has been with the Webster school system for twenty-three years. When she began her association with the local schools as a parent/volunteer in 2000 at the Park Avenue Elementary School, she probably didn't realize where her life journey would progress to in 2023. Having been recently appointed as Webster's new school superintendent, Ms. Pierangeli is a success story that demonstrates refinement, experience, and strength. She knows the ins and outs of just about every nook and cranny in the school system's accounting, curriculum, staffing, and planning departments.

She substitute taught when called upon, worked in the central office area as a Medicaid clerk and data collection clerk. She was taught how schools receive their revenue and the state reporting and information behind it all. In the business office she learned the payroll system and became the assistant to the business manager, became recording secretary for the building committee while also completing her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management. In 2018 she became the school system's business manager.

"I really feel that I lived and breathed everything about our school system," said Ms. Pierangeli. "This job is for the community and being with our students. It all starts with our bus drivers as we build student relationships. It's a nice warm welcoming breakfast for our learners. It's not just one person, it's all of us. We try to go to as many town events as possible. At the high school level we have a

hands-on curriculum project called 'Lead the Way,' our students are building robotic cars; doing blood draws; participating in forensic science through the use of hypothetical crime scenes; we have a great engineering program as well as a good focus on health and human services to name a few."

She stated that she applied for the superintendent's position because she was aware of the school staff's efforts and didn't want to see all the hard work go to the wayside. She felt she could help the school system continue to move forward. Her main goal is improving academic performance. "Community engagement and parent involvement are key. I hope we can have more Family Meals events where we are all together as a group moving forward as one much like our Empty Bowls program. We have to reach out to our families more. I've begun making phonecalls to our parents when new children enroll in our school system. Following up is vital. We have hired a District Family Liaison and will hire another liaison next year to bridge gaps between our schools and home. I'm hoping to reach out to the Webster Library and collaborate with them as well."

Superintendent Pierangeli elaborated on the Bartlett High School building and renovation project. They are currently in the 60% design phase and are submitting designs to the Mass. School Building Authority and are meeting with architects discussing traffic flow, hardware, furniture, and ultimate designs. She mentioned that there will be fourteen modular school classroom buildings in front of the school while renovations are taking place inside. The modulares will be delivered in June 2023, set up over

the summer, and be ready for students when they return to school in August 2023. The project will be done in phases with an expected completion date in 2026.

"I'm not your typical superintendent," said Ms. Pierangeli, "as I've focused on the business area but I'm confident in our staff being successful at what their strengths are. Our teachers are so very classroom-experienced. You have to listen to be successful. There's no one person who can walk in here and change everything for Webster. Our central office leadership is outstanding from our principals to our teachers to our support staff. Everyone's in this and we all play a role in our students' successes. Our team here is absolutely wonderful and we're continuing to change

the dynamics to a higher level.

We have steady leadership in our schools now and we all share the same vision. Having more community involvement is our goal. This is a safe environment for our students. I might have to make some hard decisions going forward but it's important that we all connect and speak with each other."

She stressed the importance of the supportive Webster School Committee. "Webster has my heart," said Superintendent Pierangeli. "I'm just proud and very excited to be representing our Webster students and our staff."

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." –Nelson Mandela



New Webster School Superintendent Monique Pierangeli is right at home in a system she knows well.

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Prestige Salon crew undertakes a humbling mission

Good Friday took on an even more special meaning this year for Lorri Ducharme of Prestige Salon and Day Spa. Here is how she describes what happened.

"Myself, my husband and two of my employees, Amber Antonopoulos and Savannah LaBranche, traveled to Columbia, South Carolina to volunteer our time and services for an amazing event that serves a meal and foot washing along with palliative foot care to almost three hundred homeless and less fortunate individuals.

"We drove nine hundred miles early Thursday morning.

"There were many roles for volunteers to fill that day.

"Our day started with setting up bags of breakfast items, fruit and drinks. Tables were arranged for runners to bring over basins of fresh water. Individuals were checked in and their name was written on a card.

