



Free by request to residents of Webster, Dudley and the Oxfords

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Friday, September 4, 2020

All Saints students return to school in a new world

WEBSTER — Wednesday, Aug. 26 was the first day of in-person learning for students in grades one through eight at All Saints Academy. It was a day of many firsts – it was the first time students were in school in more than five months, and the first time to meet new teachers and new friends. It was the first time to see and work with new technology, and to learn new routines and new skills. For all the movement breaks and mask breaks built into a new schedule, learning is underway, and homework has begun!

As the first school in the Diocese to open its doors to in-person learning, All Saints Academy has been preparing for this moment for many months. Like many other schools across the Diocese and the state, putting plans and protocols in place to bring students back to school has been the priority. It has been challenging, but not impossible. All Saints Academy is blessed to have families as committed to education,



and Catholic teachings, as the faculty and staff, and all the while putting the safety and well-being of the children first.

Building teacher-student relationships is critical in the beginning.

The school continues to follow the state's metrics in regards to COVID cases in Webster. If a trend develops and positive cases begin to trend upwards, All Saints Academy may at some

point during the year have to switch to remote learning. Having a solid foundation in terms of relationships, routines and expectations will help ease that transition and have kids wanting to

continue to learn, rather than going through the motions.

The school's endowment fund has provided the means with which to purchase new AV equipment including

large monitors, cameras and microphones. This new equipment has allowed for students to be socially distanced at six feet, which in most cases means that classes have been split in half. Teachers are able to teach to the whole class, with the help of instructional aides, and travel between classes daily. And, although ASA has opened for in-person learning, there are a handful of students who have chosen to learn remotely who also benefit from this new technology.

This past Monday, Aug. 31, ASA welcomed its youngest students from Preschool and Kindergarten back to school. It was amazing to see how well prepared the students were to walk into school, many of them for the first time, and begin a new learning adventure. All Saints Academy is fortunate to have strong home-school partnerships with its families. It is what makes this tight-knit community a family in its own right.

Selectmen, ConCom look at wetlands rules

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER – In light of ongoing public concern about a proposal to create a local wetlands bylaw, the selectmen and Conservation Commission (ConCom) devoted most of their joint meeting last week to discussing the rationale behind it and how to explain it to the public between now and October Town Meeting.

ConCom Chair Joseph Wigglesworth said the plan is to protect “a lot of very small wetlands,” particularly those that help feed Webster Lake. Currently, Webster operates under state law, which doesn't protect most of the tiny creeks, vernal pools and “bubbling fissures” that sit uphill from the lake's 100-foot resource boundary. It also aims to increase

that distance to 200 feet, to match what's already protected around rivers and other perennial streams. The smaller places “can have important ecological functions” as well, he added.

Selectman Randy Becker noted ConCom is likely to “get citizen push-back on that.”

Indeed, ConCom member Robin Jewell said they already have, with several public forums on the issue drawing some significant opposition. But she said she believes it has “softened” as they explain what the goals are and change some elements of the proposal.

One element that might disappear is a requirement to plant a vegetated strip next to the water, with size dependent on lot size. Wigglesworth said the intent is to stem the increase of erosion and

pollutants into the lake and control the water temperature. Both of those are rising because “we're losing so many trees and shrubs around the lake,” he said.

Jewell summarized the bylaw's overall intent this way: “Do you want a lake where no one wants to build on it at all because all these pollutants got into it? He's got science behind him. What we're trying to do is keep the lake the popular place it is.”

ConCom members said they aren't trying to prevent development, but to condition it to protect the lake and other wetlands long-term. In some cases, though, that is not possible, rendering a project “not feasible.”

In rare cases, determining that may require

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Kelley retiring as Oxford Town Clerk

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – After being in the role for more than 25 years, Oxford's first appointed Town Clerk is retiring “to spend time with the people in [her] life.”

But Lori Kelley has seen a lot of changes in that time, particularly in how elections run. She remembers doing everything by hand in the mid-1990s and using the old-style lever voting machines. As things have become computerized, Kelley sees it as “improv[ing] it for everyone, but it doesn't streamline, doesn't make the whole process briefer.”

Going forward, however, she notes, “I'm not sure I can project what comes next.” Well, that is, except for her personal life, in which she hopes



Lori Kelley

to be able to finish house projects that have been in the works for at least four years.

Over the years, Kelley noted a few people have been major influences. She said she has “a lot of respect” for former Town Manager Dennis Power, who hired her and became her “men-

tor,” and learned a lot from retired Grafton clerk Maureen Clark. In return, she's helped mentor several other clerks, including Southbridge's Madaline Bonadies, who was first elected in 2004.

“She's been there longer, but she's younger than me,” Bonadies said.

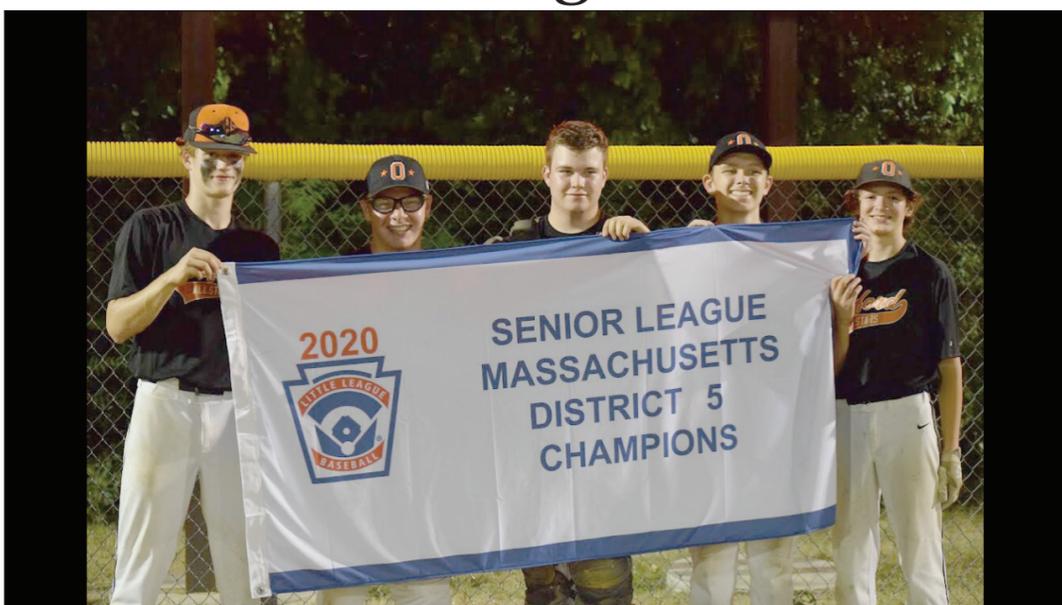
She said Kelley was “very helpful” and “always allowed my calls.” In time, they became conference roommates and “shopping buddies, coffee buddies.”

“I wish her the best,” Bonadies said. “I get it; she doesn't want to work the presidential this year.”

Bonadies said that about half in jest, but Kelley agreed that “could be” a factor in timing her retirement for October 7. That said, she expects

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A night to “REM”ember



Courtesy

From left to right: Graduating senior league players Evan Brindisi, Owyn Law, Dominic Porcelli, Cole Anderson, and Cooper Jablonski.

OXFORD — A special moment occurred on Friday, Aug. 21. A Senior Little League (ages 15-16) All Star game between Oxford and Auburn was on tap.

This was no ordinary ball game. This game was a battle to determine who would become District 5 Champions. An elusive title to say the least. Just getting there is an accomplishment! Of course, bragging rights and the desire to provide a town with another title, another banner to raise, adds to the extreme pressure. This certain desire pushes coaches and players to another level of effort and play! Oxford was awarded by having the game played at Horgan Field. This was determined by semi-final play tiebreakers. Even though the game

was to be played in Oxford, a coin flip which is standard, determines who will actually be the home and away teams. Auburn won the flip and chose to be the home team. This gave Auburn last at bat, a definite advantage when it comes to baseball. Typically, the winner of this game would play on looking to become state champs and then on to regional All Star play. Unfortunately, due to Covid and its wide ranging restrictions, this would be the final game win or lose for both teams. A disheartening thought for all involved. On to the game itself. Early on, the game became a pitchers' duel. Both teams were solid at defense as well. Both teams using the glove,

Turn To **CHAMPS** page **A11**

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 23-29.

Kevin Redden, age 29, of West Hartford, Conn. was arrested on Aug. 23 in connection with a warrant.

Michael S. Freeman, age 28, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 24 for Possession of a Class B Drug. Julissa M. Adamuska, age 27, of Dudley was arrested during the same incident for Possession of a Class C Drug. Jeremy J. Adams, age 43, of Webster was also arrested during the same incident in connection with a warrant.

