

OCTOBER, 2011

THE AUBURN TIMES

THE CHRONICLE OF AUBURN & OXFORD LIVING

MAGAZINE

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Auburn wind turbine moves forward with Meteorological Tower installation

By Stephanie Richards

Wind turbines. They are a source of renewable energy that are powering everything from Holy Name Central Catholic Junior Senior High School in Worcester to the Berkshire East Ski Resort in Western Massachusetts. Now, the Town of Auburn's pursuit of having one off Prospect Hill at Granger Cliffs is closer to becoming a reality with the installation of a 150-foot Meteorological (Met) Tower in July.

Massachusetts has taken a leadership role in pursuing renewable energy through the Green Communities Act signed in 2008 and wind turbines are slowly becoming part of the landscape in the state. In January, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (CEC) awarded 20 grants state wide, including an \$85,000 one to Auburn for a feasibility study on construction of a 900 kilowatt (kW) wind turbine on town owned land off Prospect Hill. In addition to Auburn, two design and construction grants were awarded in Charlton—a \$399,000 grant to Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School for a 900 kW turbine on campus and a \$266,000 grant to Masonic Health System (MHS) for a 1.5 megawatt (MW) wind turbine. The main thrust behind the pursuit of wind turbines in each case is to reduce electricity costs. If it moves forward, the Masonic Health System (Charlton facility) project would be the first commercial scale wind turbine at a health center in the United States, according to Patrick McShane, MHS vice president of corporate communications.

Auburn's interest in a wind turbine began nine years ago, advocated by residents like Robert Platukis, who now chairs Auburn's Wind Turbine and Alternative Energy Committee. "After studying site research maps by the Mass Technology Collaborative, it was clear that Auburn had good airflow and was a viable site for wind turbines. It is hard to find suitable sites inland...a wind area in Auburn is like a pot of gold and this Met Tower is going to prove it," said Platukis, a retired elementary school math and science teacher. "Our objective is not only to generate power to offset town energy costs, but also to maximize the amount of power we can generate—cutting costs and the tax rolls, while helping the town with financial dollars. Studies show that it will pay for itself in 7 to 9 years. At first, no one would return my phone calls, but over time and with research, we have built a consensus of government officials—Democrats, Republicans and Independents—to agree on this project and work hand in hand."

The town's Wind Turbine and Alternative Energy Committee was created two years ago in response to citizen's desire to pursue installation of a turbine and look at alternate energy,



© 2011 Auburn Times photos by Stephanie Richards

Met Tower installation. Berkshire East turbine is shown in the inset.

according to Adam Burney, Auburn's Acting Assistant Director of the Department of Development and Inspectional Services/Town Planner. In 2008, the Renewable Energy Research Laboratory at the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) did a 34-page report titled "Wind Power in Auburn: Siting considerations for a wind turbine." That report looked at predicted wind resources, noise, proximity to nearby airports and turbine spacing. Five sites were initially surveyed as part of the research, weighing best and worse land areas for things like wind speed. This spring, Worcester Polytechnic Institute students did a preliminary analysis of what the site consisted of titled "The Auburn Wind Project." It included what wind sheer might be and reviewed where the lesser grades were on the site for possible road design.

The feasibility study, which is covered in the CEC grant, will provide a comprehensive look at the site and be conducted by Sustainable Energy Development (SED), Inc., the same company involved with wind turbine proj-

ects at Bay Path High School and Masonic Health Care. Data will be collected monthly at the Met Tower through anemometers and weather stations at the site, which measure things like wind speed and direction, according to Matt Vanderbrook, Project Manager for SED. The company will report the results quarterly to Auburn, providing a glimpse of what wind speeds look like at the location. After a 12-month period, all data will be compiled and sent to a third party to provide a long-term correlation over 10 years of data. "Based on that information, we can make a prediction regarding production or payback of a proposed turbine. Of course the payback depends on wind resources, the cost of energy, and overall project costs," Vanderbrook said. "We should have a draft of the complete feasibility report available at the end of next summer."

After the final report is completed and presented, SED will work with Auburn to formulate a business plan

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THE AUBURN TIMES MAGAZINE

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THE AUBURN TIMES MAGAZINE | CARR, QUINN & SMALL, INC.

P.O. BOX 418, STURBRIDGE, MA 01566 TEL. 508-347-7077 FAX 508-347-8150 AUBURNTIMESMAGAZINE.COM CQSMEDIA.COM

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE: Camera ready: the 20th of each month prior to publication. The 17th of the month for Nov. and Dec.

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EDITORIAL DEADLINE: The 21st of each month prior to publication.

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The Auburn Fire Dept.

KEEPING THE TOWN SAFE AND SECURE

By John Ryan

FIREFIGHTING is one of the most dangerous and heroic jobs a person can have. Imagine it: everyone else is running from a burning building, while brave souls clad only in limited protective gear charge in, determined to save anyone they can, even at the expense of their own lives. That's bravery. My grandfather was a firefighter for over fifty years and he was one of the most courageous people I had ever met. The Auburn Fire Department is no different.

New fire chief Stephen Coleman, replacing the now retired Bill Whynot, has done his job exceptionally well, especially considering the budget shortfalls that impact his job every day. He had previously been deputy chief in Charlton for five years before being hired as interim chief in Auburn and made permanent as of May 31st of 2011.

One of the things that Coleman likes about the job is the unpredictability. "You never know what you will be doing day to day", he said. "The very nature of the business is to be proactive as you have to deal with any situation that comes up. It's also not just about fighting fires or saving lives but dealing with the community as well. Most people see us on the worst day of their lives. I get to see people during better times. Any inspection needed, like the town manager calling me in to inspect a new generator at town hall, is a part of my job. Any injury on town property I have to investigate. The uncertainty of the job is what keeps it interesting."

At any given moment in Auburn, forty-four firefighters are on duty. They get approximately 3,000 calls per year, with seventy percent emergency medical

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Gear at rest inside the Auburn Fire Station.

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BY CYNTHIA ALLEGREZZA

Located along a country road in a setting that is an interesting fusion of rural and suburban, Charlton Furniture is not the new kid on the furniture store block; actually, it's been around for more than 50 years. Co-owner Susan LeBlanc says the secret to the store's half-century success is simple: "We have thrived and survived all these years by staying true to one guiding principle: show the customer a true value. Truthfully, this is what separates us from the big-box competition all around this area."

With a strong emphasis on finely handcrafted American-made furniture pieces, quality upholstery and leather, Charlton Furniture on Dresser Hill Road boasts beautiful room settings and fine furnishings in three distinct showrooms meant to enchant, inspire, and not disappoint the casual browser or serious shopper. LeBlanc described the inventory as being "rooted in historical design, but with a modern twist."

The store, with its relaxed atmosphere, features a staggering array of living room, dining room, home office, and bedroom furniture functional for all lifestyles and budgets—from classic to contemporary, formal to casual. You'll find notable furniture lines such as Nichols & Stone (America's original furniture maker of fine solid-wood pieces), Harden, Hancock & Moore (a purveyor of durable and chic leather pieces), Chatham, C. R. Laine, and Gat Creek. And there's more here: leather collections, recliners, mat-

Charlton Furniture: a unique blend of style, comfort and simple wisdom



© 2011 Auburn Times photo by Cheryl Allegrezza

Susan LeBlanc, co-owner of Charlton Furniture, with Deborah Messersmith, Charlton Furniture designer.

tresses, children's bedroom sets, occasional furniture, and unique accessories to add that special touch to your home. Also allow plenty of time to peruse the upholstery options here from, among others, the classy Wesley Hall and eco-friendly Lee Industries.