"They were seated and had their feet washing with items in their care bag (Castile soap, nail clippers, nail files, foot care foam, bandaids, antibiotic cream and a

small towel).

"Nails were trimmed and smoothed, foot foam applied to their feet.

"If any anomalies were visible they were sent over to the seven nail techs who are medically trained to address things like corns, callouses, thickened toenails and much more.

"They were given a new pair of Bombas socks and a City Pack backpack with toiletries.

"The individual who started this nonprofit is Donna Muszynski. She pairs with a local Christ Ministry to use their church hall for the event. This is her tenth year of organizing it and our second time attending.



for us; He knows our names.

"To say it is humbling is an understatement. The individuals are so grateful for the care and attention they receive. It is so sad to see the large numbers of homeless in the Columbia area.

"I have reached out to the Blessed Backpack Brigade to see if we can team up to bring much-needed care to this area in the future.

"There was local coverage from Fox 57 news station."

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Webster Election Results

BY JANET STOICA

Town election results for the recent slate of unchallenged candidates is as follows according to Town Clerk, Robert Craver:

SELECTMAN, 2 OPENINGS FOR 3 YEARS

Thomas T. Klebart (candidate for re-election) 221 votes; Mark C. Rogers 209 votes.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE, 2 OPENINGS FOR 3 YEARS

Linda A. Millet 219; Kelly A. Seddiki 209

BOARD OF HEALTH, 1 OPENING FOR 3 YEARS

Tracy L. Daggett 222

FINANCE COMMITTEE, 1 OPENING FOR 3 YEARS

No candidate, no write-ins

TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, 3 OPENINGS FOR 3 YEARS

Susan M. Buehler 208; Martina Koziak 220; Richard Franas (write-in) 29

REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, 1 OPENING FOR 5 YEARS

Paul Congdon (write-in) 9

HOUSING AUTHORITY, 1 OPENING FOR 5 YEARS

Peter A. Luchina 215

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Correction – Webster Election & Town Meeting Information

In the last issue of The Yankee Xpress, an incorrect date and time were published in error regarding the recent Webster elections. The elections were held on May 1.

The Special Town Meeting held on May 8 commenced at 6:30 p.m. followed by the regular Town Meeting at 7 p.m. We regret the errors.

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Immigrants: Chi Vo, from Vietnam to a life in America

BY JANET STOICA

This is the third in a series of articles about local immigrants and their lives in the United States, why they came, how they lived, and what their outlook is about this country.

Chi Vo's family story is the makings of an adventure movie. Danger, pirates, fear so great that it stuns you, and an ending that makes me shout for

must now stop for a minute to thank my own immigrant grandparents for seeking a better life here in the United States. Why do people come to our country? What is the attraction? It is surely something that most of us Americans take for granted.....the ability to make a great and successful life, the ability to speak out when we know something is not right, and the freedom to be as triumphant as we want to be. These

way to a refugee camp. Somehow, they lucked out and were connected with the Worcester MA chapter of Catholic Charities and were one of the first Vietnamese refugee families to arrive in Worcester."

Catholic Charities helped them find housing and a job for her dad. They also provided a tutor for her parents to learn English and to assist them on their path to U.S. citizenship. Her parents were eager to become Americans. They studied diligently and passed their exams very successfully paving the way for their young children to qualify as U.S. citizens too. "I cannot give enough praise to Catholic Charities," said Chi. "They helped my parents tremendously."

Chi's mom, Yen, stayed home to care for the now family of four children until Thanh, the youngest child, was in third grade. Yen went to work as a laborer, like her husband, at a wire company in Worcester. Both parents now worked 12 hours per day 7 days per week. "They wanted a better life for us," said Chi. "Soon we moved out of the projects and into our own home. Catholic Charities further assisted with sponsorship of my grandmother who soon helped with taking care of us while our parents were working. Most of our family is here in the U.S. now. We are so very, very grateful for all the priests and nuns who helped our family come to this country and who assisted them in studying hard to become citizens. We all made it work."

