

# EMPLOYEE CONNECTIONS

## NEWSLETTER

**GARY ROME**  
**AUTOGROUP**



**JULY 2022**

### *The Wedding of* **Steve & Victoria Liptak**

Meet  
**Jason Cisek**

Employees of the Month  
**Edwin Feliciano**  
& **Joel Oquendo**

## FROM THE DESK OF GARY ROME



I hope that everyone has a very safe, happy, and fun 4th of July! Both dealerships will be closed. Please be sure to email/text your 4th of July photos to Brianna (bzemrock@garyromeautogroup.com or Slack) and Dara (text 413-426-6338) so they can be featured in August's newsletter. **We want participation! Any employee who sends a photo will be entered to win a \$25 gift card. Winner will randomly be chosen on, Friday August 5th.**

As you will see in this newsletter, June was another busy month! Lots of networking took place, most notably at Gary Rome Kia. As new members of the North Central Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, we hosted Kia's first ever after-hours networking event. Several members of the Chamber attended and a friend of a member even came in the following day to purchase a vehicle. The car buying process can be intimidating and networking events really help to make people comfortable and feel connected to a salesperson. Networking is very important and it pays off. I would like to give a special shout out to **Jess Rios, Luinis Fermin, Hector Diaz, and Brittany Zabielski** for helping Dara set up for the event and helping to make it a success!

Have you heard what all the barking is about? The Evolve+ Electric Vehicle Subscription program at Gary Rome Hyundai has taken off too quickly! All six Ioniq 5s are on the road and rented and we have a waiting list of customers who want to subscribe. I am working closely with Hyundai to get more Ioniq 5 vehicles in stock so this unique, exclusive program can continue to grow at lightning speeds!

I continue to be out and about in the community, promoting Gary Rome Auto Group. Through our sponsorship of Link to Libraries, I read the book "All Because You Matter" by Tami Charles to the fourth grade class at Peck School in Holyoke. In honor of Gary Rome Hyundai's 25th Anniversary Party, I made one of the \$2,500 charity raffle donations to the Zoo in Forest Park. If you haven't visited the Zoo, I encourage you to go! It's a hidden gem and a very special place for children. As always, please let Dara or me know if there is a non-profit organization that YOU are involved with or that is near-and-dear to your heart. We'd be happy to meet with you and discuss options on how we can help support your cause.

*Gary Rome*





JULY  
2022

CONGRATULATIONS

EMPLOYEES OF  
THE MONTH

## Edwin Feliciano

Service Technician

Gary Rome Hyundai



Congratulations to Edwin Feliciano for being named Employee of the Month for July 2022. Edwin exemplifies the definition of team player. Edwin is always on time, willing to stay late, and does more than what is asked of him. He is always willing to go the extra mile to help train new technicians or fix a customers vehicle.

Congratulations on this honor. We are lucky to have you a part of the Gary Rome Hyundai family!

*Ara Mamedov*

Shop Foreman

## Joel Oquendo

Maintenance Technician at Gary Rome Kia

Joel really stepped up to the plate over the past several weeks. We've been shorthanded and he helped to keep the shop alive and in action. He came to bat for us, fully swinging, and I appreciate his 110% effort. As a maintenance tech, he stepped it up a level to B Tech types of work such as diagnoses and repairs.

*Jay Velez*

Service Manager





Seen At



GARY ROME KIA  
OF ENFIELD

## AFTER HOURS NETWORKING EVENT



### Work Hard, Play Harder

Trisden Tocaline (Assist. Service Manager),  
Ivy Velez (Parts & Service Manager), Jess Rios (Lot Manager) and  
Rich Circe (Office Manager)



### It Takes Two

General Manager, Dave Nathan, and his wife Marie



### Service With a Smile

Brittany Zabielski  
(Marketing Admin) & Dara  
Davignon (Executive  
Assistant)



### Working the Crowd

Dave with Dave  
McNair and Ann &  
Stuart Barowsky



### Night Shift

Daisy & Jack  
Rome greet the  
after-hours  
crowd!