Pedro C. Seda, age 39, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 24 in connection with a warrant.

Devin W. Dreyer, age 27, of Worcester was arrested on Aug. 25 in connection with a warrant.

An adult female from Chicopee whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Aug. 25 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

John W. Carosi, age 48, of Thompson, Conn. was arrested on Aug. 29 in connection with a warrant.

Montez Hagen, age 25, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 29 in connection with a warrant.

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 21-28.

An adult male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Aug. 21 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Matthew Brandon Perron, age 19, of Oxford was arrested on Aug. 22 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Failure to Stop or Yield.

A 50-year-old male from Dudley was taken into protective custody on Aug. 23.

Natalie Ann Sullivan, age 27, of Dudley was arrested on Aug. 26 in connection with a warrant.

Dylan A. Rainey, age 24, of Southbridge was arrested on Aug. 26 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol and Serious Injury, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Roger Williams University announces Spring 2020 Graduates

BRISTOL, R.I. — The following local residents were among the students who received their degrees in May as part of the Class of 2020:

Samantha Alves, of Oxford, graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.A. Educational Studies in May as part of the Class of 2020.

Alisha Laliberte, of Webster graduated with a B.A. in Public Health in May as part of the Class of 2020.

About RWU
With campuses on the coast of Bristol and in the heart of Providence, R.I., Roger Williams University is a forward-thinking private university committed to strengthening society through engaged teaching and learning. At RWU, small classes, direct access to faculty and guaranteed opportunity for real-world projects ensure that its nearly 4,000 undergraduates - along with hundreds of law students, graduate students and adult learners - graduate with the ability to think critically along with the practical skills that today's employers demand. Roger Williams is leading the way in American higher education, confronting the most pressing issues facing students and families - increasing costs, rising debt and job readiness.

Sports officials adopt “floating season” approach for football

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – After reaching fourth down in their attempt to save high school football this year, state leaders agreed to a “floating season” approach.

Football, cheerleading, and unified basketball will be played between late February and late April as part of a fourth sports season approved last month by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA).

Earlier this summer, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) issued updated reopening standards for youth and adult amateur sports. The regulations require significant modifications to contact sports, and they would have made it virtually impossible to play football this fall.

“The guidelines are designed to provide instructions to facility operators and activity organizers to help protect against the spread of COVID-19,” read a statement released by the EEA.

In the guidelines, sports are broken down into three categories: low risk, moderate risk, and high risk. Due to the frequent physical contact in football, it was assigned to the high risk category along with wrestling, rugby, basketball, lacrosse, ice hockey, cheerleading, martial arts, ultimate frisbee, boxing, and pair figure skating.

Since major changes to the basic game structure of football would have been necessary to satisfy the state’s fall reopening regulations, officials decided to move it to late February. By then, MIAA leaders hope a vaccine is in place and regulations on sports can be loosened.

For now, area football teams are scrambling to find ways to keep their skills sharp. Many coaches have not even seen their players since the spring, before the statewide shutdown.

“Once COVID-19 hit and school closed, we have not been able to be together at all,” said Christopher Barry, the assistant coach of the Leicester High School squad. “Our school facilities have been off-limits, and we are not able to have contact with our players other than through email or text. This is not the kind of relationship we want to have with our players.”

Local football players and coaches are particularly frustrated because almost all other fall sports are allowed to resume this month, with restrictions.

Assigned to the low risk or moderate risk categories, cross country, soccer, field hockey, volleyball, and others will be returning to play, beginning on Sept. 18. Masks and social distancing measures will be heavily employed by players, coaches, and game officials, allowing student-athletes to get back into the game as safely as possible.

But the Friday night lights will stay dark this fall for area football teams, and there are no guarantees that conditions will be improved enough for games in late February. State officials will review COVID-19 data in January and make a determination on whether to proceed with the floating season.

For football athletes and coaches, the uncertainty has been a major challenge. They understand the reasons for the decisions made by state officials, but that doesn’t make the situation any less frustrating.

“We appreciate all of the work and dedication those people put in to make

the best decision for our students to have a football season and to be safe,” said Barry, whose team went 12-1 last year and captured the D7 Central Mass. crown. “There are still so many questions that remain unanswered, which is completely understandable during this unprecedented time.”

Added Barry, “Whatever the next steps are, we look forward to seeing our kids again. We have a great group of seniors we want to honor in their final season, 24 freshmen who are interested in joining our program, and players in grades in between hungry to have another winning season and defend our titles.”

Beginning on Sept. 18, football teams will be able to hold modified practices. Several restrictions will be in place, and players won’t be able to participate in hitting, blocking, team meals, and other activities. For coaches, the main goal is to keep their athletes physically conditioned and mentally sharp through the fall and winter.

“To get back to some normalcy would be best for students’ mental and physical health,” Barry said. “We are a football town, and cannot wait until we get back together again.”

WEBSTER TIMES
ACCURACY WATCH:
The Webster Times is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected in a timely manner on page A3. We cannot run corrections based upon differences of opinion or unconfirmable facts. We will, however, print letters to the editor from area residents who wish to add their comments to our news coverage. If you find a mistake, please email news@stonebridgepress.com or call (508) 909-4106. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voicemail box.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER G.L., C.255, SECTION 39A

Notice is hereby given by: Farrar Auto Body, Inc. 204 Main Street Oxford, MA 01540

Pursuant to the provisions of G.L., c.255, Section 39A that on September 18, 2020 at 9:00 AM

at: 204 Main Street Oxford, MA 01540 by Private Sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle Description: Year: 2015 Nissan Rogue

Registration#/State: Un Reg Vin: KNMAT2MV3FP520254

Name and address of vehicle owner: Tanya L. Holmes, 272 Providence St, Putnam CT 06260

By David C Farrar 8/24/20

September 4, 2020

September 11, 2020

September 25, 2020

Free virtual workshop offered on chronic disease self-management

REGION – Are you an older adult living with an ongoing health condition? If so, this virtual workshop is meant for you. The My Life, My Health Chronic Disease Self-Management Workshop will start with a review of the virtual platform on Sept. 23 from 1 to 1:45 p.m. Regular sessions will then be held on Wednesdays for six weeks, Sept. 30 – Nov. 4 from 1 – 3:30 p.m. Tri-Valley, Inc. is presenting this free workshop for any adult living with an on-going medical condition like Arthritis, Asthma, Chronic Back Pain, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Cancer, COPD, Diabetes, Fibromyalgia, Heart Disease, High Blood Pressure, Parkinson’s Disease, Stroke and more.

Participants will get the support they need, find practical ways to deal with pain and fatigue, discover better nutrition and exercise choices, handle stress and relax, and increase energy levels. This evidence-based program was developed by researchers at Stanford University Medical Center and is part of Tri-Valley’s Healthy Aging Program for older adults and caregivers in conjunction with the Healthy Living Center of Excellence.

To register or get more information, please call: Tri-Valley: 508-949-6640, ext. 3033 (Sue) or ext. 3388 (Muriel).

Tri-Valley is a private, non-profit agency. The agency receives funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and from the Federal government, under the Older American’s Act, processed through the Central Mass Agency on Aging. Funds are also received from other public and private sources. All donations are welcome and memorials may be established.

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Fridays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
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Town Clerk (949-8004)
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Thursday nights 5 to 7 p.m.
Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DUDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-4411)
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DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040)
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Town Clerk (987-6032)
Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156)
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WEBSTER

WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850
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REAL ESTATE

Dudley
\$310,000, 12 Glendale Dr, Kirejczyk, Steven R, and Kirejczyk, Shelby L, to Cox, Bennett A.
\$270,000, 26 Dudley Hill Rd, Ruda, James P, and Ruda, Linda C, to Shenouda, Nader.

Oxford
\$460,000, 12 Paxton Ct #41, Liedell, Steven J, and Liedell, Sara K, to Venkatesham, Srikanth P, and Koyalakonda, Varsha.
\$375,000, 8 Sullivan Blvd, Mooskian, Megan M, to Mooskian, Melissa A.
\$226,300, 10 Elmrock Dr, Wheelrock LLC, to Hayani, Abdulkader.
\$167,500, 46 Ennis Rd, 46 Ennis Road NT, and Robsky, Stephen R, to Frongillo, Thomas A, and Frongillo, Jane M.
\$72,000, 82 Millbury Rd #1R, HRG Development Corp, to Gingerelli, Michael J.