Chi graduated from Nichols College with a Bachelor's degree

in Business Management and is currently working on her Master's degree. After high school she began employment with Mapfre Insurance of Webster and worked her way up to Senior Manager in Business Development. She currently works for a large banking and financial services company in the greater Boston area where she enjoys her position of Senior Vice President and Director of Operations. She has three boys. Tyler is a student at a local college, Dylan who is a certified hydraulic aircraft mechanic and also a college student while being employed as a pharmacy technician, and Colin who is a high honors high school student and is also on his school golf, tennis, and ski teams. Her

nephew, Ryan, is also a big part of her family.

Chi's hardworking dad is now retired from his labors and she thanks her beloved mom, Yen, for all the guidance and strength she instilled in her. "I would not be where I am today if it weren't for my mom," she said. "My goal is to be half the woman she was." Her mom passed from cancer in 2010 at the age of 59.

Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants. Franklin D. Roosevelt

jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com



A Chi Vo family photo: Tyler, Colin, Chi, Dylan and Ryan.

America and all its goodness.

It was truly a dark and stormy night when Chi Vo's parents took all the strength and guts they could muster to leave Vietnam in 1978. The country had fallen into a horrible situation after the terrible war. Chi's parents, Doi and Yen Nguyen, sold everything they had and took their small son, Vu, and one-and-a-half year old daughter, Chi, with them to a secluded waterfront site to board a raft with another family whom they had paid to transport them to Thailand in the dark of night. From Thailand they hoped to make their way to a refugee camp and prayed that America was in their future.

These brave people! Who am I to write about such bravery? I

goals have become muddled a bit along the way as each generation may take many things for granted but our great service men and women have provided us with the strength and stability to achieve whatever goals we choose.

"My parents prayed to every God there could ever be," said Chi. "They prayed not to be captured by Thai pirates who ran rampant in the South China Sea. The pirates raped women, killed children in front of their parents, and decapitated husbands. Their fears were strong and their hopes were high to make it to Thailand, about 800 miles by sea. They had risked everything. Her mother was pregnant with her younger brother. They made it to Bangkok, Thailand and found their

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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.

Ride on the last operational German Tiger 1 Tank at The Tank Museum in Bovington and also receive a tank-driving package at 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. 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 Me-

dium 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!



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1st Choice Automotive: Detailing and much more, in Oxford

A building at 381 Main St. in Oxford has become the home of 1st Choice Automotive, a sales, service and detailing business owned and operated by Joshua Tyck and Diana Hryzan. 1st Choice opened in January and is a multi-faceted venture for the couple. “We do detailing, oil changes, tune-ups and car service,” Ms. Hryzan said on May 3rd. “We will



Before and after photos, reflective of the detailing work done at 1st Choice Automotive in Oxford.

also be selling used cars. This is a new business for myself and my boyfriend. We have four bays in the building altogether and are offering a spring special for detailing starting at \$150, a full detailing inside and out.” The couple also has a food truck on site that will be available to rent “and an ice cream truck is coming.” Mr. Tyck owned a detailing shop a while ago and is a carpenter by trade. “I’m a mom of three who got roped into this for the fun,” she said.

Both are residents of Oxford. Both do detailing. Both are eager to host a grand opening for 1st Choice Automotive later this month. Detailing is a cornerstone of the business. “Normally we need about four hours to do the job and customers can leave the car for the day and we offer rides if they need them,” Ms. Hryzan said. She describes 1st Choice Automotive as a “community-oriented” venture.



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3 LBS BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST
2 LBS STEW BEEF OR
1 PACKAGE OF MEATBALLS OF YOUR CHOICE
(ITALIAN, CHICKEN OR DORITO AN CHEESE)
1 1/2 LB HAM STEAKS OR
1 1/2 LB NY SIRLOIN STEAK
1 PACKAGE (1 1/2 LB) COOKED CHICKEN WINGS OF YOUR CHOICE OR
1 LB OF OUR BACON OF YOUR CHOICE
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A Great Notion: Books and more in Auburn

BY ROD LEE

In this, the age of the comeback of independent bookstores, Tyler and Courtney Galicia are happy to climb on board with the launch of A Great Notion at 65 Southbridge St. in Auburn.