LeBlanc and her team of four designers are ready to help transform your house into your dream home. "We will help you select pieces that reflect your own personal style," she said. "From floor plans to color schemes to furniture, textiles, and accessories, our talented designers will assist you in each step of your design process. We have a passion for what we do."

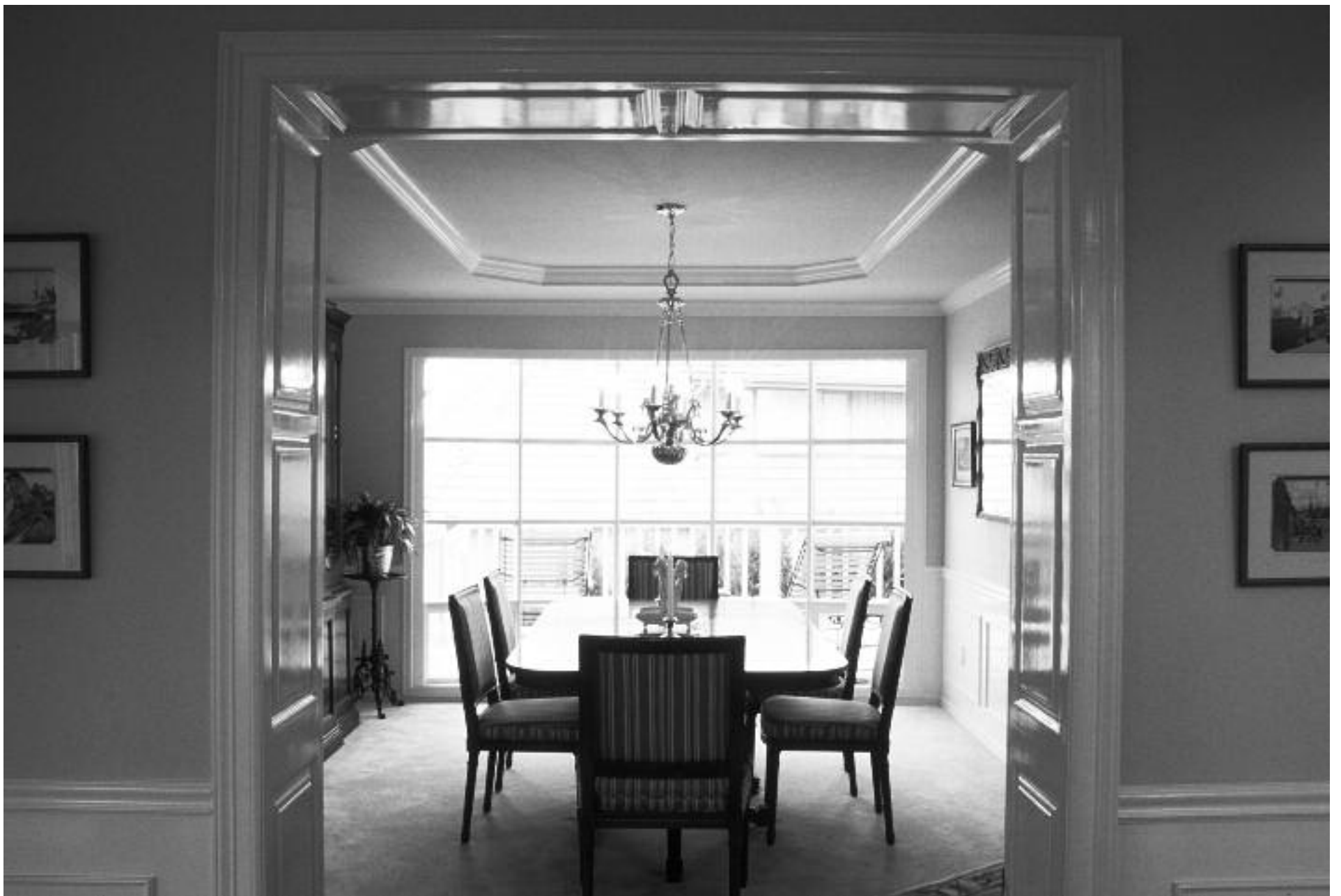
"We encourage customers to take advantage of our complimentary design services to help create an ideal and comfortable home environment," she continued. "We make an effort to spend time with our customers, to educate them, and carefully describe the product's features and benefits. We work with you to make your home your sanctuary."

LeBlanc said this need for home furnishings to provide that soothing and essential comfort can be seen in the latest trends in home design. "The furniture

features cleaner simple lines and there is more of an emphasis on and demand for subdued colors. Customers are craving a much calmer color palette these days," she explained. "Greige—a color combination of grey and beige—is very popular. A few years ago, brighter colors were all the rage. Now with the fast-paced way that we in which live and work, there is definitely a need to have a home environment that provides a place to slow down, enjoy quiet time with our family, and recharge in order to do it all again tomorrow."

And if you don't have the budget currently to purchase new living room furniture, an updated bedroom collection, or a stylish dining room set, but want something new and different in your home, LeBlanc offered a suggestion. "Consider an inspiration piece for your room," she said. "It could be a sumptuous sofa, a chest of drawers, or a beautiful area rug or chair. By working your room around this piece it will infuse a much-needed lift to your home and your mood."

It is this strong commitment to customer service and satisfaction that finds its roots in what began more



“A few years ago, brighter colors were all the rage. Now with the fast-paced way in which we live and work, there is a definite need to have a home environment that provides a place to slow down...”

SUSAN LEBLANC
CO-OWNER OF CHARLTON FURNITURE

than a half century ago as a small “country” furniture store owned and operated by Joseph Pikul. Under the leadership of Joseph’s children, LeBlanc and David Pikul, Charlton Furniture has grown into these three impressive, well-stocked showrooms of quality furniture providing a variety of styles and designs at affordable prices and offering free furniture delivery and set up within the local area.

“These are the values and strategies that my

brother and I still live by today and the reason for the store’s continued success and growth,” LeBlanc said.

Following their father’s vision, the original showroom on Dresser Hill Road was transformed into a gallery of moderately priced, quality furniture. LeBlanc’s attention to detail and passion for design-oriented furniture led to the addition of a 12,000-square-foot showroom offering in-house design services and distinctive furniture and accessories. Their Annex at Charlton Furniture became a gallery of casual leather styles and seasonal, indoor and outdoor wicker, and now features brand-name close-outs, discontinued one-of-a-kind pieces, and value-priced furniture.

“We continue to follow our father’s philosophy: to offer something for everyone,” LeBlanc said about the store and its 12 employees.

“You do not have to travel into Natick or Boston to find an impressive selection of home furnishings or to receive outstanding interior design services; it is all right here,” she added.

And indeed it is.

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TRACING THE PATH
OF A LIVING AUBURN SPORTS LEGEND

IF YOU'RE AFFILIATED WITH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS BASEBALL at any level, you've most likely heard of Auburn's Dirk Baker, who will be entering his 17th season as coach of the Worcester State Lancers next spring.

Baker has built a reputation on his recruiting ability and, in fact, is considered one of the region's best baseball recruiters.

When reflecting on his relationship to baseball, he relates that it started early, during the summers of his youth when he spent every summer day outside, engaged in street stickball or sandlot-style pick up games.