### Goodfellas

D'Angelo Sanchez (Sales), Steve Liptak (Used Car  
Manager), Brian Boglisch (Sales), Justin Martin (Sales)  
& Scott Bracci (Sales)



Seen At  
**KICKOFF TO SUMMER BBQ**



GREATER WESTFIELD  
CHAMBER of COMMERCE

**GARY ROME  
HYUNDAI**



Senator John Velis

Girls Of Summer

Dara Davignon (Executive Assistant), Brianna Zemrock & Brittany Zabielski (Marketing Admins)

GWCC Executive  
Director Eric Oulette

**@ Sons of Erin Westfield, MA**



**Aaron's Race 01007 for Suicide Awareness**  
at Belchertown High School 6/18/22



**Electric Is How We Roll**

EV Certified Sales & Leasing Consultant Kevin Covington teamed up with Stephanie Rivera (Receptionist) to offer electric vehicle test drives!



**GARY ROME  
HYUNDAI**







**Steve & Victoria Liptak**  
May 7, 2022

Our very own Steve Liptak, Used Car Manager at Gary Rome Kia, married his soul mate, Victoria, on May 7, 2022 in a beautiful ceremony at the Red Barn at Hampshire College. Mrs. Victoria Liptak was kind enough to share their love story for our newsletter and we are thrilled to feature them this month!

### *First Dates*

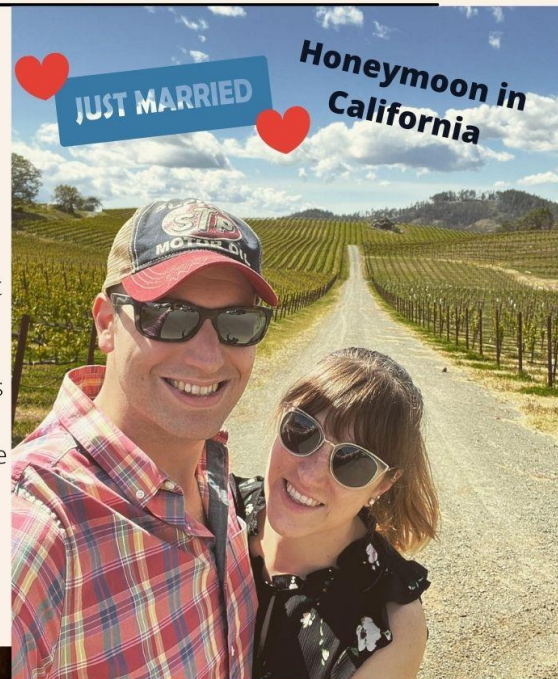
On many occasions, Victoria and Steve's paths could have crossed but didn't. Such occasions were at a Craig Ferguson comedy show (where Steve was seated a few rows back from Victoria) and another where they both attended the same Alan Jackson concert and were even seated in the same section. But, their stars didn't align until April of 2016, when they connected through Match.com. Steve had messaged Victoria twice, only for her to ignore him for two whole weeks! After chatting for a bit, Victoria agreed to go on a date with him. Inquiring minds may ask if she said "yes" even after he admitted his addiction to all things Cher and Dwight Yoakam, and the answer is "yes", she sure did! Steve and Victoria's first date was dinner in Easthampton. The spark ignited quickly when Steve picked her up. They both wore cowboy

boots and both knew it was the start of something very special. After dinner, they got ice cream and Steve just so happened to order the ice cream flavor appropriately named "The Happy Couple", (aww Steve). A few dates and weeks later, Steve asked Victoria to be his girlfriend and she happily accepted. The four years leading up to Steve's proposal were filled with multiple pet adoptions, buying houses, wine-drunk dancing to Cher in the kitchen (yes both Steve and Victoria are guilty of that), thrilling vacation adventures, and many important lessons were learned! Steve learned that Victoria can plan museum exhibitions, and even a wedding, but somehow can't manage to successfully plan their own vacations. Victoria learned that once deer season rolls around, all Steve does is eat, sleep, and think about hunting.