Taking the name of their business from a Ken Kesey book title, "Sometimes a Great Notion," the Galicia's have transformed space that was previously occupied by a church into an emporium for new and used books and an assortment of merchandise.

"This is our retirement plan," Ms. Galicia said on April 12th. That day is a ways off. Tyler Galicia is an English teacher at Uxbridge High School. Courtney has worked as a school adjustment counselor.

"It's going really well," Ms. Galicia said. A Great Notion opened February 18th. Store hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

As booklovers, the Galicia's were looking for a spot to fulfill a

dream of a store devoted to reading when they found their home. "We looked at this to get our feet wet" and decided it was just right.

"Tons of donations" of used books, as many as "two hundred a day," are keeping A Great Notion well stocked. There is a children's section. Inventory also includes such items as glassware, candles, stationary, bookmarks, artwork, some apparel and coffee and drinks and snacks.

The Alicia's are especially proud of the connections they have already made, including one with the Auburn Public Schools that will enable them to start an after-school book club for kids. An initial such undertaking involved the six to nine age group.

They look forward to hosting events; among these, author appearances, musical presentations and more.

With the availability of "a 15% educator discount" and a "loyalty card" (every eleventh used book is free), the Alicia's have put the pieces in place for success.



Courtney Alicia on the job at A Great Notion, a bookstore she owns with her husband Tyler.

Call 508-373-2315 or email agreatnotionbooks@gmail.com for further info on "books, community and goods."

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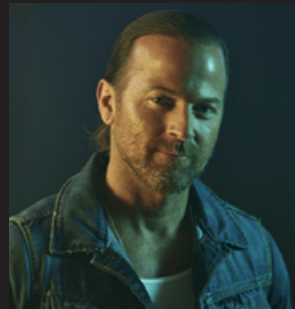


Prayer

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

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

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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

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

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.

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



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

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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 prear-

ranged 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 they 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 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.

It's about the food.

Lots of it.

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 aplantandbob@aol.com or call 617-429-0347 for more information.

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.

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.

FRIDAY, MAY 19

• Enjoy the music of the New Leaves Duo, playing Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, John

HAPPENINGS!

continued on page 12

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JUNE 17 • 1PM

STEPHEN MARLEY

JULY 27 • 7PM

FITZ AND THE TANTRUMS

JULY 29 • 1PM

YACHTLEY CREW

JULY 30 • 1PM

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BARTFISH

AUGUST 13 • 1PM

FACE 2 FACE

AUGUST 18 • 7PM

THE FOUR HORSEMEN

AUGUST 19 • 12PM

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HURLEY, DAN CROHN, & DAN MILLER
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AUG 24: COMEDY NIGHT WITH PAUL NARDIZZI,
WILL NOONAN, & ANDREW DELLA VOLPE
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HAPPENINGS!

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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 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.
- 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.americanheritemuseum.org or call 978-562-9182 for further details.



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.

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

HAPPENINGS!

continued on page 13

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HAPPENINGS!

continued from page 12

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



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.

Network for a Business After Hours networking 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 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 Sutton 1704@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 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@mystpatrickss.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.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

• The New England Country Music Club 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 proceeds 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.

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 Plummer 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@northbridgemass.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/NECountryMusicClub.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

• Dan Fontaine, an Elvis tribute artist, will return to Plummer Place (the Northbridge

HAPPENINGS!

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HAPPENINGS!

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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.

Urban Chic caters to women's and girls' fashion tastes

BY ROD LEE

The business-friendly town of Auburn recently welcomed still another storefront with the opening of Urban Chic, a women's fashion shop situated in a busy plaza at 482 Southbridge St.

"We're two parts," Alycia Tarasiak said on April 12th. "Urban Chic for women's apparel and Lovely's a youth boutique in front, and we have rental space in back for fashion shows and other happenings."