He played in Auburn youth sports for several coaches who collectively inspired him to become a coach himself. His inspirational figures included the likes of John Stearns, Jim Leal, and Paul Fenton.

Great expectations followed Baker to Auburn High School owing to his reputation

as a stellar athlete. All eyes were on him for strong performances in soccer and baseball. As a sophomore, Baker played a key role in Auburn's perfect soccer season. Although some believed soccer was actually "his sport," baseball was always his passion.

As a junior, Baker led the Rockets to their first ever Central Mass baseball title. He set school records that season in batting average (.508) and RBI's (42), forever embedding his name in AHS athletics history.

Baker didn't disappoint during his senior season. He put up impressive numbers once again, and was invited to the Worcester Classic all-star game.

After a dominant summer for Auburn legion, hitting a modest .431, Baker took his game to Boston University. As a BU Terrier, he started 130 consecutive games. A two-time team captain, he put up record breaking numbers, including walks (38) and home runs (9)

AUBURN'S DIRK BAKER

By Ryan Massad

in a single season.

In 1991, Dirk Baker was named to the North Atlantic Conference all-star team, as well as the all-academic team. He also received the honor of being invited to compete in the all-star exhibition at Fenway Park, where he scored the game winning run.

After all this success, it's hard to believe that Baker's stamp on the game wasn't quite yet made. That would come when he put on a coach's jacket.

To those who knew Baker's discipline and leadership skills, the fact that he would coach was inevitable. What people didn't know is how easily he would take a program as small as Worcester State's, and put them front-and-center on the baseball map.

After two seasons as assistant coach at

Harvard, and another year at BU, Baker landed his own head coaching gig at Worcester State in 1996. It took Baker just two tries to win the conference title, defeating Bridgewater State in 1997.

Baker's Lancers had 23+ wins in all of following 8 seasons. His 2003 squad was ranked as high as number two for all division three baseball teams in New England. Baker's boys in blue are also a constant fixture in the MAS-CAC tournament, winning it four times.

Baker has even coached several MLB players, including current major leaguers J.P. Howell and Matt Tolbert. Six of his Worcester State players have either been drafted, or signed major league contracts. Players include Jason Akana, Bear Dunn, Ben Case, Tim Stronach, Jeff LaHair, and Nate Nelson.

As you can see, the success stories pile up where Baker is involved. The question is, how

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Dirk Baker, coach of the Worcester State Lancers

does he recruit so well? Worcester State is a fine institution, but hardly decked out as are some of the more plush and enticing campuses competing for recruits. The critical factor in Baker's recruitment is the trust he engenders among nervous families looking for the right situation for their talented sons.

Parents are able to exhale when they drop off their 18-year-olds at Worcester State. Baker's core ethics and goal orientation give parents and players, a sense of trust. A sense of confidence takes hold which assures that the student will be a better person after the four-year stint is up.

Current and past players are in and out of Baker's office all day long, whether talking baseball, school work, or just life; players confide in Baker.

His team goals are made evident to players and parents from day one. Goal One: Players will represent the program, as well as their family, with class. Goal Two: All players will graduate. Goal Three: Every Lancer will have a chance to compete for a championship.

Lancers' third-year starting outfielder Corey Abbascia puts it simply: "I wanted

"I wanted to play for Worcester State because Coach Baker is known for building a winning team. He expects success, and usually gets it."

COREY ABBASCIA
OUTFIELDER,
WORCESTER STATE LANCERS



to play for Worcester State because Coach Baker is known for building a winning team. He expects success, and usually gets it."

Back in 1995, Baker was able to pay homage to the town where it all started, by releasing "A Baseball Town - 15 years of Championships in Auburn, Mass" It's a 248-page, self-published piece about, you guessed it, the legacy of Auburn baseball. He went on to publish three other books/videos, including his world-renowned Baseball Drills: 150 games and activities.

Always accessible to his students and their parents, Baker stays busy all year, well beyond the end of baseball season. Then again, he would tell you that the season never actually ends at all.

Baker runs all of the Worcester State intramurals, staffs the weight room on campus, and also gives several speeches to schools and baseball programs all around New England.

In conclusion, if you're a high school baseball player, or a parent of one, and just want a reliable coach to play for, look no further than Auburn's own Dirk Baker.

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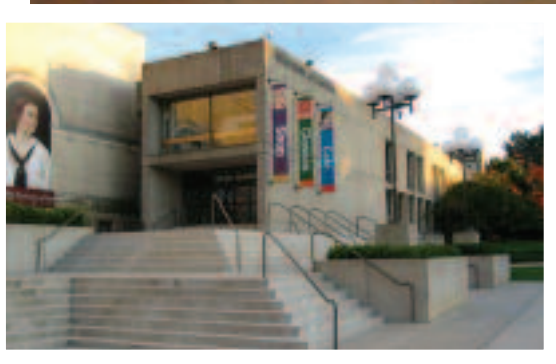
BY CYNTHIA ALLEGREZZA

FUNNY HOW YOU TELL YOURSELF that soon, very soon you will see that new art exhibit at the Worcester Art Museum, or take a painting or sculpture class there, but you just never get around to it ... but you really should—you will not be disappointed. It is quite a special place.

Here's why:

Occupying most of a large city block off Salisbury Street, the Worcester Art Museum—known as WAM—is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of must-see paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings, and new media. It is the second largest art museum in New England and one of America's most respected art museums.

The impressive works housed here span 5,000 years of art and culture from 2nd-century Buddhist pieces to 20th-century American photos. Particular strengths are the American wing, with canvases by Cassatt, Sargent, and Whistler; some memorable works by anonymous Colonial artists; and silver by Paul Revere. The European artists represented on the second floor include Gauguin, Monet, Dürer, and Gainsborough. Just off the impressive first-floor Renaissance Court, where you can admire floor mosaics from the ancient city of Antioch, is a Gothic chapter house, once used by Benedictine monks, transported from France, and reportedly the first medieval room to come to the U.S. Complementing these must-see masterpieces are cutting-edge contemporary art exhibits lending a modern vibe to the peaceful classical setting.



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WAM, founded “for the benefit of all the people” by wealthy businessman Stephen Salisbury III and a group of prominent citizens of Worcester, opened in 1898. In 1905, Salisbury died and left the bulk of his five million dollar estate to the museum. WAM continued to grow and slowly acquired a world-class art collection: It became the first U.S. museum to purchase works by Claude Monet and Paul Gauguin.

In the 1930s, WAM joined a consortium of museums and institutions to sponsor expeditions to the archaeological sites where the city of Antioch, Syria once stood. This group discovered hundreds of intricate floor mosaics dating from the first through the sixth century A.D. including the Worcester Hunt, which now is installed in the Renaissance Court's floor.

WAM began systematically renovating and re-installing its galleries in the 1990s beginning with the suite of European galleries, then the Chinese Decorative Arts Gallery, followed by the Early American galleries. Earlier this year, two newly renovated galleries featuring “Art Since the Mid-20th Century”—closed for nearly a decade—reopened and now feature 50 pieces of the museum's extensive collection of notable artwork from the past seven decades.

