

WEBSTER TIMES

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Friday, July 2, 2021

CIP Committee Approves Fire Truck Purchase

BY JASON BLEAU
NEWS STAFF WRITER

DUDLEY – Dudley's Capital Improvement Planning Committee has approved a vehicle purchase which would bring a much-needed piece of equipment to the Dudley Fire Department.

At a meeting in early June the CIP Committee met with Dudley Fire Chief Dean Kochanowski who revealed the town had an opportunity to purchase a lightly used fire truck to replace an aging truck in the town's current fleet. The truck would come from a volunteer department in Cranesville, New York with only 14,000 miles and low engine hours making it a perfect replacement for one of the two vehicles currently in line for retirement in Dudley.

"Initially in my capital plan we were going to skip this year, but Engine 2 and Engine 3 both need to be replaced. Engine 2, currently part of the pump is not working, the drafting portion of it. That's kind of important but we're limping along with it. This used truck kind of fell into our lap. It's only four years newer than our current truck but it's in fantastic shape," Chief Kochanowski told the CIP Committee. The new truck comes at a cost of \$43,000 with modifications to be made prior to its arrival in Dudley as opposed to the \$650,000 it would cost the town to buy a new truck outright. The Chief said a good portion of the cost is already covered. "I was skeptical at first but after we went to look at it, we're foolish to pass on this. It's a once in a lifetime deal. This truck is in phenomenal shape. Furthermore, I've secured \$21,000 in donations to purchase the truck."

With that in mind the truck would only cost the town \$22,000 with the potential of another \$5,000 donation that the chief said wasn't in hand yet but was being discussed with an outside party. The chief said Engine 2 sadly can't be sold to offset much of the cost. It's mileage and usage have left it worth only around \$1,000 in scrap. However, the department will be re-using the tires from the truck which were bought in 2020.

The CIP Committee voted unanimously to add the purchase request to the capital improvement plan with the \$43,000 price tag to be subsidized partially by donations. The remaining cost is to be discussed with the town's finance authority while the Board of Selectmen has to approve adding the purchase to the CIP. Chief Kochanowski said if the purchase goes through they will still need to work on how to replace Engine 3, the department's other aged vehicle.

Selectmen delay Oxbow decision until Aug 17

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT
OXFORD – The selectmen and applicant S&K Development agreed June 15 to give themselves until August 17 to finalize the numerous conditions under which S&K might be allowed to remove earth from a wooded parcel on Oxbow Road.

That decision came about because selectmen couldn't find an earlier date to meet, since Mike Daniels has to go away for a month of military duty starting July 6.

The June 15 hearing was largely focused on answering questions raised at the project's previous date, but several residents reiterated the neighborhood's concerns about noise, traffic, runoff and other issues.

The delay until August will allow the town to formally write up its conditions. One the board discussed at some length was to have S&K repave the road when they're done, but proponent's engineer Mikael Lassila argued that would be "cost prohibitive."

DPW director Jared Duvall estimated the cost of two options: "shim and overlay" at \$115,000 and full-depth repaving at \$160,000. To him, the first is "not viable" because the road's already so bad it'd only buy a few years. He noted Oxbow "was never designed for this level of truck loading," but is not on Oxford's list to repave in the next five years due to its rurality.

Town Manager Jen Callahan said she feels the "onus" of repaving

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BY JASON BLEAU
NEWS STAFF WRITER

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – A forum will be held in July to allow parents to air their concerns about the potential of critical race theory being implemented in the Dudley Charlton Regional School District.

Around 55 citizens, including retired teachers and parents of students from both Dudley and Charlton, filed into Charlton Middle School on June 23 to protest the potential addition of critical race theory to the district's curriculum. The controversial academic movement started over 40

years ago but has risen in popularity over the last few years with the rise of social justice movements. The movement posits that race is a culturally invented category used for oppression and that the laws and legal institutions in the United States are inherently racist. The idea of adding the theory to schools has caused many to denounce the movement as one that would further divide the country by teaching children to identify each

other by their skin color and not by their character while supporters believe the teachings would expose students to what they see as a dark truth of American racism.

On the local level, officials in the Dudley Charlton School District have told parents they don't plan to implement critical race theory in their schools. However, parents are not convinced. In 2020 the district reformed its Equity

Committee embracing the motto "to change the hearts and minds" of the students. The Equity Committee later procured the services of Dr. Sheldon Eakins who has discussed critical race theory in detail on his podcasts. Among the concerns posed by parents at the June 23 meeting were the lack of transparency by the Equity Committee, the lack of input the district has procured from

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Oxford glimpses 40B proposal

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – Selectmen postponed giving a proposed 40B project on Main Street a letter of support, opting instead to wait until the letter's text is actually available.