Started by two sisters, Urban Chic features such hip women's wear as a Mocha Mousse Pullover, Park Striped Shorts, Endless Joy Floral Top, Two Hearts Meet Maxi

Skirt, Diana Straight Leg Jeans in White, Skies The Limit Button Up in Laven-der Blue, Eugenie Blazer in Mauve, Blooming Stripes Hoodie in Coral, Blooming Stripes Hoodie in Pink, Baby Blue Kylie Romper, Sage Ruffled Linen Romper, Paisley Blue Blouse and Gingham Maxi Dress.

New arrivals include "anything leisure" including denim.

Accessories? You bet. Trendy workout gear? Of course.

"Any local business that wants to be involved" is welcome to talk to Urban Chic about having its products represented in the store, Ms. Tarasiak said. Several have already.

"We are working with different suppliers and vendors and everything is reasonable priced," she said.

"We are moms who have partnered together."

Store hours are Wednesday and Thursday noon to 6:00 p.m., Friday



11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Visit urbanchicfashion.com for more information.

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

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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.

Samuel Slater Experience is located in the former National Guard Armory at 31 Ray Street, Webster, and open to the public year-round. For more information and tickets visit www.samuel Slater Experience.org.



A train travels alongside the tow path of the Blackstone Canal.

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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 heartbreak 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 firefighter 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



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

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 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.

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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M36 Jackson Tank Destroyer undergoes restoration at the AHM

Under restoration in the American Heritage Museum's restoration workshop in Hudson is the original World War II vintage M36 Jackson Tank Destroyer. Under the supervision of Team Leader Dick Moran, volunteers have been hard at work reconfiguring the engine compartment and transmission back to original World War II standards with a Ford GAA V-8 engine as this particular M36 was one of 399 purchased by Yugoslavia and re-equipped with a 500 HP Soviet diesel engine used in the T-55.

Once complete, the M36 will

operate as it did in World War II.

The M36 was completely stripped over the winter and has been fully sandblasted inside and out. It has been primed for paint. Internal compartments are being reinstalled.

The M36 will be on display along with other famous tanks during the American Heritage Museum's World War II Tank Demonstration Weekend, May 27th and 28th.

Tanks visitors can see include the M4 Sherman, the M24 Chaffee, the M5 Stuart, the M18 Hellcat, the M26 Pershing and the M36 Jackson Tank Destroyer

for the first time.

Gates open at 9:00 a.m. and the grounds are open until 5:00 p.m. both days.

Captivating historical narration will bring these amazing machines to life. The 101st AB Re-Enactor Group will be on site and tank driving demonstrations will be ongoing throughout the event.

The AHM is located at 568 Main St. in Hudson.

Visit <https://www.american-heritagemuseum.org>.



Volunteer Jim Winroth works with the newly rebuilt cabin firewall in the M36 Jackson Tank Destroyer at the American Heritage Museum.

“Blue Boat Home” sails in Dudley on May 21

Does Planet Earth need our songs? “Not really,” says Nym Cooke, Music Director of the chorus Wings of Song. “But she certainly needs our help, and singing can be a way of broadcasting that need.”

Wings of Song, centered in Sturbridge, draws its 40 singers from a wide swath of south-central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. Cooke and many of his singers are concerned about what we're doing to our one and only home, and feel that the time has come to speak out—to sing out!—then take concerted, joyous action to make things better. Wings of Song's Spring program is named “Blue Boat Home” after a song by Peter Mayer that celebrates the Earth. There will be three performances: at St. Joachim Chapel, part of St. Anne/St. Patrick Parish in Fiskdale, on Saturday, May 13th at 7:30pm; at the First Congregational Church on the Common in Woodstock, Connecticut, on Saturday, May 20th at 7:30pm; and in the auditorium of the Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley, on Sunday, May 21st at 3pm. The concerts are free, with a freewill offering collected at intermission. All venues are handicap accessible, and refreshments will be served after each concert.