Presented in three thought-provoking thematic installations: “The Persistence of Abstraction,” “Revivals of Figuration and Portraiture,” and “Cultural Signs,” the refurbished galleries house thought-provoking works by iconic artists, including Grace Hartigan, Alex Katz, Robert Matta, Joan Mitchell, Louise Nevelson, Jackson Pollock, Andy Warhol, and Tom Wesselmann. There are more recent contributions from such artists as Louise Bourgeois, Chuck Close, Tony Feher, Elizabeth Murray, Nam June Paik, Cindy Sherman, and Kiki Smith.

Special Exhibits

WAM offers special exhibits certainly worth checking out for their indisputable artistic value.

The Strange Life of Objects: The Art of Annette Lemieux presents the first critical overview of this artist's dynamic and varied career. Lemieux first garnered attention on the newly global art scene of the 1980s and continues to produce work that grows in depth and resonance, proving herself an artist of lasting significance. Her early use of traditional techniques painting, printing, casting, and photography expanded to include found materials laden with cultural meanings and evocative of personal memories. Through October 9, 2011.

More Than Face Value: Non-Traditional Subjects in American Miniature Painting

This exhibit brings together a diverse selection of 19th- and 20th-century miniatures, from a rare, full-length nude to exotic landscape views to prize-winning pouches. In particular, it showcases the work of Rosina Cox Boardman, an influential artist, teacher, and leader of the 20th Century American Miniature Revival movement, who continually pushed the boundaries of what a miniature

could represent. Through November 2011.

“Wall at WAM: Charline von Heyl”

Towering over the Renaissance Court is the sweeping 17x67', site-specific mural painting by artist Charline von Heyl. Extreme in her use of vivid colors (in this case orange), she describes her drive towards abstraction as the desire to invent something that cannot be named and that challenges the eye in an unexpected way. This certainly does.

The Café and Museum Shop

Spending a day viewing fantastic artwork can certainly work up an appetite, and a visit to Museum Café can cure those hunger pangs. The café is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and you'll find a tasty array of appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches, entrées, and desserts. Dine indoors or experience one of Worcester's few outdoor courtyard cafes when the weather is

warmer.

Of course, a visit to WAM is incomplete without stopping in The Museum Shop, which offers an ample variety of merchandise inspired by art here and in museums worldwide. There are the requisite note cards, framed and matted prints, silk scarves and ties, umbrellas, decorative boxes and art-inspired jewelry and watches. The shop also features a nice selection of children's books and baby toys along with art-making kits.

Educational Opportunities

Art education is a major component of WAM and it does not disappoint in its year-round roster of offerings for adults and children. Multi-week sessions or single classes are available in a staggering number of art-related courses and—even better—are held conveniently in the evenings and on weekends. There are introductory and

Continued on page 13

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INSURANCE GUIDANCE

By Richard McGrath, CIC, LIA
PRESIDENT & CEO, McGRATH INSURANCE GROUP



It's time to winterize once again

Last winter's snow and ice caused millions of dollars worth of damage to homes and businesses in the Sturbridge area. Many New Englanders were ready to move south or consider hibernation.

What will this winter bring?

Even if it turns out to be a mild winter, it's worth preparing for the worst. After all, during the past year, we've been subject to near-record snowfall, tornadoes, a near hurricane and even an earthquake. Do you really want to take a chance and assume that we'll be spared this winter?

Last year, we recommended that readers winterize their homes not only for their own safety and to protect their homes, but to keep their homeowner's insurance premiums from rising. When homeowners file major claims, their premiums rise and, in some cases, they may even find it difficult to buy insurance.

It's a message worth repeating and expanding on. What should you do to prepare?

Check your roof and gutters. Last year, we had so much snow, it caused many roofs to cave in. Some people went on their roofs

"When homeowners file major claims, their premiums rise and, in some cases, they may even find it difficult to buy insurance."

RICHARD McGRATH
PRESIDENT & CEO,
McGRATH INSURANCE GROUP

check the water runoff to make certain your downspouts are taking water away from the foundation of your home. Otherwise, it can cause flooding.

Also, trim any tree branches that hang close to your roof, as they may break from the strain caused by snow, ice and wind, and could potentially damage your roof.

Prepare for blackouts. Harsh weather frequently results in blackouts that can sometimes last for days. Be sure to have plenty of flashlights and batteries on hand, as well as emergency food supplies. A back-up generator is also recommended. It's best to buy one now, rather than waiting until a pending storm increases demand and reduces supply.

Make your home air tight. The average American home has leaks equivalent to a nine-square-foot hole in the wall, according to EarthWorks Group. Sealing any leaks with weather-resistant caulk or masonry sealer can reduce your energy costs, keep out animals and insects, and keep your home dry and comfortable.

To locate leaks, hold a lit incense stick near the areas of your home that are most likely to be drafty, such as recessed lighting, skylights, door and window frames, and electrical outlets.

Inspect your heating system. Your heating system has perhaps the greatest potential for both life-threatening safety problems and major insurance claims. Having your furnace inspected to ensure that it's running safely and tested for the presence of carbon monoxide. Also be sure to have a carbon monoxide detector in your home.

Your plumbing. Bursting water pipes is another common winter nuisance that can cause damages that are expensive to repair.

Any pipes that are exposed to the cold should be covered with insulating material. Insulating your hot water tank, your air conditioning units and your exterior faucets can also help. Also be sure to shut off the water to your exterior faucets and drain them.

Winterize your car. Winter puts an extra strain on your vehicle. Those who drive frequently in inclement weather should be especially certain to prepare their vehicle for the elements.

Start by replacing your wiper blades and

to shovel the snow off, which is dangerous and can also lead to insurance claims. Others bought snow rakes or hired snow removal services to clear their roofs.

Hiring a service is expensive, but is, of course, safer than doing it yourself. At the least, buy a snow rake now, so you have it when you need it.

It is especially important to make certain the entire inside of your roof is well insulated, as ice dams are caused by uneven temperatures on your roof. If your roof is warm enough to melt snow in one area, but not at the edge of your roof, ice dams will result. Adding insulation, not only on your roof, but throughout your home, may seem expensive, but it will quickly pay for itself by lowering your heating bills.

It's not too late to re-shingle your roof, so that it will be better able to withstand winter ice and snow. If you don't replace your roof, check it for missing or damaged shingles and have them replaced. Also check the flashing around your chimneys and skylights to make certain everything is tightly sealed.

When most of the leaves are off the trees, it's a good time to clean your gutters and downspouts. If they are not clean, the flow of water through your gutters will be blocked, and ice will accumulate. Leaves and debris will also hold water and add weight, potentially causing further damage.

Run a hose through your downspouts to make sure they are free of debris, and

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filling up your windshield washer reservoir. Next, check your tire pressure. Tire pressure drops as the weather gets colder, so be sure your tires are properly inflated for the best possible traction when the roads are slick. If you live in a hilly area or do a lot of driving, consider buying snow tires.

Check your battery and make certain the connections are not corroded. Inspect your belts and hoses to make sure they are not worn or loose. If you have four-wheel drive, check to make certain that it's functioning properly. Also, check your antifreeze.

Be certain to have emergency supplies in case your car fails and you need to spend time waiting for help. Have a blanket, gloves, an ice scraper, a flashlight, a small shovel, paper towels, jumper cables and a bucket of sand in your trunk.

Finally, keep your gas tank full, not only to keep from running out, but to prevent your gas lines from freezing.

Shutting down for the winter. Just as you need to pay special attention to your unoccupied winter home during the summer, you need to pay special attention to your unoccupied summer home during the winter.