Webster
\$320,000, 25 Riverside Dr, Mooskian, Melissa A, to Shadis, Alexander.
\$255,000, 110 S Shore Rd, Anderson, Charles D, and Anderson, Elizabeth A, to Cofske, Taren.
\$245,500, 134 Lower Gore Rd, Jarominski, Michael L, and Lawless, Rosalie P, to Oakley, Elizabeth, and Mort, Cory.
\$245,000, 14 Cedar Dr, Kistner, Theodore R, and Kistner, Anne M, to Lynch, Shayne M, and Greeno, Margaret A.
\$210,000, 176 Thompson Rd, Pare, David G, to Flebbe, Taryn J, and Wagar, Tyler.
\$210,000, 69 S Shore Rd, Sochacki, Piotr, to Rudnicki, Marek, and Rudnicki, Magdalena.

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Friday’s Child



Hi! My name is Destinee and I want to be a movie star when I grow up!

Destinee is an intelligent girl of Caucasian descent. She likes to play games and is skilled socially. She is open and trusting with adults and is able to communicate her needs. She likes to play outside, do gymnastics, have her nails and hair done, roller skate, and read. She is very athletic and does well in sports. She does not require an additional help in school and is above grade level in reading. She currently resides in a residential program.

Destinee is legally freed for adoption. She has an open adoption agreement of three visits per year with her birth mother. She would do best with a single female, two moms, or a mom and dad. A family with no other children or much older children in the home would be best for Destinee. Her family must be willing to transport her to Western Massachusetts frequently for visits with her birth mother and brother.

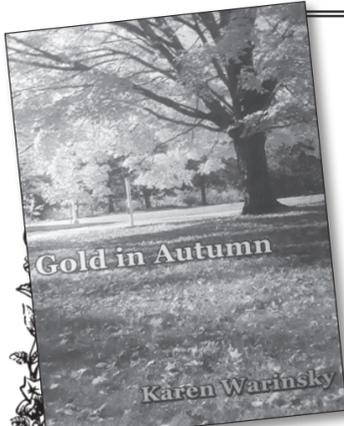
Destinee
Age 12

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Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? If you’re at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ singles and couples.

The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.



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Are you part of a herd?



POSITIVELY SPEAKING

GARY W. MOORE

Life is an incredible journey, full of twists and unexpected turns. We are herd animals and were not created to make this journey alone.

As most of you know, I was shocked in February to be diagnosed with Stage 4 Stomach Cancer. It was unexpected and certainly unwelcomed but it's now part of my life's journey. I embrace the reality and fight for time. As I've said before, there is no cure and so I'm told I can't beat this but I'm fighting to go the distance. I believe I'll still be here, writing this column in five years.

My diagnosis isn't all negative. I've never felt so loved and cared for. I have a team of medical professionals fighting on my behalf. I have friends I haven't seen in years reaching out, visiting and offering their support. But best of all is my family.

My wild and crazy sisters, Debra and Kim, and their wonderful husbands, Keith and Roger, travelled from North Carolina and Florida to spend a week with me. They came to catch up and have fun, but to also provide support and lend a hand. As I mentioned a few weeks ago, we are downsizing from our very large home of twenty-five years into a condo that's dramatically smaller, so they, along with Arlene's best friend, Tracey, who's just like family, spent most of each day helping us rummage through shelves, cabinets and boxes to determine what we keep, sell or pitch. It was an emotional week preparing for the estate sale, but in many ways, it's the history of our forty-five years of marriage, laid out on tables for others to buy. My sister's sense of humor and free spirit not only made the experience tolerable but

fun. I don't see them often enough but when we do see each other, we make it count. I don't know what I'd do without them.

Tracey didn't really know them until this week. She was in complete dismay as my sisters chased down a local police officer to give him a Buster Bar (from Dairy Queen) and to tell the young officer he was appreciated. That's just how they roll.

For those of you who are long-time readers of my column, know that my daughter, Tara Beth, and her husband Jeff, accepted positions in Pasadena, Calif. over four years ago and headed west, with our grandsons, Caleb and Noah. Like most of life's twists and turns, it was a mixture of happiness for their new opportunities and sadness to see them go. Their move wasn't ended with a period but only punctuated

with a comma, as they announced this week they are moving back. We are thrilled. I'll never miss one of my grandson's baseball games or concerts again! My only regret is that their move is motivated by my health. My life journey should not dictate theirs, but I was told, "Don't worry about it. I only have one Dad and we want to be close." Of course, I did the only thing I could do in that moment. I cried. As I said, I've never felt so loved.

In a lighter note, my handsome and smart nephew, Westin, called me on Sunday to tell me about his new dog. He said, "My puppy is two years old and I'm five."

I responded, "So, you were three years old when he was born."

Weston paused and said, "He wasn't born. We bought him!" I laughed

all day at the enthusiastic innocence of his words.

I've always loved my friends and family, but never fully realized the importance of relationships and how their love can brighten the darkest times. I'm grateful. My heart is full.

For those who say, "I don't have friends," be a friend. Join a small group at your church. Take up a group hobby that places you in the same room with others of similar interests. Volunteer for a local charity. Join a herd. Be part of a pack. They want and need you as much as you need them, and for most of us ... the day will come when you need their love and support.

Yes, creating meaningful relationships takes effort but it will be effort well spent.

I also hear other say,

"I'm estranged from my family." It's not too late to forgive and forget. It doesn't matter what happened. It was in the past. Unless the relationships are toxic, dangerous or otherwise damaging, make the effort to reconnect. Reach out and rekindle family connections. I don't think you'll be sorry.

We were not created to travel alone.

Join the herd.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @GaryW Moore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

Fall lawn care tips



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

is more drought tolerant and less susceptible to insects and disease.

Mow often, removing no more than one third the total height. Leave short clippings on the lawn. They will quickly break down, adding organic matter, moisture and nutrients to the soil. Run your mower over long clippings to reduce their size and speed decomposition.

As the tree leaves begin to fall just mow them into small pieces and leave them on the lawn. As long as you can see the grass blades through the shredded leaves your lawn will be fine. And just like the clippings, they add nutrients and organic matter to the soil.

Fertilize lawns in early September and high maintenance northern lawns again around Halloween, but always before the ground freezes. Make sure the last fertilizer application to warm season grasses is at least one month prior to the average first killing frost.

A healthy lawn is the best defense against weeds. Even with proper care these unwanted plants can bully their way into your lawn. Try digging, root and all, to remove small populations of weeds. Think of it as a workout or way to reduce stress.

If you decide to use a weed killer, try spot treating weeds or problem areas to minimize the amount of chemical used. Select the least toxic or an organic product whenever possible. Whether using traditional or environmentally friendly products read and follow label directions carefully. All these products are plant killers and can cause damage to other plants if not applied properly.

Fall, when the cool season grasses are actively growing, is also the best time to core aerate or dethatch lawns suffering from thatch build up or compacted soil. Overseed thin lawns after core aeration or dethatching. You'll have better results once the thatch layer is removed or openings exist for the grass seeds to contact the



Photo Courtesy

A healthy lawn is the best defense against weeds.

soil and sprout.

Those growing warm season grasses should wait until the lawn greens up in spring or is actively growing in early summer. Avoid doing this when the weather is hot and dry.

Begin implementing some of these strategies and soon you'll be on your way to a healthier, better looking lawn for the coming growing season.

Melinda Myers is the

author of more than 20 gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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OBITUARIES

Debra M. (Greene) Haire, 68



DUDLEY – Debra M. (Greene) Haire, 68, died Sunday, May 17, 2020 at home with her family at her side. Her husband of over 20 years, Harold Haire, died in 2004. Her first husband, Donald F. Decker,

died on May 11. She leaves 3 children, Timothy D. Decker and his wife Kathy of Worcester, Dorothy A. Lavallee and her husband Steven of Webster, and Ronald D. Decker and his wife Joyce with whom she lived and who took care of her for the last 15 years; 9 grandchildren, Joshua Decker and his wife Ashley, Tia Decker, Nicole Lambert, Thaddeus Decker and his wife Samantha, Zachary Decker, Steven Lavallee, Victoria Lavallee, Timothy Gustafson and Brittany Decker; 2 great-grandsons, Stacey and Cameron Decker (she was looking forward to the birth of a 3rd great-grandchild in June); a brother, James Greene and his wife Lucille of Sturbridge; a sister, Linda Decker and her husband Paul of Dudley; a sister-in-law, Donna Greene of Worcester; a stepson, Calvin Haire of Douglas and his ex-wife Lisa Hafford and their children, Shannon Heuklom, Julie Roberts, Maggie Heuklom, Benjamin Haire and Haylee Haire; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother Jon Greene in 2016, by her step-grandson Corey Heuklom, and by her beloved doberman Scarlet, by her lab Jewel and by her pug Jazz Marie. She was born on September 18, 1951 in Worcester and raised in Leicester,

the youngest child of Delbert and Marjorie (Strout) Greene. She attended Leicester High School and was a proud member of the drum corps. Mrs. Haire was a telephone operator at Nichols College and later a bartender at both Waterfront Mary's and the Webster Fish and Game. She worked for 25 years as a subrogation representative at Commerce Group Insurance, retiring in 2012. "Nana" doted on her grandchildren and others who called her "Nana." She loved living on Hayden Pond, the scene of many family gatherings and lake activities for the family. She was also a fan of the Boston Red Sox and the Boston Celtics but she especially liked watching the New England Patriots with her son Ron. She liked playing Trivial Pursuit and on-line games, visiting the casino and watching NCIS and having her daily Dunkin' Donuts "large iced mocha regular." Her grandchildren and great-grandsons were the light of her life. Debra's family would like to express their sincere gratitude to the VNA Hospice and in particular to her nurse and friend Paulette for the wonderful care she received since last December. Her funeral service will be held on Saturday, September 19, at 10:30 AM in Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster. Visitation will be from 9:00 AM until the time of the service. Burial will take place in Douglas Center Cemetery, Douglas. Donations in her memory may be made to Worcester Animal Rescue League, 139 Holden Street, Worcester, MA 01606. <http://www.scanlonfs.com>