A glance at the program's running order shows its tremendous variety. Take just the first four numbers. The show begins with a projected image of the Earth as photographed by Voyager 1 from 3.7 billion miles away, and Carl Sagan's poetic reflections on that image. This is followed by a prayer to “Mother Earth” by Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh. “Wake Up!” by

Wings of Song soprano Donna Dufresne is next: an exhortation to us all to “be the Earth's voice” and “make a mighty noise.” And then comes Mayer's “Blue Boat Home,” with its refrain “The wide universe is the ocean I travel, And the Earth is my blue boat home.”

A special feature of the May 21st performance will be opening remarks by Melissa Hoffer, Massachusetts's first-ever “Climate Chief.” The chorus will donate a portion of its audience's freewill offerings to an organization working to slow down and eventually stop and reverse climate change.

People are advised to arrive a little early to be sure of a seat—and, if the first two concerts turn out to be standing room only, it's probably a safe bet to come to the 800-seat Shepherd Hill auditorium on May 21st. All Wings of Song members are working hard to put the finishing touches on their large and exciting program.

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SPORTS

Shepherd Hill celebrates Bateman and Mullen college signings

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Recently Shepherd Hill Regional High School seniors Grace Bateman and Emery Mullen were onstage in front of family and friends as they signed letters of commitment to continue their academic and athletic careers on the next level following their graduation.

Bateman will be attending NCAA Division 1 and member of the Patriot League College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, where she will run women's cross country as well as track, while Mullen will take her basketball talents to Vassar College, a NCAA Division 3 school and member of the Liberty League, in Dutchess County, New York.

"First and foremost, congratulations to Grace and Emery on this impressive achievement. Putting athletics aside for a moment, both institutions these young women are committing to are not only two of the oldest and most revered colleges but are consistently ranked among the best liberal arts colleges in the nation," Shepherd Hill Athletic Director James Scanlon said. "The lists of notable alumni who have graduated from Holy Cross and Vassar are truly remarkable and there is no doubt that both of these student athletes have earned their place among those who seek the highest and most rigorous of standards."

Both the Crusaders and Brewers are programs that continuously find themselves amongst the top of

their respective leagues athletically while striving for academics.

Bateman, who had played soccer and basketball, began her running career in middle school. Having found that her favorite part of her other two sports was running, she decided to give cross country a try back then and found that it was something that she really enjoyed doing.

"I really liked the running aspect of soccer and basketball, so I thought that I'd give cross country a try," she said. "Being that I love running I stuck with it and eventually got into track as well. The sport is where I've made some of my best friends."

During the indoor season Bateman has posted a best 3:06 in the 1000 meter where she qualified for the State Tournament and finished in third place. In the spring she runs the 800 meter with a personal best time of 2:26 and although she loves running, never in her wildest dreams did she believe that running would create a path for her into college.

"I knew that I wanted to run in college; that was a goal of mine. Never did I think that running would get me into college," Bateman said. "I had no idea where I was going to go to what division it would be I just wanted the opportunity. It's still a shock to me that someone would give me a scholarship."

In addition to scoping out Holy Cross, Bateman had also been offered an opportunity to run at Stonehill College in Easton. When



Emery Mullen and Grace Bateman are bound for Vassar and Holy Cross, respectively, to continue their athletic and academic careers, after graduation from Shepherd Hill.

all was said and done it was the academics as well as the challenge that played a big part in her decision to attend Holy Cross.

Mullen, who is going to Vassar to play basketball had also contemplated running in college as well.

"Although I was recruited for basketball I thought about running too, but unfortunately tore my ACL near the end of the season," she

said. "I'll be having surgery in mid-April and the rehab is nine months so I'll probably miss some of the pre-season but should be ready to go for the opener."

Basketball has always been a part of Mullen's life; her mother was her coach growing up and her father and brother both played the sport. Mullen earned a position on the Rams varsity squad her fresh-

man season. On the track she ran middle distances for Shepherd Hill, while also throwing the javelin, an event she was just a few feet short of the school record and was looking to surpass this spring.