Be sure to shut off your water and drain your plumbing. Also be sure to keep the heat running at a high enough temperature to protect your home. Have someone check on it frequently or, better yet, have someone live in it while you are away.

Most of us would rather put off thinking about winter, but those who delay will be too late. Keep in mind that spring is only half a year away.

Richard A. McGrath, CIC, LIA is President and CEO of McGrath Insurance Group, Inc. of Sturbridge, Mass. He can be reached at rmcgrath@mcgrathinsurance.com.

This article is written for informational purposes only and should not be construed as providing legal advice.

Worcester Art Museum

Continued from page 11

advanced classes in art history, calligraphy, sculpture, printmaking, watercolor, writing, literature, mixed media, Japanese and Chinese brush painting, travel learning, computer art, drawing, painting, and movement taught by professional faculty members. In addition, WAM also features tours, lectures, and film showings designed to accompany temporary special exhibits.

Too busy to commit to a weekly class? The "Life Drawing Open Studio" might work for you. This two-hour evening session allows you to drop in to sketch from a life model when your schedule permits.

Thinking about pursuing a career in art? Consider the new three-year Studio Art Certificate Program in which participants will receive on-going support from WAM faculty and staff to assist in course selection and portfolio development.

Upcoming Events

24-Hour Comic Challenge

Sat., October 1 - Sun., October 2,
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

The 24-Hour Comic Challenge is an



annual event where artists around the world attempt to create 24 comic panels in 24 hours. The coffee and snack fee is \$5 and provides a great place to create, endless coffee supply, and other refreshments. Youth and students under 18 are welcome with parental supervision. Pre-registration is necessary as space is limited; please call 508.793.4433 or 508.793.4334 to register.

After Hours Third Thursdays

Every third Thursday of the month, start your weekend early at WAM with art-

ful entertainment and great company. Enjoy a sensory evening experience that features live music by dynamic performers and guided gallery tours. Details are available at <http://www.worcesterart.org/>

Need to Know

Worcester Art Museum
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<http://www.worcesterart.org/>

Hours:

Wed. - Fri. and Sun. 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Third Thursday of every month:
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Admission

\$14 adults;
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For more information about WAM classes, call the Education Desk at 508.793.4333 or 508.793.4334.

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LEGAL BRIEF

ROBERT A. GEORGE, ESQ.

MONTHLY LEGAL ADVICE
FOR READERS OF
THE AUBURN TIMES MAGAZINE

BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT

A person in our country can only be found guilty of a crime if the state can prove he did it beyond a reasonable doubt, whatever that means.

If you're ever on a criminal jury, a judge will try to explain it to you. There's a famous blurb judges use called the Webster charge.

On the one hand, the judge will tell you that proof beyond a reasonable doubt "... does not mean proof beyond all possible doubt ..."

This is the part of the blurb that the prosecutor likes to emphasize in his closing argument.

On the other hand, the judge will tell you that it is not enough for the Commonwealth to "establish a probability, even a strong probability that the defendant" did it.

This is the part the defense attorney likes, and he usually follows it up with another quote from the blurb: "Instead, the evidence must convince you of the defendant's guilt to a reasonable and moral certainty ..."

The blurb comes from Judge Lemuel Shaw who presided over the 1850 murder trial of Harvard professor John Webster. Webster was accused of bashing in the skull of someone he owed money to, cutting up the man's body and burning the parts in a furnace, or at least most of the parts.

There was a leg and some torso that Webster apparently didn't have time to burn, and that turned to be just enough corpus delicti to "prove beyond a reasonable doubt" that Webster was guilty.

So now do you know what reasonable doubt is? Maybe not, which is why the wisest part of Judge Shaw's charge to the jury on that day was, and still is, "The term is often used and probably pretty well understood, though it is not easily defined."

Wind turbine

Continued from page 2

and answer resident questions at public hearings. Vanderbrook said that process helps the town come to a decision point of how to proceed. If the decision would be to move forward, Auburn would review options and seek additional funding for the design and construction phase, probably through another Massachusetts Clean Energy Center grant. "The design process usually takes a year. It is tough to say how long it would take for turbine installation to be complete at this point in the process, but probably two to three years out."

Burney said the data is important in determining next steps. "Our goal is ambiguous right now. We need to determine what's reasonable and feasible. At minimum, we are looking at one turbine (maybe 330 feet) that will be interconnected to the grid with a direct transmission line to town buildings. Some meter of the power generated will be a debit, some credit," he said.

The rough cost of installation of a 330-foot wind turbine is \$3 million dollars, according to Vanderbrook. As far as financing the project, he said low interest municipal bonds are one option. Another possible source is a public/private partnership where a third party assumes ownership and gets a federal tax credit while passing on the benefit to the town at a competitive rate. "We are excited about working with the town and what has been completed so far. The Berkshire East Ski Resort project is a 900 Kilowatt turbine, which is similar to what we are looking at in Auburn," he said. "This is a good opportunity and has potential to be very successful for the town."

In addition, Platukis said the project has other challenges—like construction of an access road to the 87 acres of land. The town currently has an access license agreement with Home Depot for part of their parking lot to access the property. Prior to the Met Tower installation, the site had to undergo a lot of tree clearing as it is heavily wooded and has a lot of fine soil.

While the town received a special permit for the installation of Met Tower, no other public hearings have been held about the project yet, Burney said. However, there have been many public meetings of the Wind Turbine and Alternative Energy Committee and the project has been discussed in Board of Selectmen meetings that are public. He said the closest house to the property is approximately 1,200 feet away.

In other towns, such as Charlton, residents have brought up concerns about the flicker effect or shadow flicker. Shadow flicker occurs from wind turbine rotor spin. "Shadow flicker, where the turbine casts a shadow for period of time, does occur and depends on the time and location of the sun," Vanderbrook said. "This has been studied effectively and we know where the sun is going to be, with proper siting it can be minimized."

Platukis added that advances in wind turbine technology address issues like shadow flicker. "We know from the research when things like that happen...it is usually during the day for a few hours. We can turn off the turbine during those times. The same is true if the wind is too strong; we can shut it down."

A second concern brought by residents in other towns is infrasound, which is "soundlike waves having a frequency below the audible range, that is, below about 16Hz," according to dictionary.com. Vanderbrook said

Concludes on page 16

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THINGS TO DO

Oct. 7: AUBURN VARSITY FOOTBALL. AUBURN at Shepherd Hill. 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 5: JOIN AN ADVISORY BOARD (AGES 10 to 18). The Auburn Public Library is looking for help in developing their young adult collection, roster of activities and assistance with their teen newsletter. To view the agenda, go to: <http://auburnlibrarytab.blogspot.com>. Contact is Miss Renee at 508.832.7790. 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Newsletter editorial staff meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m.

Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27: CO-ED OUTDOOR SOCCER. Sponsored by Auburn Recreation. 8:00 p.m. AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL.

Oct. 9: RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS. Since its first show in 1871, the spirit of artists performing in what has become known as The Greatest Show On Earth® has fascinated onlookers and established the foundation for success of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® Circus. The all-live performances, full of comedy, grace, color, precision, athleticism, suspense, music and the harmonious interaction of humans and animals, bring people back time and time again. Ringling Bros.® is part of the American cultural heritage and is the only show business phenomenon to run in three consecutive centuries. Tickets: \$10.00 to \$85.00. 5:00 p.m. DCU Center, Worcester.

Oct. 11: SOPHOMORE CLASS RING PARENT INFORMATION AND ORDERING NIGHT. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL.