Ralph Joseph LePore, 87,



NORTH OXFORD – Ralph Joseph LePore, 87, of McIntyre Road, died peacefully on Saturday, August 22, 2020, surrounded by his family after a long battle with dementia. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Naida (Rodriguez) LePore of North Oxford; eight children, Kristen A. Perkins and her husband Roland of Gilmanton, NH, Mark D. LePore of Everett, Meredith J. Ballou and her husband Douglas of Webster, Noelle M. Yeomelakis and her husband Michael of Reading, Jennifer L. Earle and her husband Edmund of Millbury, Ralph J. LePore Jr. of North Oxford, Marisol Rosa of New Bedford, and Patricia Alger of Worcester; his sister, Nancy J. Lepore of Everett; 11 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He was born in Boston, son of the late Ralph "Freddy" F. and Carmella (Defeo) LePore, and lived in North Oxford for 32 years.

He graduated from Everett High School in 1951 and received his bachelor's degree from Northeastern University. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War.

Mr. LePore was a purchasing and

contract manager throughout his career. Very business minded with a playful sense of humor. He was a member of the Oxford Planning Board for 20 years and a member of the Central Mass Planning Board. He was a member of St. Ann's Church in North Oxford. He enjoyed music and played many instruments including trumpet, piano and drums. Whenever there was a piano at a party, Ralph could be heard playing "Spanish Eyes" and the "Misirlou", among others. He loved roller skating and skated competitively throughout his years. He had a soft heart and helped many people through the years. He will be greatly missed.

A private graveside service will be held at North Cemetery in Oxford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 309 Waverly Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA 02452, or to American Cancer Society, 30 Speen St., Framingham, MA 01701. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements. paradisfuneralhome.com

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Data collection to continue at Dudley Recycling Center

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – After making the decision to enact a new format for the town recycling center in June, Dudley selectmen are hoping to see more data collected to determine if the change has worked or if a new approach needs to be considered by the end of the year.

In June selectmen discussed four plans for the recycling center eventually deciding to partner with Pratt Trucking and enact fixed prices for permits for the facility. During a meeting with selectmen on Aug. 17 Highway Foreman Stanley Golenski III acknowledged that there are still those who aren't comfortable with the changes, but the complaints have died down over time.

"Everyone, I think, is getting used to the system

to a point. There are still some who aren't happy with it, but they're getting used to it," Golenski said. "I think people are realizing that you can't all come at once. You don't go right away when it opens. Stagger it a little bit and you won't have those big lines."

In June selectmen had said they would assess the new contract after six months and they reaffirmed that goal during the Aug. 17 meeting asking for continued vigilance in collecting data and input as the year continues. Selectman Jason Johnson said such data is essential to serving the interests of the town and its citizens properly when they assess the effectiveness of the new contract or consider if any other changes are needed to manage the demand.

"I'm looking at this from a customer centric

point of view. When I design a process, I want to ensure that the customer needs are being met within reason. So I start thinking about if the recycling center is open eight hours and there's X number of people that come in that day maybe in a certain span of time I want to know if our process is capable of handling that – I'd want to know any variation to how many bags and compile that data and try to design a system that meets requirements of both the customer and the employees running it. Respect for the people doing the job and respect for the customer both have to happen," Johnson said.

Selectman John Marsi agreed saying that recording and charting data is essential. He noted that selectmen made a promise to do their due diligence to examine the

contract properly after the calendar year is up and they need to have the proper tools to make that happen.

"We're hearing (responses) en masse. There's a certain group of people that are very upset

about it. We told them when we took the vote that within six months, we'd gather this data and we'll adjust accordingly," Marsi said.

Looking to the future one major change selectmen seemed to support

was the possibility of adding another day to the recycling center schedule; however, they also acknowledged that such a change will likely not occur until the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

Superintendent addresses HVAC concerns

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – As the Dudley Charlton Regional School District returns to school this month amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Superintendent Steven Lamarche is hoping to put to rest concerns over the efficiency of the district's HVAC systems as parents and citizens continue to seek reassurance for the new school year.

Lamarche addressed concerns that had been voiced about the HVAC system during a meeting of the school committee on Aug. 26 where he said that the district takes pride in keeping the system running efficiently and they continue to do so regardless of the current pandemic concerns.

"The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District should be very proud of the ongoing maintenance and priority of addressing the functionality of the HVAC systems across all of our schools. I know in my short time here without reservations many costly projects were set in motion and completed. This is in large part because we have an exceptional maintenance and custodial team that

works closely with their building principals and with (Director of Finance and Operations) Richard Mathieu. This was established long before COVID-19 but in continues to this day," Superintendent Lamarche said.

The district currently partners with Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc. and their subcontractor Consulting Engineer Services to maintain the HVAC system. Superintendent Lamarche said these entities will continue to work to keep the system as efficient as possible and were scheduled to examine the school equipment and perform tests prior to students' return to the buildings in September.

"We know that HVAC was raised as a concern by the community and staff alike, but I want to assure you that our systems are working and regularly repaired. We are taking the next and important step of making sure they are working to the best of their ability or functionality," Lamarche said.

Students and staff will be required to maintain use of masks during the fall school year in accordance with recommendations set forth

by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in July. However, Lamarche noted that the district is taking other recommendations seriously including how to most effectively utilize the HVAC systems to keep the air in the schools clean and reduce the risk of increased exposure to COVID-19.

"Schools can further mitigate airborne transmission by increasing outdoor air ventilation or filtering of air that is recirculating within a room or a building. The guidance further recommends consideration of upgrading filters, running HVAC systems with outside dampers open, open windows or doors when appropriate and safe to prevent or minimize air circulation and maintain ventilation for longer hours. All of the aforementioned is not only being accomplished in our district it is all being done through our very own competent staff," the Superintendent said. Lamarche concluded that any recommended HVAC upgrades or repairs would be addressed before students returned to the buildings.

Dudley among Green Communities grant recipients

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – The town of Dudley is one of 103 communities that will be receiving Green Communities Grants to help fund clean energy projects in the coming years. The Baker-Polito Administration announced \$13 million in competitive grants on Aug. 27, with Dudley set to receive \$191,170 from the program.

"The Green Communities program continues to make significant progress in helping municipalities reduce their carbon footprint and save on energy costs," said Gov. Charlie Baker in a press release. "Our administration is committed to supporting clean energy and energy efficiency efforts that make

the Commonwealth's cities and towns cleaner, healthier, and more affordable places to live."

This is the ninth round of funding through the grant program which is awarded to existing Green Communities that have made an investment in green initiatives in their towns. The grants provide financial assistance for energy efficiency initiatives and are capped at \$200,000 per community each round. In order to qualify towns must meet five criteria and be designated a Green Community under the Green Communities Act. Dudley is one of 271 towns with this designation.

"As we work to meet our net zero by 2050 emissions goals, the Green Communities program gives our dedicated municipal partners the

resources they need to continue making progress in increasing energy efficiency and lowering energy costs," said Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito. "We look forward to seeing the continued growth in energy innovation and energy savings that these grants will enable in towns and cities across the Commonwealth."

There has been no word as to how Dudley will utilize the grant funding as of this report however the grants are said to be funding a range of initiatives including ventilation systems, efficient lighting installations, energy management systems for municipal buildings and hybrid vehicle purchases among other projects among the 103 communities to benefit from the current round of grants.

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VIEWPOINT

THE DEADLINE to submit letters to the editor and commentaries for next week's newspaper is Friday at noon. **SEND ALL ITEMS** to Editor Brendan Berube at THE WEBSTER TIMES — news@stonebridgepress.news

How to “enter into life”

“If you want to enter into life, keep God’s commandments.” (Matthew 19:17)

BEYOND THE PEWS
 BY FR. LUKE A. VERONIS
 SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, WEBSTER

Think about this comment Jesus offered to the rich young ruler who approached him. “If you want to ENTER INTO LIFE, keep God’s commandments.”