## The Proposal

Steve new he had met his person. Months into a global pandemic, he decided it was time to ask Victoria's dad for permission to marry his daughter. In the middle of the Granville State Forest, accompanied by their two dogs who wouldn't stop eating the wilderness bits at their feet, Steve got down on one knee and asked Victoria to marry him. It took a few moments for Victoria to realize that Steve was holding up a ring instead of the dog cookies she originally thought he was digging around in his pocket for, but she joyfully accepted! After two years of being engaged and one wedding reschedule later, Steve and Victoria are finally husband and wife, exactly six years to the day from when Steve asked Victoria to be his girlfriend. Neither one of them will ever forget their double anniversary of May 7th! And, if Steve could "Turn Back Time", he'd do it all over again.



Dave & Marie Nathan, Bobby Rubin, Jane  
& Gary Rome,  
Becca Rubin, Liz & Jerry Rome





## GET TO KNOW FINANCE MANAGER Jason Cisek

GARY ROME  
HYUNDAI



Jason Cisek has been employed at Gary Rome Hyundai for 12 years. After purchasing several Hyundai vehicles, he was on the hunt for a new career and Gary Rome Hyundai was the perfect fit. Jason grew up in Chicopee, Ma and attended Assumption College in Worcester. He and his wife Carol have two daughters. Samantha is 25 years old and lives in New York City. She works in the corporate office for the MLB and Lauren, age 21, recently moved to North Carolina with her husband, who is a US Marine and was recently deployed.



## Traveling



Jason's office wall is adorned with a vintage map of the world. White pins signify places he's been and red pins are places he wants to go. Jason has traveled to nearly every state in the U.S. besides Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii, Louisiana, and New Mexico. His favorite vacation was Bermuda, thanks to a memorable food tour that concluded with a carbonara dinner, prepared tableside with open fire and all (ask Jason to watch the video on his phone!) Finland, however, was his most favorite place visited. He spent 3 months there, in Rovaniemi, which is the official hometown of Santa Claus and above the Arctic Circle. ***"Reindeer run wild everywhere. There's only 3 hours of sunlight and it was a most memorable experience for me."***

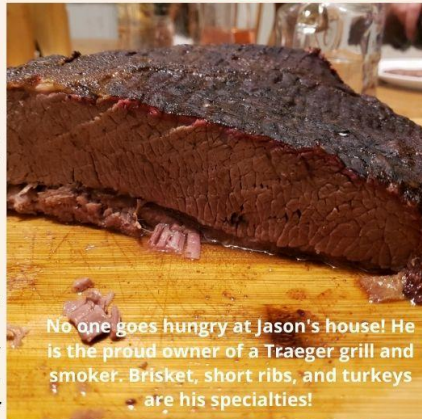


## Singing



After college, Jason joined an international student organization that performed songs and music around the world! The group gave Pope John Paul, II an intimate performance of Gregorian chants and songs in Latin. Jason remains active as a worship leader in the praise band at his church, First Central Bible Church in Chicopee.

## Grillin' & Chillin'







## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CAPTAIN CULTURE, CATHY RILEY



***Adults Only!***

***GARY ROME***  
***HYUNDAI AND KIA***  
**BOWLING!**

Join us for a fun night out!

WHEN: SATURDAY, JULY 23 | 7PM - 10PM  
WHERE: SHAKER BOWL  
16 SHAKER RD. EAST LONGMEADOW, MA

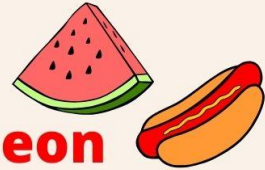
\$20 PER PERSON  
INCLUDES SHOE RENTAL  
PIZZA AND FIRST ROUND OF DRINKS ON GARY!

ANY QUESTIONS? SEE CATHY (X1062)!





## ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CAPTAIN CULTURE, CATHY RILEY



### Summer Hot Dog Luncheon

**GARY ROME  
HYUNDAI**



Service Advisor Felix Vega



Parts Specialist Adrian Santiago and Parts Manager Josue "Macho" Rivera



Porter Hector Ortiz, Parts Advisor Edgar Vazquez, Jr, Lot Manager Edgar Vazquez, Sr & BDC Specialist La'Toyia Martel



Executive Assistant Dara Davignon with Porter Angel Melendez



**Thank you, Cathy for coordinating our special luncheons!**

### *Wear Jeans Fridays to benefit*



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®  
of Connecticut &  
Western Massachusetts

Gary Rome Hyundai is proud to have an established partnership with the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Mass! On Friday's everyone has the opportunity to wear jeans for \$2.50 per Friday or \$10 for the month. Jean Friday's along with Brown Bag Bingo and other fun events give us the opportunity to raise money to purchase necessary items for the house in Springfield. In addition to helping purchase items for the home, proceeds raised also go to benefit their annual Trees of Hope event that takes place here at the dealership in November. If you have any questions about Jean Friday's or have another fun way of raising money for this great cause, please see Cathy or Bri!



**THE  
BIGGEST  
LOOSER**

**\$20 Entry Fee**  
**July 11 - Sept 12**  
**Weekly Weigh-Ins**

It has been brought to our attention that there may be some interest in doing the Biggest Looser Challenge here at Hyundai and Kia. If there is any interest, please contact Cathy at EXT. 1062.





## UPCOMING EVENTS FROM CAPTAIN CULTURE, CATHY RILEY

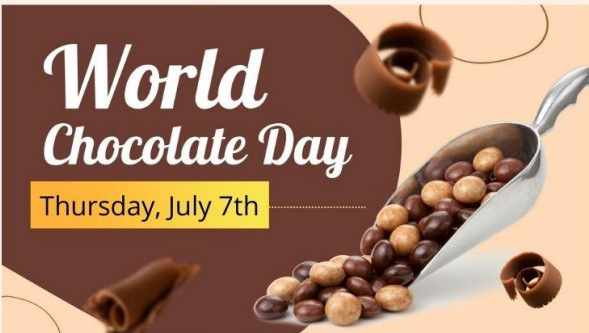


# July's Raffle Baskets & Prizes



### Win a \$25 Gas Card

Each Monday in July,  
a \$25 gas gift card  
will be raffled off to  
one employee at  
each dealership!



## SAVE THE DATE!

Employee Appreciation Party



Saturday, November 19th

6:00pm

Dinner | Dancing | Fun



## SHOP TALK | OFFICE BANTER | SALES PITCH

We ❤️ content! Share your picture or your special news with us? Contact Dara or Brianna and YOU will be featured in next month's newsletter!



Dave Nathan and wife Marie enjoy time boating on the Connecticut River



Jess Rios on her daily run from Kia to Hyundai



Sales & Leasing Consultant John Brusco recently adopted a 2 year old cat named Luna



Victoria & Steve Liptak with their dogs Jack & Remington



## SHOP TALK | OFFICE BANTER | SALES PITCH

We ❤️ content! Share your picture or your special news with us? Contact Dara or Brianna and YOU will be featured in next month's newsletter!



Araz Mamedov was promoted to Shop Foreman at Gary Rome Hyundai!



Robert Gourde was promoted to Sales & Leasing Consultant at Gary Rome Hyundai!



Over \$612 was raised at Gary Rome Hyundai in dog collar and leash sales for Canines Fur Cancer! Cathy Riley presented a check to Cindy Sheridan-Murphy.



Gary is back at the lake, water skiing every weekend!



Geo Vazquez with his 15 year old daughter Samantha & 6 year old son Silas.



Bobby Kosior with his 2 year old daughter, Kaia.



Dara Davignon's 7 year old son Jake hangs with Flako's son Jayren age 8, and Stephanie Rivera's son Daniel, age 4 in Jack's Playhouse!



Gary's sister Lisa and brother-in-law Barry visited from Florida.



## EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS & WORK ANNIVERSARIES

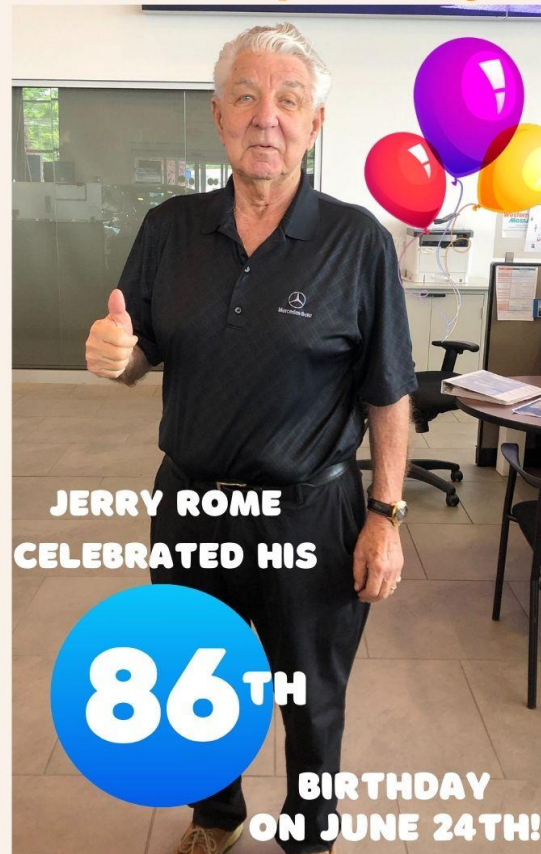
### Happy Anniversary!

JOHAN COLON	1 YEAR
DANNY SANCHEZ	1 YEAR
BRIAN BOGLISCH	2 YEARS
HECTOR CANCEL ORTIZ	2 YEARS
CRYSTAL ALSTON	3 YEARS
KARISSA LEDUC	3 YEARS
KIARA VAZQUEZ	4 YEARS
ANGEL MELENDEZ	6 YEARS
CATHY RILEY	7 YEARS
TELESHA WILLIAMS	8 YEARS
JONATHAN RIVERA	14 YEARS
TIM FERREIRA	20 YEARS

### Happy Birthday!

HECTOR VELEZ	07/07
MARY LAVELLI	07/11
CRYSTAL ALSTON	07/13
TIM FERREIRA	07/15
LUINIS FERMIN REYES	07/21
MEGAN ONEILL	07/28

### The Man - The Myth - The Legend



**JERRY ROME  
CELEBRATED HIS**

**86<sup>TH</sup>**

**BIRTHDAY  
ON JUNE 24TH!**

### Welcome to the Gary Rome Auto Group Family!

NICOLE LUSSIER  
HYUNDAI, SALES AND LEASING CONSULTANT

ISAIAH ORTIZ  
HYUNDAI, SERVICE TECHNICIAN

ALICIA WILLIAMS  
HYUNDAI/KIA, SERVICE COORDINATOR



# Last Page THROWBACK



## Baby It's Cold Outside

In the heat of July, this pic from [January 9, 2017](#) will keep you cool! Gary and General Manager Tim Ferreira stand in front of the solar panels at Gary Rome Hyundai.







Hello!

I am happy to announce that Gary Rome Hyundai is New England's exclusive dealership for Hyundai's new Evolve+ month-to-month subscription program! Like our clients, many of you may be curious about what it's like to drive, own, and charge an electric vehicle. Now with Evolve+, you can rent an all new, electric IONIQ 5 for 28 days with no commitment! Experience what the electric vehicle "barking" is all about! Each rental includes insurance, maintenance, and 1,000 miles. I invite you to visit my dealership and speak to one of my highly trained EV specialists about this new and exciting rental program. Or scan this QR code and sign up today!



*Gary, Daisy & Jack Rome*



Contact one of our highly trained EV Specialists today



Kevin Covington 413-234-1307  
kcovington@garyromehyundai.com



Phil Brecher 413-420-8041  
pbrecher@garyromehyundai.com



Michael Davenport 413-420-8126  
mdavenport@garyromehyundai.com



Sasha Wilson 413-420-8012  
swilson@garyromehyundai.com