Oct. 13: TOWN RACE. Packachoag and Julia Bancroft competing. Observers may sit in the bleachers or stand along the track fence. 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL.

Oct. 13: IF I WANT TO WHISTLE, I WHISTLE. Screening of Romanian film. Protagonist Silviu has only two weeks left before his release from a hostile juvenile detention center. But when his

mother, who abandoned him long ago, returns to take his younger brother away - a brother Silviu raised like a son - those two weeks become an eternity. He finds himself mercilessly taunted and harassed by the other inmates. He is then introduced to a beautiful social worker whom he can only dream of being close to. JACOB EDWARDS LIBRARY. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Pioppi Room, 236 Main Street, Southbridge.

Oct. 14: AUBURN VARSITY FOOTBALL. Leicester at AUBURN. 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 15: AUBURN FALL FESTIVAL. Fun for all ages. Live music, games, car show, farmer's market, food, vendor booths, train ride, pony rides. Sponsored by the Auburn Recreation and Culture Dept. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. LEMANSKY PARK.

Oct. 15: HOMECOMING DANCE. 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL.

Oct. 15: AUBURN CULTURAL COUNCIL. Deadline is today for application to grant funds through the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Direct two copies of your application to Auburn Cultural Council, 104 Central Street, Auburn, MA 01501. Contact Ginger Pelican at ginger44@aol.com for more info.

Oct. 19: BOOSTER CLUB MEETING. 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL.

Oct. 21: AUBURN VARSITY FOOTBALL. Tantasqua at AUBURN. 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 21: TEEN LOCK-IN: HALLOWEEN. Celebrate Halloween in costume with games, food, tattoo/face painting, pumpkin carving, contests and more. This is an after-hours event so you will be locked in until pick up. Registration required. Miss Renee: 508.832.7790. Open to ages 10 to 18. AUBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Oct. 22: GREAT PUMPKIN FEST 2011. The biggest Halloween celebration for families in central Massachusetts: Creative displays of 1,500 carved pumpkins, lit after dark; hayrides and train rides; digital planetarium shows; seasonal games and crafts; animal encounters with scorpions and snakes; animal bones and skulls; pumpkin-carving demonstrations. Friendly Halloween costumes are encouraged. Bring a flashlight to light your way at night and be sure to dress for the weather. The event will take place rain or shine. Light dinner items, soft drinks and festival foods will be available. Noon to 9:00 p.m. \$15 general admission; \$10 Ecotarium members. Children under 2 free. (Hayride, train rides and planetarium shows included with admission). ECOTARIUM, 222 Harrington Way, Worcester. 508.929.2700. info@ecotarium.org

Oct. 22: TABLEAUX VIVANTS: A CELEBRATION OF JIM WELU. Join in the festivities at a special benefit evening honoring long-time (25 years) museum director, Jim Welu. 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. For one night only, selected works from the Worcester Art Museum's collection will be brought out. Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar. Festive attire. WORCES-

TER ART MUSEUM, Salisbury Street, Worcester.

Oct. 27: CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY. 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL.

Oct. 28: HALLOWEEN DANCE. To benefit "Invisible Children". 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL.

Oct. 28: AUBURN VARSITY FOOTBALL. AUBURN at Grafton Memorial. 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 31: HALLOWEEN PARTY. Ready to be scared? The Library is celebrating Halloween with a party. Trick or treating, games, craftmaking, music and more. Come in costume. Registration required. Miss Renee: 508.832.7790. MERRIAM ROOM. AUBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Things to Do

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Auburn Fire Department at your service

Continued from page 4

calls. They are the busiest town outside of Worcester, mainly because of the unique properties that make up the town like a huge mall, the Mass Pike and a large industrial base. These present challenges that many communities don't have to worry about.

The biggest challenge, of course, is the budget. "Calls are going to come in regardless of what our budget is," Coleman said. "We must have things that we absolutely need for our own safety. Personnel is the biggest factor because we are such a busy department and we get 8 ½ calls daily, per average. If you don't have qualified people, equipment is not that important."

The rest of the budget goes to funding the equipment that keeps these brave firefighters safe and to make sure it's up to a specific quality. They may not have the latest and greatest things, but according to the Chief, they have no complaints either.

"The price of equipment is outrageous," he said. "We do the best we can with what have. The biggest challenge isn't to have the newest and best equipment but to deal with what you have and keep it current and workable."

Auburn is lucky enough to have a fire training center with which they can not only train to deal with any situation but to make sure the equipment they are using are in good condition in a controlled environment. One of the new additions they have to the facility is an underground area used to simulate fires in an enclosed environment. These areas tend to have propane storage tanks and knowing how to fight these kind fires not only save buildings, they

save lives, firefighter and civilian both.

What would Chief Coleman do if he had an unlimited budget? "Safety would be the number one priority on the list", he said. "I'd equip every firefighter with the best equipment, protective clothing and upgrades in technology. The cardiac monitoring system we have is over a decade old. While there is nothing wrong with the equipment we have now, the more modern stuff could help us save lives. But considering the price tag on this kind of stuff, there is no way to afford in today's market. But it is on my wish list."

Coleman's biggest triumph has been his appointment to chief of Auburn. "Serving here has been different than serving in other places. We know what our mission here is every day and we are working towards that goal of being the best fire house we can be. Being a change agent and having people look at me as a person they want to follow, rather someone they have to follow, is a great achievement."

His greatest disappointment should come as no surprise to anyone working the community at large. Few people ask any questions as to what exactly the fire department does. Sure they fight fires but does anyone realize they also inspect fire systems regularly, in places like schools to make sure they work? The emergency calls they are called on to rescue people in trouble, even where fire is not involved? Few probably know that Auburn is part of five towns (Auburn, Oxford, Charlton, Sturbridge and Southbridge) that have a dive rescue team. There are over twenty members that are responsible for any boating accident, drowning or rescue that happen in the areas

numerous lake systems. To show how busy they are, they have been activated eight times in recent memory, twice in the last month. How many people knew about that?

The worst fire that Coleman remembers is the Worcester Cold Storage fire that started on December 3rd 1999. Two homeless, mentally disabled people living inside the warehouse started a fire when a candle was knocked over. They fled without reporting the incident. Located near the Union train station and Interstate 290, the fire grew out of control and grew to five alarm status and burned for six days before being brought under control. Unfortunately, six firefighters died, including friends of Chief Coleman and the first cousin of actor Denis Leary. Leary founded the Leary Firefighters Foundation in 2000 as a result.

Speaking of Denis Leary, I asked Chief Coleman how realistic the show "Rescue Me" was in conveying how fires really are. He said they did a good job showing how fires are although in an actual fire, all you would see on your TV is a black screen with people shouting in the dark. Not exactly riveting television if they did it that way. However, the antics the guys were involved in outside of the firefighting are not how they act, according to Coleman.

"The problem with television is that there is no way to show what a burning building is really like," he said. "The technology just isn't there. In a real fire you can't see your hand in front of your face. No movie or film can truly capture what it is like to be in a raging inferno."

His biggest challenge every day is one that every person out there can relate to: budgetary concerns. "The mayor could call at any time and demand layoffs," Coleman said. "If the budget gets cut, we still have a job to do. Fires don't care that you've had layoffs."