What type of life is Jesus talking about? Our “everyday existence” life? A normal life, filled with the typical challenges and joys, struggles and successes? A fun life? A rich life? A successful life? Or is he talking about something more, something different, something more meaningful? There are many paths to take in life, yet our Creator knows what will make His children most happy, most fulfilled, most blessed. And He knows what path will lead to a life that will never end. Eternal life!

God gave humanity freedom, and we can use our free will for whatever we want. God won’t force us down any specific path. Yet, He offers us guidance on how to find the right path that will lead to the deepest meaning and the greatest contentment of life!

When the rich young man asks, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” maybe he was only thinking only about the end of his life. Yet our Lord doesn’t focus simply on the end, but on the path itself. For Christ, eternal life isn’t a destination we reach at the end of a long journey, but a discovery of how to live each and every day in the presence of the Eternal One. We experience eternal life by uniting with the Eternal One, and this happens by how we choose to live life here and now.

“If you want to enter into life, keep God’s commandments.”

Experiencing life the way God meant life to be lived only happens when we learn that His commandments are a guide to help us on our journey. Some people think of God’s commandments as a burden that limits our pleasures and desires. They look at God’s commandments in a negative way. “Don’t do this. Don’t do that.” Yet, God’s commandments are not there to take away life’s greatest pleasures, but in fact, they are there to show us that path that will lead to life’s greatest delight! Life the way our Creator desires humanity to experience it is a life lived in constant communion with Him. Imagine dwelling in continual communion with the Source of love, the Source of peace, the Source of joy! What can be more beautiful than to live a life fulfilling the potential that God has given each one of us, helping us to become one with Him, united to Him, having His Spirit dwelling within us!

“If you want to enter into life, keep God’s commandments.”

The difficulty of this path is that it seems confusing, paradoxical, and therefore uncertain. Jesus says, “Deny yourself” and through such denial we will discover our true self. Christ advises to “walk the narrow and difficult path” yet we see so many walking the wide and easy path, and we are tempted. Our Lord tells us that “it is more blessed to give than to receive,” yet our fallen instincts tell us to gather more and more. The commandments of God guide us away from our ego, and towards our neighbor, the “other,” even our enemy. This does not come easy to our fallen nature. His commandments are not so simple to understand, no less to follow, but we must realize that the Creator

knows better than His creation what will make us most happy in life. His path may seem confusing and even hard, yet it is the path that leads to life!

“If you want to enter into life, keep God’s commandments.”

When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt after 400 years of slavery, God was ready to have a new relationship with the Hebrews. He told them, “I will be your God, and you will be my people” but let me show you how you are to live as my children. If you want to walk with me, and be my chosen people, if you want to enter into life, you have to be careful with the choices you make. Will you follow my blueprint for how to live, or will you simply listen to the world around you and accept its way of life? If you truly want Me to be your God, and you my people, here are my guidelines on how to live:

Remember, there is only one God, and I alone am to be worshipped. (Do we place God at the center of our lives, at the center of our daily living?)

Don’t create or allow any idols (ideologies, people, hobbies, or anything) to replace Me as the one true God in your life

Don’t ever carelessly misuse my name, the name of the Lord, but always speak my name with reverence and love

Keep the Sabbath day, one special day out of seven, holy, different, separate than all the other days (and of course, for us Christians, this Sabbath is Sunday, the Day of the Lord and the Day of His Resurrection)

Honor and respect your father and mother

Do not steal (whether we take what is not ours, or do not act as good stewards and don’t give generously to others from the blessings that God has given us)

Do not kill (or hold any anger or hatred or bitterness towards anyone in your heart)

Do not lie

Do not commit adultery (or lust or desire after any other person outside of your spouse)

Do not covet other people and their possessions (despite our American spirit of always wanting to keep up with the rich and famous, having the best, the newest, more and more, and never learning to be content)

These Ten Commandments do not hinder or limit our lives, but will instead help us discover a life to the fullest. Jesus basically told the rich young man if you want to live life, live with two fundamental principles guiding your life – “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength, and with all your soul, and love your neighbor as yourself.” We love God by never forgetting Him or replacing Him with anyone or anything else. Although our society bombards us with so many temptations and so many things pull us away from God, His Commandments remind us to keep God at the center of our lives, and with our love for God comes a natural love for others.

This is the path that leads to life – to a meaningful, fulfilled, blessed life. This is the way that will guide us to an eternal life with God. It is not easy. In fact, it may even seem impossible at times. Yet, when Christ’s disciples seemed bewildered by these words, Jesus reminded them, “What seems impossible for men, is possible with God’s help.”

“If you want to enter into life, keep God’s commandments.”

Census safety tips



CHIEF’S CORNER
 STEVE WOJNAR

The gathering of the federal Census has somewhat flown under the radar during the COVID-19 situation. This is an important function conducted every ten years. It will determine federal funding opportunities for certain programs and determine our level of government representation. We were

informed this week of the presence of Census workers in our area. I wanted to take this opportunity to inform the residents of this program.

After Census data is gathered though the normal course, it is sometimes necessary for workers to go to residences to confirm information. The Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth is tasked with overseeing this program here in the state. This week, we were informed of the following: “2020 U.S. Census workers are in the neighborhood, following-up with residents about completing their 2020 Census. These workers can be identified by their U.S. Department of Commerce Photo ID on their person, an iPhone with the same watermark, and may be carrying a shoulder bag that displays 2020 Census on the front. They are making sure our community is counted and are not in the neighborhood for any nefarious reasons. Please cooperate with the workers, as they are just doing their job making sure our community is counted to receive its fair share of federal funding and political representation.”

In addition to the information above, it is important to make note of something. According to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Census workers will never ask for your Social Security number, bank account / credit card information, or money or financial donations. Do not share any of this information with them as it is quite possible, they are scammers. It should not be necessary for them to enter your home and, if there is anything suspicious, please notify the police. Further information can be found at the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s Office at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/census2020/index.html> or by calling 1-833-621-2020.

In addition to the Coronavirus Pandemic, there is a great deal of turmoil taking place in our state and around the country. We continue to serve the people of Dudley and work with the community to improve the quality of life for everyone. With so much discussion around police reform taking place, there are several documents posted on our Facebook page which can serve as a source of information for people. I continue to thank the men and women from my department for their continued dedicated service to the Town of Dudley during these trying times. Thanks also go out to the many Police Officers, Fire and Emergency Services members, public works, government and all other “essential” personnel for their continued hard work and service. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

Thanks again for your questions and comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department 71 West Main St., Dudley, MA 01571 or email at swojnar@dudleypolice.com. Opinions expressed in this weekly column are those of Chief Wojnar only and unless clearly noted, do not reflect the ideas or opinions of any other organization or citizen.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dudley Historical Commission grateful for Malser Trust grant

To the Editor:
 The Town of Dudley Historical Commission is pleased to acknowledge receipt of a grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust to fund signs for the newly designated Dudley Hill Historic District.

It has been encouraging during this pandemic year to see that our community is still managing to provide important functions and services. This includes not only the highly regarded Malser Trust, but also the Times! We look forward to placing signs in the district as soon as practicable and appreciate the continued support for this

project over the years from the Malser Trust, which provided the initial grant for a consultant. The Dudley Hill Historic District was approved by the Massachusetts Historical Commission and then the Federal Government designated Dudley Hill a National Register Historic District in 2019. Thank you, Malser Trustees!

Visitors to the district may obtain a walking tour brochure at the Dudley Municipal Complex or the Black Tavern on Dudley Hill.

ED BAZINET
 CHAIR
 DUDLEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

www.StonebridgePress.com

In Print and Online



EDITORIAL

Happy trails

Actress Shirley MacLaine once wrote “Fear makes strangers of people who would be friends.”

This week, the topic of strangers has been at the forefront of our minds. Having met several strangers on the hiking trails over the past few months has opened up an appreciation for others that has always been there, yet as of late, for some reason, these meetings have become more meaningful. Simple conversations can lead to an unraveling of several rewarding conversations.

They always say there’s no such thing as a solo hike, and it’s true, for the most part. While hiking the Mount Cabot loop during a recent excursion to our friendly northern neighbor New Hampshire, a chance meeting with a teacher from the southern part of the Granite State took place. It was interesting to hear his views on his school re-opening plan and how he handled remote teaching. According to him, he sort of “rolled with it.” On that same trail, a fortunate meeting with Ray took place. A CPA from Boston who was on his 47th of New Hampshire’s 4,000 footers, was in the right spot at the right time. Being five feet, one inch in height, the hop from one boulder to the next on top of The Horn, would not have happened without a boost from Ray. Clasp his hands together and lifting me from one perch to the next made for a great lunch on top of the mountain. His tales of climbing to the Mt. Everest base camp and his ski adventures all over the world was the perfect accompaniment to a well deserved peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

A 66 year old veteran named Brian was the perfect person to head down Mount Willard with. After the storm wreaked havoc on the trail, the trek down was, well, sort of like an obstacle course. Brian (and his dog) shared so many eye-opening stories about his time serving in the military. I was proud to have him by my side and honored he shared his story.