That choice prompted the developer, Faruk Ansari, to say, "There are two ways to do this. There's the friendly way and the unfriendly way. I chose to do the friendly way and get your blessings first."

Ansari is proposing a 42-unit, single-building apartment complex called Zain Place on 2.7 acres next to Plymouth Village and Greenbrier Park. He's doing it under state law Chapter 40B, which allows him to do things that violate local zoning and greatly simplifies the review process

because Oxford does not have at least 10 percent of its housing stock designated as "affordable" for median-income-or-below people.

Instead of going to the Planning Board, such projects go through the Zoning Board of Appeals and state Department of Housing and Community Development. Town Planner Tony Sousa said DHCD very rarely rejects such applications even if the selectmen withhold support.

In this case, Ansari's landscape design engineer Mike Scott said a few aspects of the plan will exceed local regulations. Most notably, zoning would limit a parcel this size in this area to just seven units, which can be tripled under certain conditions to 21. But he said Ansari doesn't

consider that "economically feasible" and is seeking 42, of which 10 or 11 will be "affordable" under DHCD rules.

He also noted the project needs support from the Army Corps of Engineers, which has a permanent flood control easement on part of the parcel. To address their concerns, he's designing it to include "increased flood storage."

"With the exception of density, this layout could be permitted by current bylaw, but that doesn't allow the density Mr Ansari is looking for," he said.

Neighbor Chris Lance had a different view, describing the proposed building as "a monstrosity when it's completed." He noted its size (200

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Two local businesses step up to the plate



Greenhouse Car Wash owner Mark Marzeotti (far right) with members of Webster Fastpitch Softball. Courtesy photo.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
NEWS STAFF WRITER

WEBSTER – Two local businesses recently stepped up to the plate and provided the funding needed for Webster Fastpitch Softball to purchase two scoreboards.

Based at the Slater Street Fields, Webster Fastpitch Softball offers both recreational and travel team opportunities for girls ages 5-18. Last year, the organization began the process of seeking out new portable scoreboards. It wasn't long before a pair of businesses hit back-to-back home runs with their donations.

Webster Fastpitch Softball thanks Barry

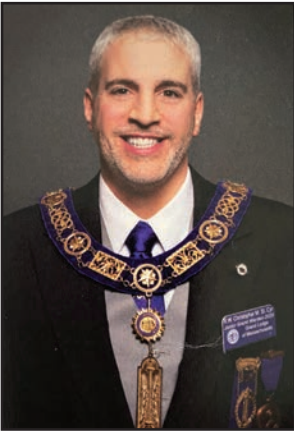
Equipment, of Webster, and Greenhouse Car Wash, of Oxford, for their donations. Strong community support means a lot to local athletes, coaches, and parents.

"Thanks to all the coaches and volunteers who support these young athletes. It would not be possible without your commitment and leadership," said Mark Marzeotti, the owner of Greenhouse Car Wash.

Added Tim Duval, a Webster Fastpitch Softball board member, "At another local tournament, we came across these portable score-

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Living The Dream!!



R.W. Christopher St. Cyr
Junior Grand Warden Grand
Masonic Lodge of Boston

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

On Saturday June 19th over a 150 Master Masons Brethren from throughout Massachusetts, and beyond gathered at the Worcester Masonic Building for a ceremony gathering that was postponed 17 months due to Covid-19 and restrictions that were put into place by Governor Baker. Now that the restriction, have been lifted brethren came to celebrate a presentation of the Junior Grand Wardens “Jewel” to Right Worshipful Christopher St. Cyr Junior Grand Warden Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston Massachusetts.

R.W. Chris grew up and lived in Southbridge and Charlton and is a graduate of Bay Path Regional

Vocational High School where he took up electrical. R.W. Chris is presently employed by Karl Storz Endoscope in Charlton. R.W. Chris first started to show interest in Freemasonry back in 2006. He saw the Benjamin Franklin commercials on T.V. asking, “IS THERE GREATNESS IN YOU?” and was fascinated with the Knights Templar. He took the next step and called the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge and left a message on the answering machine. He was contacted by the Lodge Ambassador Brethren George Makara and came to the lodge for a tour and was given a little history on Freemasonry. Well folks as you can see the rest is history as R.W. Chris moved up in the fraternity that he loves and is dear to his heart.