Luckily for Chief Coleman, he has not had to have the difficult job of laying off anyone yet. True, his budget has been reduced many times over the years (whose hasn't?), but the town has realized that getting rid of personnel was not in the town's best interest. As one of the busiest town's for fighting fires and emergency calls in the area, that was probably a wise move.

As if the usual calls weren't enough, any resident knows the surge in environ-

mental damage has increased dramatically over the past few months. In the last ten weeks we've had a tornado, an earthquake, a hurricane and intense flooding. While the tornado and earthquake did little to no damage, the same cannot be said about Hurricane Irene and the flooding that followed it. Auburn had about a one hundred percent loss of power to its residents, some for as long as five days. Flooding continued to be a problem, even closing part of 146 and the deaths of two people on the Mass Pike the day I went to interview Chief Coleman.

But Chief Coleman takes it all in stride. "It's important that the community knows that we are working every day, 24/7. I'm not sure if they know just how busy we are but their safety is our number one concern. We are trying every day to make sure that that safety is never compromised."

Wind turbine

Continued from page 14

there is very little scientific information to back this particular issue. Burney added, "If the feasibility study produces positive results and the Town moves forward with pursuing the installation of a turbine, I have to believe there would be an extensive public discourse about not only the funding but the design."

Platukis is passionate about Auburn moving forward with the Wind Turbine project for several reasons. "We are being good stewards of the dollars we have with this turbine project—we are creating wealth by using land that is not buildable (because of ledge and water) to produce power right here in town instead of relying on resources elsewhere. Plus, I can't emphasize enough that wind turbines produce clean energy, so we are also being good stewards of the environment," he said. "This is not only good for residents but businesses as well. I hope adjoining properties may be able profit from it too, maybe putting up a smaller one. I really believe in this project and have a passion for it to move forward quickly. A lot of people in town stop me and say this is one of the best ideas ever. I think the research is already there to prove it is viable."

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THE HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL ADVISER

BY THE FACULTY OF HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
A REGULAR FEATURE IN THE AUBURN TIMES MAGAZINE

Can I prevent kidney stones?

Research data from Europe and Asia shows that overweight people dump excess amounts of calcium and other chemicals into their urine, where the chemicals form stones.

Q: I'm a 30-year-old man. Like many of my friends, I've gained weight since college. I read that being overweight can lead to kidney stones. A friend who just had kidney stones told me that passing them was incredibly painful. I'd like to lose weight, but until I succeed, is there anything I can do to prevent kidney stones?

A: When it comes to illnesses, there are worse things than kidney stones. But when it comes to pain, the passing of a stone is near the top of the list. Kidney stones are excruciatingly painful when they travel through the ureters, the tubes that connect the kidneys to the bladder.

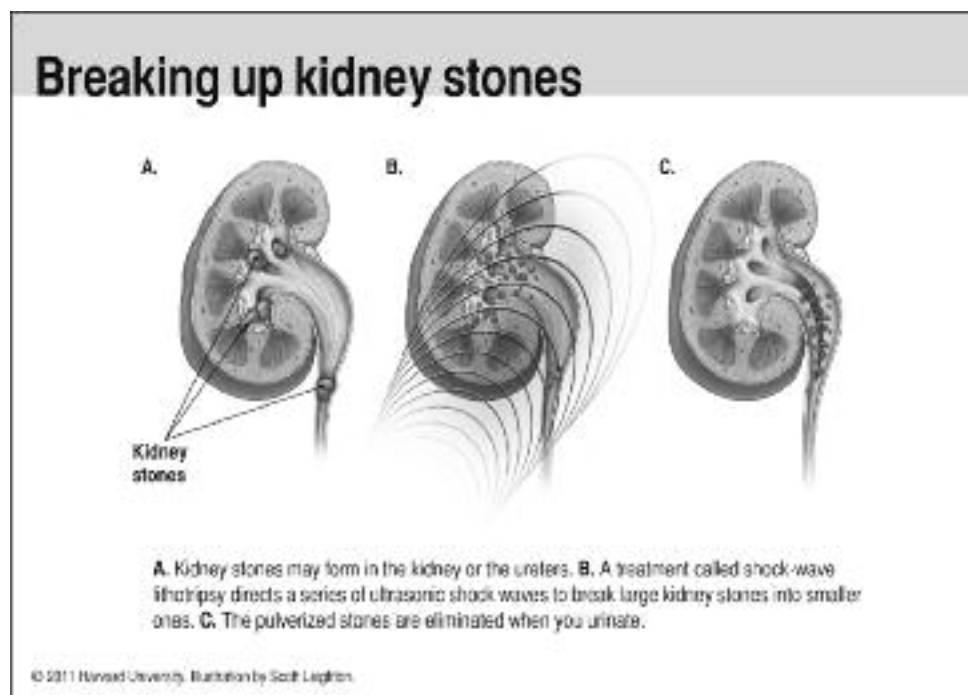
As you may know, kidney stones are hard, chemical and mineral deposits that form inside the kidneys. Tiny stones may pass out of the body in urine without causing any discomfort. In fact, about nine out of 10 kidney stones will pass on their own within three to six weeks after forming.

However, a deposit can grow to be the size of a pea, a marble or even larger. These large stones may irritate the narrow ureter, causing pain and bleeding. Stones greater than one-fifth of an inch may have difficulty passing through the narrow ureter. Even worse, a stone may become lodged in the ureter, blocking the passage of urine and threatening to damage the kidney itself.

The number of Americans suffering from kidney stones is increasing, perhaps because of the increasing prevalence of obesity. In general, stones strike men twice as often as women.

A Harvard study of nearly 47,000 men (ages 40 to 75) found that high body mass indexes and large waist circumferences are both linked to an increased risk of kidney stones. And research from Europe and Asia shows that overweight people dump excess amounts of calcium and other chemicals into their urine, where the chemicals form stones.

Each year about a million Americans undergo treatment for kidney stones. One option is lithotripsy, a treatment that uses a series of ultrasonic shock waves to break up large stones into



smaller ones that can be passed out of the body when you urinate.

But your focus on prevention is a good one because once you get kidney stones, the chance of getting them again is high. Much of the prevention advice is aimed at fending off a recurrence, but it may also help you to avoid kidney stones in the first place. Here are a few pointers:

-- Keep your fluid intake up. Kidney stones form when certain chemicals and minerals concentrate in the urine and form crystals. Drink plenty of fluids—water is the safest bet. This will increase the amount of water in your urine, so those mineral concentrations don't get too high.

-- Eat calcium-rich foods. Calcium is a major component in about 85 percent of kidney stones, so it seems logical to avoid calcium in your diet, not seek it out. But most stones are composed of calcium combined with a substance called oxalate. If there is plenty of calcium in your diet, the calcium binds to oxalate in your intestines, keeping oxalate out of your bloodstream—and urine. Less oxalate in the urine means fewer op-

portunities for calcium oxalate to form—and fewer kidney stones. Calcium-rich foods include nonfat dairy products, leafy green vegetables and some varieties of fish, such as salmon.

-- Reconsider calcium supplements. This recommendation pertains mostly to women, who are often encouraged to take daily calcium supplements to promote bone strength, but the advice applies to men as well. Results from the Harvard-based Nurses' Health Study showed that postmenopausal women who took calcium supplements were 20 percent more likely to develop kidney stones than women who didn't.

-- Moderate your sodium intake. Low-sodium diets decrease urinary excretion of calcium.

-- Moderate your protein intake. Protein can increase calcium and oxalate excretion, raising the probability of stone formation. High-protein diets may also reduce the levels of stone-inhibiting substances in the urine.