On top of North Sugarloaf, a Spanish teacher with her family topped the list. They were in from Mass for the weekend. They shared their love of New Hampshire with the best humor and were so appreciative of the nature around them. The family has decided to make lemonade out of lemons and are choosing to get their elementary age students out into the mountains as much as possible, the kids said they love every minute of it.

When hiking sections of the Appalachian Trail, you will meet a ton of thru hikers, each coming with a unique name. This past week, while hiking the Beaver Brook Trail up to Mount Moosilauke, “Whole Foods,” “Square Peg” and “Sherpa” each had amazing tales. Whole Foods is from P.A. And was hiking south to Georgia, in a kilt. Square Peg stopped to chat as he was making his way down and told us, this was his third time completing the AT. Sherpa told us that the wind at the top literally blew him over. He was a tiny thing, and after summiting, we believed him.

On top of Mount Nancy, a family surprised ‘Dad’ for his 50th with party hats and cupcakes. It was so neat to be a part of that. Impromptu parties are the best. This is a story that deserves its own and will be forthcoming in the next few months.

Whether you chat someone up on the trails or in line at the store, you never know what you will learn. Some people will engage, others won’t. It’s a coin toss and that can be a fun game all its own.

If you have a fear of talking to strangers, do it anyway. When you do something repeatedly the fear tends to dissipate and your conversation techniques will feel more natural. If you imagine that the person is already your friend, you’ll treat them as such and this approach can alleviate an awkward feelings.

In the words of Anais Nin, “Each friend represents a world in us, a world not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.”

ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ StonebridgePress.com



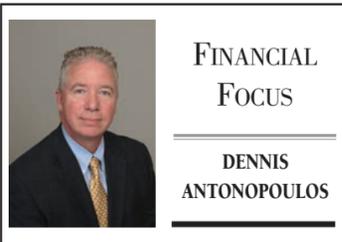
Create strategies to help achieve your financial goals

Like most people, you probably have many financial goals: a comfortable retirement, long vacations, college for your children or grandchildren, the ability to leave something behind for the next generation, and so on. To achieve these various goals, you may have to follow different investment strategies – and you might have to make some tradeoffs along the way.

To pursue this multi-goal/multi-strategy approach, try to follow a clear course of action, including these steps:

Define your goals – and invest appropriately. You will need to identify each goal and ask some questions: How much time will you have to achieve this goal? How much return will you need from your investments and how

much risk are you willing to take? With a longer-term goal, such as retirement, you may be able to invest more heavily in growth-oriented vehicles with higher expected returns. Keep in mind, though, that the value of these investments will fluctuate, and they carry more risk than more conservative investments. However, your long-term horizon allows time to recover from short-term dips. But for a shorter-term goal, such as an upcoming vacation, your investments don't have the same time to bounce back from large drops in value, so you might follow a more conservative strategy by investing in instruments that preserve principal, even



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

though growth may be minimal.

Know what you've invested for each goal. Once you know what type of strategy you should follow to achieve each of your goals, you'll need to enact that strategy. How? By matching specific investment accounts with the appropriate goals. You should know why you own all your investments. Ask yourself these questions: What goal will this investment help me achieve? How

much do I have allocated toward a specific goal? If I have an IRA, a 401(k) and another account devoted to achieving the same goal, are they all working together effectively? The connections between your different investment accounts and your goals should be consistently clear to you.

Understand trade-offs. Your various investment goals may be distinct, but they don't exist in isolation. In fact, your strategy for achieving one goal may affect your ability to work toward another. For example, would significant investments in your child's education change your funding for retirement? If you decide to buy a vacation home when you retire, will that

alter the legacy you'll be able to leave to your family? Given limited financial resources, you may have to prioritize some goals and make some trade-offs in your investment moves.

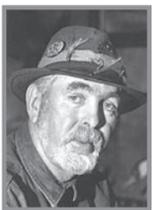
Track your progress. Each of your strategies is designed to achieve a particular goal, so you need to monitor the performance of the investments within that strategy to help ensure you're making progress. If it seems that you're lagging, you may need to explore ways to get back on track.

To manage these tasks successfully, you may want to work with a financial professional – someone who can look at your situation objectively, help you identify and quantify your goals, and suggest strategies designed to help you

achieve them.

Trying to achieve multiple financial goals can seem like a daunting task, but by saving and investing consistently through your working years, following a clear strategy, being willing to prioritize and accept trade-offs and getting the help you need, you can help yourself move forward.

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 St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edward-jones.com. Edward Jones Member SPIC



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

RALPH TRUE

This past week, this writer and my granddaughter Andrea Henchey decided it was time to go fishing at Galilee, R.I. for seabass and fluke. She decided to take along her son Logan, but I was a bit nervous about taking him because of his young age of five years. He is on the water a lot at their lakefront home on Quinsigamond in Shrewsbury, so we brought him along. They arrived at my residence in Uxbridge at 6 a.m., and we were on the road at 6:15 a.m.

The little guy was wide awake and ready to go fishing, and kept asking how much longer it would be before we got to the ocean. "Not long," we replied, and he went back to playing with his iPad! After making a few unscheduled stops along the way, we finally arrived at the boat ramp. It was time to catch some live bait with a small net. Logan was all excited and had a great time helping with catching the bait. We quickly launched the boat and we headed out through the Breachway of Galilee's West Wall.

After a ten-minute run out to 45 feet of water I brought the boat to a stop and we started fishing. Placing a mummy and a piece of squid strip on a hook,



Andrea Henchey and her son Logan reeling in fish.

Andrea lowered the bait to the bottom. She started to get a bite within seconds of hitting the bottom. Logan quickly started to reel the fish in with his mother's help, as this week's picture shows. It was lock and load action for three hours and then the tide flow stopped. Fishing was slow and we decided to head for the boat ramp. We were also running out of food to eat, which is not good. The fast action sure gave us an appetite, as it always does when fishing. The largest seabass weighed in at five pounds, with others just making the 15-inch size limit. There were a lot of short fish including a few nice fluke.

As we pulled into the boat ramp, we had to wait for a couple of boats to leave, so I parked the boat at the very end of the right-hand dock. The water is pretty deep there. Andrea grabbed the rope from the bow and decided to jump out of the boat and onto the dock before the boat was secured. As she jumped from the boat, she quickly found herself in the water! She had one foot on the dock and one on the boat prior to the big splash, which quickly caused a spread eagle, sending her into the ocean.

Falling between the boat and the dock has caused serious injury for many boaters, but she was lucky she did not sus-



This writer with two 20-inch fluke caught the week before.

tain any injuries other than a bit of humiliation, as others boaters looked on. I went to retrieve the car and trailer after securing the boat properly, and making sure she did not get injured. Her son Logan did not know what to make of his mother's actions, and stared to look for more bait fish that were visible in the shallow water.

I quickly floated the boat onto the trailer and pulled the boat out of the ramp, placing it out of the way of other boaters launching and retrieving their boats. Andrea quickly changed her wet clothing for dry ones, and was ready to help

secure the boat for the ride home. "Can I do anything to help Pop?" she replied! I gave her a bucket full of live mummies to carry back to the water and release them. She was not 50 feet from the ramp when I heard her say "Oh No!" Now what? It seems the handle on the bucket broke and the live bait was flopping all over the ground. "Forget it," I replied.

As she approached the boat she asked if she could do anything else! I said "Yes, go sit in the car and do not touch anything else!" She laughed and we were on our way home. I really could not have a better granddaughter, and have had many enjoyable times with her and her husband Chris, and my great grandchildren, Logan and Eva. I am extremely fortunate.

A few anglers were loading their boat at the ramp that day and reported catching a few Bonito in the area of the Charlestown Breachway, using flyrods.

Seabass limits have increased to seven fish daily per angler as of Sept. 1 in Rhode Island waters. Seabass are considered to be one of the best tasting fish in the ocean and catching them is exciting. I would recommend holding onto the rod real tight, or it could end up in the ocean.

Take A Kid fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Corn on the Cob: A Simple Pleasure of Late Summer

Corn is not only one of the tastiest pleasures of the summer; it's also one of the most popular, with Americans consuming an average of 6.8 pounds of fresh corn each year!

If fresh corn on the cob is on your menu this season, read on for some tips and tricks to make the sweet treat even more enjoyable. From picking prime corn on the cob to serving up the irresistible ears, the following hints, both old and new - help you serve up your share of the classic summer pleasure.