R.W. Chris took the first step in Freemasonry towards the end of 2006. In March of 2007 after he finished his degree work, he was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. R.W. Chris did not stop there he wanted to learn more and started going through the officer chairs in the lodge and was involved in the 24th Masonic District from 2007-2011 was the (DDGM) District Deputy Grand Master Awareness Officer. In 2012 he



Center with Colonial black gold trim hat is Most Worshipful Richard Maggio Grand Master of Boston and to his right is R.W. Christopher St. Cyr Junior Grand Warden along with Master Masons from all over the State of Massachusetts and beyond.

became one of Quinebaug Masonic Lodge Youngest Worshipful Master. This is an exciting and extraordinary accomplishment for a young man to go thru all the officer chairs and get voted into become Master of the Lodge. He was hooked and wanted more. Due to his personality, outgoingness, and the fact he is a chatter box, his thirst for knowledge and love for Freemasonry continue his move up in the

24th District and became the DDGM Marshal from 2014-2015 and 2015 Grand Steward to the Grand Lodge in Boston. He has so many more accomplishments that there are too many to mention.

The Grand Masonic Lodge in Boston took note of this young upcoming Master Mason and was picked to become the 24th District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) and served 3 terms from 2016-2018. During his time as DDGM R.W.

Chris loved to travel. He visited Lodges throughout his District and throughout the State of Massachusetts. He became so well known and popular he was nominated as a candidate in summer of 2019 for the position of Junior Grand Warden from the Grand Masonic Lodge in Boston and in December of 2019 won the election and voted into his new appointed position. This young man mentioned to me that he is “Living His

Dream”, a worthy man, a humble young man, who will continue his dream as a Freemason. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org and find a lodge nearest you. Members of the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge are immensely proud of this young man’s accomplishments and his drive to continue to do more for his fellow man and Freemasonry.

Friday’s Child



Henry
Age 13

Hi! My name is Henry and I love sports!

Henry is an outgoing teen of African American descent who enjoys being active, whether he is playing outside or engaging in sports-related activities. He has a natural athletic ability. Some of Henry’s other interests include listening to music, dancing, and playing video games. His teachers report he is doing well in school. He has a great sense of humor and loves to joke around.

Legally freed for adoption, Henry would thrive in a permanent family as the youngest or only child. It would be ideal for his future family to initially

serve as a visiting resource, and build a relationship with Henry over time. One he is placed in his permanent home, Henry will need to maintain contact with his birth mother and his siblings.

Who Can Adopt?

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 617-964-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.



Summer Lunches Available for Dudley and Charlton Students

JASON BLEAU
NEWS STAFF WRITER

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – Students of Dudley and Charlton will once again have access to summer meals in 2021 thanks to a partnership between the Dudley Charlton Regional School District and neighboring towns.

District Food Services Director Matthew Greenburg told the regional school committee at a meeting on June 23 that students will be able to pick up meals in either Charlton or Webster until a week or two before the start of the school year this fall. “We were able to partner with Spencer East Brookfield School District and Webster School District to help cover our students and families. The Spencer East Brookfield program had started (June 22). We sent out an email a few weeks ago with a link – The option is to pick up on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. until 12 p.m. at Charlton CHIP-In,” said Greenburg. He also stated that they are working with the CHIP-In pantry to help connect families to their programs as needed. “For Webster, their program is an open site which means there are no forms to fill out. You just show up during operational hours and they will provide you meals. That program starts July 6 and runs through August 5. The pickup loca-

tions are Park Avenue Elementary and Webster Middle School.”

These summer meal programs are free with menus for the CHIP-In pick up available on site. There is currently no pickup location in the town of Dudley. Despite hearing disappointment from the school committee, Greenberg stated this was due to last year’s use of the Shepherd Hill Regional High School facilities not being cost effective.

Superintendent Steven Lamarche commended Greenberg and his staff for once again bringing the summer meal programs to children in need in the district’s towns. “Mr. Greenberg was put on a mission to really work and try to formalize a program for this particular summer because we are getting back to pre-COVID times and trying to meet the demands for everyone,” Lamarche said. “He was working closely with these organizations, and it is unfortunate that there isn’t one in Dudley, but the CHIP-In one they do have it on their website.”

In addition to the summer meal program, Greenberg also revealed that Dudley continues to qualify for the Community Eligibility Provision of the USDA’s Child Nutrition Programs. The CEP is a non-pricing meal service option for schools and districts in low-income areas. Charlton however does not qualify being eight percent below the threshold for the program.