-- Moderate your oxalate intake. Calcium intake and other dietary factors seem to be more important than oxalate intake in forming kidney stones, but high oxalate intake can occasionally be a factor. Oxalate-rich foods include beets, chocolate, spinach, rhubarb and most nuts.

A number of risk factors contribute to kidney stone formation, including certain medical conditions. While the guidelines above are a good way to start reducing your risk of stones, your doctor may have good advice about personal prevention strategies for you.

As your friend can tell you, it's far better to prevent kidney stones than to spend a night in terrible pain with a stone that just doesn't want to pass.

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Come October

BY JEFF CANNON
AUBURN TIMES POETRY EDITOR

The memory of summer lingers still to keep me warm
Its slight coat wraps me up in playfulness
That keeps me limber and spry
Like that leap to bat the beach ball back to you
That pulled me in opposite directions
Almost breaking me like a wishbone
I'm glad I got the larger part

It reminded me of my limits and not to get too frisky
For October comes to settle affairs like a landlord

With great sweeps of harvest hands October
Plucks and clears
Cleans and cuts and sweeps, covers over and up
Prepares the lawns with all those bags of different ingredients
So it can rest with potent dreams and enough food for it
To find on its night stand a descent snack
When it wakes up under its blankets of snow

October folds up that beach blanket and
Puts away all those great long towels
But I grab one or two for my showers

As October walks through the streets with its checklist
I know I must put summer in my back pocket with
The rest of those pictures that captured all those smiles
And tongues stuck out making fun, making faces to recall
Making faces to find some tomorrow in some dusty attic
Or the corner of a moldy basement dimly lit
When their real faces are less crisp yet able to let
Laughter sound like holiday bells

As I tie my shoes I find once more October's jacket
Lined with fleece so I can walk more warmly
Without working up a sweat

October arrives with gusto and a push
That moves the world and all the bodies in it onward
Along the swirling trail of time

And all the leaves having finished their labor of shade-giving
Relax into the color of their real selves
They chuckle and wave good-bye
For us to care now for them
Treat them kindly and bless them
As their slender eyes curl up tight

The rain and wind stir to wipe and wash
The rooms and stairwells we know so well
Walk with such familiarity
But they creak with a yawn

Everything come October begins to settle down
A great AHHHHH! Fills the air
My eyes catch the sound
Just as a slight chill nips my shoulders

And I wonder what keeps us from settling down
We postpone gaily joining nature in her rest
And cut pumpkins into jack-o-lanterns
Dress up in costumes to walk through our streets
Tick-or-treating
Along the way we eat and drink and bob for apples

If October minds she doesn't show it
But her attention turns to other things
Than indulging in hobgoblandry
Deeper things
That concern a mindfulness of climate and
A subtle reclamation of the inner space
To assure an equal balance of energies
So the soul-force does not lose its vigor
As the earth tilts and the light for the heart grows dim
And tired eyes strain to find their way home
And darkness reigns and tests our night walking skills
Long abandoned since the days of street lamps and now
Bus and cab drivers replace mystery for a fare

I see she has her knitting ready and in the corner a stack of
Crossword puzzles full of star words to complete
Along with torn fish net to mend, new baskets to weave
And seal skins to wash and polish with loving ointments
And stories from the deep sea

At least that's the ancient way, the one that calls to me
The one I risk being laughed at when I answer the old hymn
That fills my veins with the pulse of its awesome refrains

When I hear October brushing its shoes on my doormat
I run to welcome my old friend
Stopping by for a cup of coffee
I gladly put on a pot and sitting at the quiet table
Like old wood burning stoves
We pick up our chat where we left off some time ago





AUBURN TIMES PHOTOS BY JOHN SMALL

While unseen walkers saunter on and off the well-tended paths of Walden Pond, a cluster of folks relax along the waterfront at the pond's Main Beach on a late-summer Sunday afternoon. The beach is located at the east end of the pond, nearest the parking area and the replicated site of Thoreau's cabin. The wooded section in the upper-right corner of the photo is the actual location of Thoreau's storied shelter.

A SPIRING WRITER, HENRY DAVID THOREAU was living with his parents when their financial circumstances required that they fill their home with lodgers. This frustrated Thoreau, who needed peace and quiet for his writing and reflection.

After recalling a visit he had made to the woodsy cabin retreat of his Harvard College classmate Charles Stearns Wheeler, Thoreau realized that living in such a place would solve many of his problems; but how would he do this—and where?

It so happened that Thoreau's good friend and mentor, Ralph Waldo Emerson, owned a small plot of land over on Walden Pond. Emerson gladly gave his young friend permission to build a cabin on that site and, on July 4, 1845, Thoreau moved there, where he remained until 1847.

Actually, Thoreau was going for more than a writer's peace when he built his cabin. While there, he had intended to finish his first book, titled "A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers" but he was also interested in conducting an economic experiment. Was it possible to thrive while working just one day a week and spending the other six in transcendental pursuits? This sort of living was in perfect opposition to the six-day work week endured by his family and their New England neighbors. The answer to the experiment, as we know readily, depends on one's cost of living.

One year into his Walden experience, Thoreau was taken from his retreat and arrested for failing to pay a poll tax. His one night in jail catalyzed his essay "Resistance to Civil Government," which became later more widely known as his often-read "Civil Disobedience".

During that period, he made his first visit from Concord to Mount Katahdin in Maine, a place which became the backdrop for future Thoreau writing.

In his second year of living at the pond, Thoreau began work on his second book,



Shops along Concord's Main Street face the intersection with Walden Street. The downtown area offers a fine New England stroll for day trippers and, for shoppers, high-quality buys for a variety of goods from jewelry to duck decoys. Lunch or supper at the Colonial Inn, located a few blocks up from these shops, completes the experience.

Feeling Fall Foliageish?

Walden Pond in Concord

TOUCHING THOREAU'S CONCORD



Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

road trip!

"Walden," which he wrote as a series of notes responding to the insufferable questions directed at him by townspeople about what he was doing in the woods.

After leaving Walden Pond, Thoreau moved in with Emerson for a couple of years, and then back to his parents for the remainder of his relatively short life. He traveled to Maine, Cape Cod, Minnesota and Canada. Many people don't know that Thoreau spent much of his life working in his parent's pencil factory. Ironically, the brilliant Thoreau was well-suited to the facile and uncomplicated yet productive work. He was most at peace after finding the lowest common denominator in things, striving for simplicity and eschewing the stress of conventional living. He died in Concord at age 44 of tuberculosis.

OCTOBER IS A SPLENDID MONTH DURING WHICH TO VISIT WALDEN POND. This is when a spontaneous afternoon swim is still possible for the heartiest among us and the leaves are radiating their autumn beauty. It is also the time of year when the physical world reminds us of the splendor and fragility of life, when we mark our days and question how we spend our time.

Distance from Auburn
47
MILES

Indeed, there can be unexpected pleasures found in catching the scent of pine on one's fingers while pondering and touching the places where Thoreau found his lonely path to peace.

— Paul Carr
Publisher



Thoreau statue stands patiently in front of the replica of his cabin.

SELECTED QUOTES

Thoreau Fare

"To be awake is to be alive. I have never yet met a man who was quite awake."

"Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity! I say, let your affairs be as two or three, and not a hundred or a thousand ... Simplify, simplify."

"The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation."

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."



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