In addition to Vassar contacting her, Mullen was talking to Division 3 Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, NY and Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA.

"Mercyhurst was where I was leaning toward as I was hoping to play basketball as well as run track. Vassar was on the backburner as I really didn't think it was on the table being so highly competitive," Mullen said. "Vassar was my reach school, but when everything started to come into place it was a rather easy pick. It gives me a good opportunity career wise, and the basketball team is building, so it's a good time [for] me as an incoming point guard."

Scanlon also told the crowd in attendance that he had the privilege of getting to know these two student-athlete leaders over the past few years.

"Grace's quiet but confident leadership and Emery's inclusive, endearing personality have left an indelible mark on me," the AD said. "And I know that it is what will make them both tremendous assets to their future teams."

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TALES FROM BEYOND

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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 experiments 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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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



Behaving like a gentleman at Barnes & Noble

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 if we could watch him grow old



Playtime with Golden pal, Tucker

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 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 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



Luke shows his serious side

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.

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. 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-

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LUKE
continued on page 21

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 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



BY MARK MARZEOTTI

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.

LUKE

continued from page 20

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

Luke on the lookout

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

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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Four ways to use cash wisely

There has been a lot of talk about a “cashless” society, but it’s not here yet. In fact, cash can still be a valuable element of your overall financial picture – if you employ it wisely. But how?

Consider these four key uses of cash:

- **Everyday spending** – Of course, you need sufficient cash on hand to pay for your cost of living – mortgage, debt payments, utilities, groceries, etc. You’ll likely rely on your savings or checking accounts to pay for these needs.
- **Unexpected expenses and emergencies** – It’s never a bad idea to establish a monthly budget. But, as you know, life is unpredictable – and sometimes you may encounter “budget-busting” expenses, such as a major home repair or a large medical bill. If you haven’t planned for these costs, you might be

forced to dip into your long-term investments, such as your IRA and 401(k), which can result in taxes, penalties, and less money for your retirement. A better alternative is to prepare in advance by building an emergency fund containing up to six months’ worth of living expenses in cash, or at least in a highly liquid account, held separately from your regular checking or savings account so you won’t inadvertently spend the money.

• **Short-term savings goal** – When you are investing for a long-term goal – especially retirement – you will likely need to own a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented vehicles, such as stocks and stock-based mutual funds. The value of these investments will fluctuate, so, if it’s possible, you’ll want to avoid selling them when their price is down – which may make them unsuitable for short-term goals. But if you’re aiming for a goal that you want to achieve in a year or so – a wedding, a long vacation, and so on – you’ll want to be sure a specific amount of money is there for you when you need it. Consequently, you’ll want to put away cash for this type of goal, possibly in a short-term savings or investment vehicle that might pay somewhat higher interest than a regular checking/savings account.

• **Source of investment** – In regard to your longer-term investment strategy, cash can play two important roles. First, it can serve as its own asset class, alongside other classes, such as stocks and fixed-income vehicles. Unlike these

other classes – especially stocks and stock-based mutual funds – cash won’t fluctuate in value, so it can potentially help lessen the impact of market volatility on your portfolio. And second, having the cash available in your portfolio gives you the opportunity to quickly take advantage of other investment opportunities that may occur. And you may be able to use your existing investments to help replenish the cash in your portfolio. For example, if you choose to take stock dividends in cash, these dividends can be “swept” into your brokerage account and held there until you’re ready to invest them. (However, depending on your comprehensive financial strategy, it may be a good move to simply reinvest the dividends into the same stocks or stock funds.) Keep in mind that you won’t want your investment accounts to contain too much cash, as its purchasing power can erode due to inflation.


By managing your cash efficiently, and putting it to work in different ways, you can gain some key benefits – and you’ll help yourself to keep moving toward your short- and long-term goals.

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

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Scan tool may resolve faulty power window switch issue



BY JOHN PAUL

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.

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 ma-

terial 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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