Freshness Check: Want to ensure fresh, sweet corn on your table this season? Take these tips from farmers: Look for bright green husks that are slightly moist. The silk should be slightly sticky and a pale golden color. If you press gently against the husk you should be able to feel the kernels. Also check out the bottom of the ear, where it was cut off the stalk. If it is brown, the ear was likely not picked that day. If corn kernels are exposed, look for plump kernels in even rows.

Corn Rules: Did you know corn on the cob will lose up to 25% of its sugar content after just six hours of storage at room temperature? That is because from the moment it is picked, the sugar in the corn begins to convert to starch. To keep corn at optimum

taste, keep corn chilled at about 36 degrees. Keep corn in the refrigerator with the husks intact until you can cook it. This helps to slow down the sugar to starch conversion, thus maintaining its sweetness longer.

Corn off the Cob: While cutting the corn off the cob removes half the fun of eating it, sometimes it's a necessary task. Ever wonder what is the most efficient way to carve a cob? First of all, use a sharp chef's knife or serrated edge knife to cut off the kernels. Several years ago a New York paper published what has become a popular kitchen trick to removing the kernels without the mess – use a bundt or angel food cake pan. Simply stand the pointy end of the ear of corn in the pan's center hole to steady it, and slice down to cut the kernels, which fall neatly into the pan.

Milky Way: If you're cutting corn off the cob for a recipe, be sure to get all the milky liquid this way: After the kernels are removed, simply run the flat edge of a knife down the cob, applying a bit of pressure. If you're not using a bundt pan, place cob in a bowl to collect the liquid.

Cooking Corn: If you're boiling corn never salt

the water, as that can toughen the kernels. Want to add heighten sweetness of bland corn? Add a teaspoon or two of sugar to the boiling water. Cook for three to five minutes.

Steaming Hot: Steaming corn is a favored way to serve up fresh corn on the cob. If you don't have a steamer, simply put about two inches of water in a large stock pot. Stand ears upright in the pan. Cover and cook on high until water boils. Turn off heat and allow to steam with cover on for about 7 to 9 minutes.

Kernels of Knowledge: *The more silk on the cob, the more the kernels!

*The number of rows on a kernel is always an even number.

*There are about 800 kernels in 16 rows on each ear of corn.

*It takes about two ears of medium sized corn on the cob to equal a cup of kernels.

*The corncob (ear) is actually part of the corn plant's flower.



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

* The world record for eating corn on the cob stands at 57 Ears of Florida Sweet Corn in 12.8 minutes, set on April 28, 2019

Win Dinner for Two at the Public House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Public House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dis-

persing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 90; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Public House Inn.

The Pearle begins curbside pickup

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Pearle L. Crawford Library in Dudley has officially begun to offer curbside pickup, bringing a service back to town that has been sorely missed by many members of the community.

The library began serving clients once more on Aug. 31, offering curbside pickup only while the building remains closed to the public for the time being. The Library Board of Trustees discussed the impending return to service during a meeting on Aug. 25 where Library Director Drusilla Carter offered some insight into the reopening.

"It's about the same number of hours as most other libraries around us have done. It's labor intensive for the staff and we only have people for half of their usual part time slots," Carter said.

She added that they decided to open during off hours compared to other local libraries in order to serve clients during times when they couldn't access other buildings.

"The state requires that we provide services during evening hours after 5 p.m. so not only are other libraries not doing curbside pickup during those times but that way we can say we made an effort to meet that mandate by being open on Thursday evening for curbside pickup," Carter added.

It was the decision of the Board of Health as well as other boards in town to utilize curbside pickup rather than reopening the building outright. The library and trustees agreed due to the low staffing levels among other factors, but Carter and others are hopeful to be serving clients face-to-face soon.

"At some point hopefully, if funding to the town comes back and we're able to open for in-person, then they'll let me know when we're able to do that," Carter said. "So much of what we do is people-based and to not have people in the building and not be providing programs and so on, not having that in-person feedback is really hard for us."

For now, patrons are welcome to utilize curbside pickup three days a week by calling 508-949-8021 during pickup hours on Monday and Friday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. or Thursday from 3 until 7 p.m. to place their order. Patrons are limited to five DVDs and 10 items total each week in order to meet demand.



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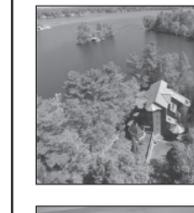


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DANIELSON CT- 52 TAFT STREET
Spacious Ranch, 1520 +/- Sq Ft 8 room 3 Bedroom, 2 Full Baths. Hardwood Floors throughout. Fireplace family room. FHW/OL. Heat. - New Fireplace, Windows. Also, recent Asphalt Driveway! Over sized Garage! 1/2 Acre Lot. Dead end road. Close to I-395! **\$255,500**

OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE
One level living with added 35 x 18 finished walk-out lower level. Cathedral ceilings, skylight dining, hard-wood flooring and central air. Stainless appliances w/large double oven. Over-sized 30 x 14 deck quiet cul-de-sac! **\$319,900.**

WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD
NEW LISTING
Quisential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond. Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplaced Dining, library/Music room. Master Bedroom, 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen. Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath. **\$425,000.**

OXFORD - 4 LEICESTER ST
LAND LAND Great Opportunity for Developer! Total 8.47 +/- acres. Commuter access to several state highways. Scenic nature views. **\$89,900.**

THOMPSON - 452 FAYAN ROAD
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WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD
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WEBSTER LAKE - 28 BLACK POINT RD
BOATER'S & FISHERMAN'S PARADISE! 2019 Custom Cape! Webster Lake located in Quiet Lower Cedar Cove. All of the benefits of Lake Living, while Relaxing in Privacy. Enjoy Sunrise Lake Views from an Expansive Back Deck & Sunset Views from your Farmer's Porch. Cathedral Ceilings, Stone Fireplace, Upscale Gourmet Kitchen w/Huge Island, Sunny Breakfast Area w/Built In Beverage Nook, Vaulted Loft, Formal Dining, Office, Laundry Room! 2 BRs with 1 Full Bath. 2nd FL. 1,500 SF+ Basement Potential for FUTURE ENTERTAINMENT or IN-LAW AREA. Rough Plumbed for Bath & Kit. w/ INSIDE & OUTSIDE ACCESS. Central Air! Oversized 2 Car Garage! New 28' Poly Dock! Private Shared Beach! Check out our Video Tour! **NEW PRICE \$625,000.**

WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE
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LAKE SHIRLEY - 647 RESERVOIR RD
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Lakeshore Lake Shirley! Modern Farm on a Lakeshore Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 2nd fl. bedroom suite w/shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown molding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors, oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$859,000.**

RULES

continued from page A1

costly environmental impact and/or endangered species studies, but Wigglesworth said those are generally limited to larger projects that propose a “significant alteration” or could have “a major adverse impact.”

“It’s not common,

and we’d never put that undue stress on a small project,” he said.

The two boards also looked at more general wetlands concerns, with Becker asking the ConCom to “come up with a help list” on what issues citizens should talk to them about. As an example, he noted he has a treelimb on his roof that needs removal.

In response to that item, Wigglesworth said, “It really depends on whether you plan on having the tree trimmed or all-out remove the tree” within 100 feet of the wetland. Simply removing the limb “in itself is OK.” He particularly noted people with sick or dying trees should reach out, since many are afflicted by plant diseases or inva-

sive insects that spread easily.

Conservation Agent Mary Overholt said their general rule of thumb – although it’s not specified in state regulations – is that anyone removing any tree over four inches in diameter should consult with the ConCom.

Jewel was even more general, saying, “If you’re going to build, come to us first so you don’t have all these plans that are going to be ix-nayed.”

Wigglesworth noted one of the more common violations they see is people throwing grass clippings in wetlands. That’s banned because “it could be carrying contami-

nants or invasives.” He said the ConCom “won’t come down hard” on people who do that, but does talk to them about why it’s a problem.

Additionally, the boards briefly discussed the fact the ConCom is encouraging people to register their boat docks. Although that’s been state law (Chapter 91) since the 1860s, it hasn’t been well enforced, so the lake has many unlicensed docks. Those are legally deemed a “nuisance” by DEP, which Wigglesworth said he thought is “a little bit harsh,” because they can interfere with navigation and/or fishing. The state, however, has a “simplified licensure process,”

where people can register one dock per property for \$75 for 15 years. He noted the ConCom webpage includes a video presentation explaining the process.

“We need people thinking not necessarily in the now, but for the future,” he said, noting protecting the wetlands also protects people’s ability to pass their property on to their descendants. ConCom plans to hold more forums on the issue, including a formal public hearing on the bylaw in October.

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

CHAMPS

continued from page A1

made flashy plays, keeping the game scoreless through four innings. Oxford bats came alive in the 5th and 6th innings, scoring three and five runs, respectively. With an 8-0 lead, Oxford was determined to bring home the victory, which is exactly what they did! This no doubt was an amazing accomplishment, especially for the five graduating senior players. They just helped secure the District 5 Title. They did this at home in front of their family and friends. They did it in their last game ever as an Oxford Little Leaguer! What a way to go out. It couldn’t get any better! Could it? Well, there was another element to this game that took place. It may very well be considered the rarest of gems in all sports to obtain! The “perfect game.” What was witnessed by those in attendance was surreal! For those that know what a perfect game is, understand. For those that don’t, we’ll explain.

It means no one from the Auburn team reached base safely in an official 7 inning game. No hits, no errors, no walks and no hit batsmen! This rare pitching performance is owned by Oxford’s own Evan Remington. He pitched a complete game. He faced the minimum number of batters which is 21. He pitched an average of 11 pitches per inning totaling 77 for the game. Every Inning went 3 batters up - 3 batters down. He struck out 13 of the last 15 batters he faced. He struck out a total of 15 batters in all. Also, with one out standing between Evan and his perfect game destiny, he found himself behind in the count three balls and no strikes. The park and its guests must have held their breath for the remaining few moments. Utter silence took over except for the Umpire’s sweet voice of “Strike one.” A big swing and a miss for “strike two,” and yes, breathe again for a called “Strike Three” to end the game and begin the celebration! A magical moment set upon us that night! For the players, the coaches,

the families, and especially for Evan Remington. If you asked him today, he would give only credit to his team and his battery mate (catcher) Dominic Porcelli for this personal achievement. Yes, Evan also known as “Rem” is just that humble. We must add, this was not just a good team we faced from Auburn, but a great team, a team that previously beat us two out of three times this year. There was a memorable quote, from an Auburn coach, which was said late in the game. He stated “Just a hit, a single hit would be like a win for us.” “Rem,” somehow you made the world stop, in this crazy upside down COVID world of ours, you found a way to make it all stop. Just for a few moments but that was enough. A night that will not be forgotten! A night to be “Rem”embered. This game was officiated by Plate Umpire David Yarter, Field Umpire Korey Pontbriand, and official Game Director Greg Gray.

Boy Scouts plan new approach for yard sale

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Dudley Boy Scout Troop 273 annual yard sale may still take place as planned in 2020, but with some potential major changes taking into consideration the current health crisis.

After being cancelled in 2019 due to the outbreak of EEE, Troop 273 is hoping to persevere this September and hold its annual fall yard sale fundraiser with new guidelines and an altered format to conform to social distancing practices. Representatives of the troop appeared before the Dudley Board of Health on Aug. 26, presenting a plan that would allow the sale to take place with a controlled number of people on site working or attending the event possibly using a ticket sale system to reserve spots for shopping times.

Alex Ryel, Assistant Scout Master for Troop 273, said the troop wants to conform to the safety measures set by Gov. Baker to help prevent large groups and avoid a spread of COVID-19 without having to cancel the event as they did last year.

“We all agree that it can be way more than 50 people there at any given time, sometimes hundreds in a small area. That’s obviously not feasible and nothing that we could manage. One of the ideas we’ve been thinking about is selling time slots to limit the number of people that are in attendance at any given time,” Ryel said.

This would include selling 30 tickets for every hour over two days allowing

no more than 30 shoppers to attend the sale at any given time. This would allow the Troop to conform to the 50-person limit when considering both shoppers and staff.

“If we have 30 people an hour and we’re only open for 12 hours you’re only talking 360 people there between two days. There’s probably well more than a thousand people that come in and out of those gates every yard sale. We do want to make a bit of money for the boys, so we have to keep that in mind and we also don’t want to do all this work and not make anything for them. I wouldn’t anticipate the tickets going much more than \$20 but that would be kind of our ballpark figure,” said Ryel.

Board of Health members seemed open to the idea but noted that the troop would need time to get shoppers out in order to allow the next round of shopper to attend. Ryel added that one idea the Troop had was to make the shopping time 45-minutes allowing 15 minutes for shoppers to return to their vehicles. Staged parking for different shopping times could also be utilized. The sale is also expected to have expanded isles and won’t include clothing, food sales or layaways and deliveries. Masks would also be required for all volunteers and shoppers.

The Board of Health requested an official plan write-up for Aug. 31 before making a decision on whether or not to give their go-ahead for the event. If approved the yard sale would take place from Sept. 18-20 with details expected to be released through the Troop 273 social media pages.

KELLEY

continued from page A1

to help her successor – who will probably be an interim clerk while the town formally searches for a permanent person – through the very busy process.

That would be par for the course. Kelley noted clerks statewide routinely help each other even when they don’t know each other. She’s helped several communities with recounts, for example – events she described as “very challenging. You see your integrity’s on the line.” They’ve generally been “spot on” whether the voting happened on the lever machines (which lack a paper trail) of today’s electronic scanners, with the few disparities coming when voters mark their ballots in ways that make them hard to read, she said.

“It’s a really tight network, and there are probably not a lot of networks like that because a lot of clerks stay in their positions a long time,” she said. In her early days, she added, she routinely saw other clerks who were “energized and organized. I’d like to be like that.”

Kelley’s views are a mixture of the old and new. She notes she “loves” Town Meetings for “that old-fashioned feel of it, except when the fire alarm went off.” (That’s a reference to a meeting, sometime around 2013, that ran very late. Around midnight, something triggered the school’s fire alarm, which caused “chaos,” she recalled.)

Otherwise, town meeting was positive. Kelley was inspired by the people who would come for their very first time “nervous but excited,” and also those people who’d been coming for many years. One of the latter was a woman more than 100 years old who always insisted on voting in person (at the polls and town meeting), even when absentee ballots became available.

“She was old enough that she was alive when women couldn’t vote, so it was that important to her,” Kelley recalled.

Over the years, she said she “always had a good relationship with the Board of Selectmen” and the various town managers, so she “never had to worry like some clerks do with transi-

tions.” She worked with “six or seven” police chiefs, “countless” elected officials, and several managers in her 30-plus years in Town Hall (she started in the selectmen’s office before applying for her current job). She also liked the fact that, as an appointee with an indefinite term, she didn’t have to face election herself every three years. To her, the job “shouldn’t have to be a popularity contest.”

One of the more pleasant things she recalled of her tenure was a short-lived program around 2000 where she helped coordinate Student Government Day with a high school teacher. Students took out nomination papers for all kinds of town jobs “even for seats that weren’t elected,” got signatures from fellow students, and held mock elections. They then “mirrored us for the day” as real town officials did their jobs, and ended at that night’s selectmen’s meeting.

“It was a lot of work, but it was so fun,” Kelley said. “I wish we could’ve kept it going.”

Gus Steeves can be reached at gus.steeves2@gmail.com.

DCLT completes trail work at Slater Woods

DUDLEY — The Dudley Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) would like to thank the ten hardy volunteers who helped maintain the Slater Woods Trail a few Saturday mornings ago! These enthusiastic volunteers, equipped with loppers, weed whackers, trail markers, and protective gear ventured into Slater Woods off Pierpont Road to clear some of the trail leading to Peter Pond.

Despite the challenging work, it felt good to be together in the woods meeting new folks, as well as catching up with old friends, as we cut branches and moved brush from the trail. For some it was their first time hiking to Peter Pond. Despite a few folks getting lost for a short while, (more signage will be added soon to assist future hikers), by the end



Left to right: Sandy Peterson, Waclaw Korpak, Liza Moran and Keith Kirkland.

of the morning everyone seemed to feel a great sense of accomplishment.. The DCLT thanks all participants in this event: Roseann Cushing, Jerry Jeffrey, Keith Kirkland, Waclaw Korpak, Liza Moran, Sandy Peterson, Mark Smith, Debi Thibaudeau, Gail Williams and her brother John.

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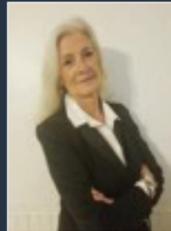
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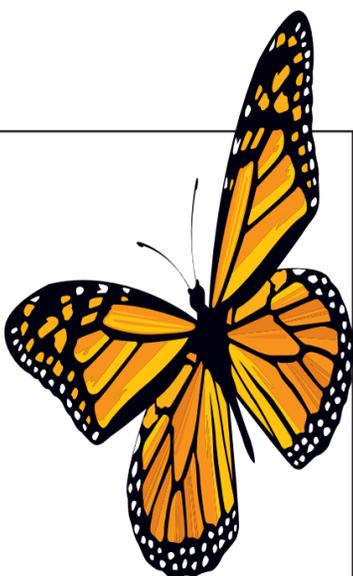
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