Webster Resident Named to Spring 2021 Semester Dean’s List at Dean College

FRANKLIN, MA (06/25/2021)-- Dean College is pleased to announce that Amanda Mulligan of Webster has earned a place on the Dean’s List for the Spring 2021 semester. Students named to the Dean’s List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin Massachusetts, 45 minutes from Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

Summer @ MW

AN EVENING OF HOT JAZZ AT

the HOT SARDINES

INDIAN RANCH

THURSDAY, JULY 22 AT 6PM

TICKETS AT MUSICWORCESTER.ORG

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy holds pinning ceremony for graduating nursing students



CHARLTON— Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN is pleased to share the commencement of the PN Classes of 2020 and 2021.

The graduation and pinning ceremony took place Friday, June 25, at the Lakeside Pavilion of Indian Ranch, in Webster, MA along the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchau bunagungamaugg.

“We are proud of our graduates, both from PN Class of 2020 and PN Class of 2021 who worked hard amid the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic,” Bolandrina said. “Each student graduating the rigorous program at Bay Path had undergone a stringent admission process, qualified, and has proven to have met and some have exceeded the academic and clinical learning objectives to be equipped with the necessary

DUDLEY

POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of June 17-25

Nathan marc St. Marie age 21, of Dudley was arrested on June 18 in connection A&B

Gabriella Mary St Marie, age 26 of Rock Hill, SC was arrested on June 18 in connection with A& B with dangerous weapon

Lisa M Sousa, age 43 of Worcester was arrested on June 18 in connection with larceny under \$1200

WEBSTER

POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of June 20-269.

Christopher Whitehead, age 34, of Acton, was arrested on June 20 for Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the peace

Jose Dejesus, age 50, of Webster was arrested on June 20 for assault with a dangerous weapon.

21 year old female, Webster was arrested on June 21 for assault on a family/ household member, resisting arrest and disturbing the peace.

Joseph Niemiec, age 56, of Dudley was arrested on June 21 in connection with a warrant.

Juvenile Arrest, age 17, of arrested on June 22 in connection with a warrant.

Nicolas Dias Rivera, age 53, of Worcester was arrested on June 25 for Drug Possession to distribute Class A. , Drug Possession to distribute Class B.

41 year old female, Killingly, CT was arrested on June 26 for assault on abuse prevention order violation

REAL ESTATE

Dudley

\$310,000, 16 Progress Ave, Lebel, Douglas E, to Wescott Custom Homes LLC.

\$310,000, 19 Progress Ave, Lebel, Douglas E, to Wescott Custom Homes LLC.

\$310,000, 2 Menzone Dr, Lebel, Douglas E, to Wescott Custom Homes LLC.

\$310,000, 21 Progress Ave, Lebel, Douglas E, to Wescott Custom Homes LLC.

\$281,000, 24 Lakeview Ave, Parker, Lee J, to Giroux, Karlee.

\$95,000, Truman Dr #9, Galaxy Estates LLC, to Mcphee, Matthew, and Mcphee, Jacquelyn.

\$90,000, Truman Dr #8, Galaxy Estates LLC, to RETallic, Mark T, and RETallic, Paige L.

\$85,000, Truman Dr #17, Galaxy Estates LLC, to Aguilar, Nestor E, and Garland-Bianchi, Samantha.

\$85,000, Truman Dr #6, Galaxy Estates LLC, to Alano, Peter A, and Alano, Paula A.

Oxford

None

Webster

None Available

knowledge, skills, and attitude of a prudent nurse. Our faculty and staff have demonstrated tremendous dedication, leadership, and resilience. I am touched by all the support and lasting impact each contributed to our graduates’ success.”

The ceremony included a processional with faculty and staff in full academic regalia, welcome address from Bolandrina, an inspirational speech from Donna Pope, LPN of Southbridge (PN Class of 2017), a speech from Amanda Wonderlie voted Class Speaker, presentation of certificates and pins, presentation of The Virginia Dockstader Academic Excellence Award to Grace Mwangi of Worcester, Clinical Excellence Award to Khamphan Houatchanthara of Southbridge, and the Community Service Award to Kalie Hernandez, LPN (Class of 2017) of Southbridge, reciting the Practical Nursing Pledge led by Monique Bull of Worcester, and a recessional.

Of the 25 graduates from PN Class of 2020, the following attended the joyful event with their loved ones, Kristin Bates, LPN of Charlton, Robin Peters, LPN of Douglas, and Sikorria Seguin of Dudley.

The following is a list of the Practical Nursing Class of 2021 graduates:

Auburn- Angela Letourneau, Meghan Reidy

Brookfield- Brianna Pincince-McLeish

Charlton- Brianna Cloutier

Cherry Valley- Carolyn Jenkins

Manchester, CT- Isabella Boateng

Oxford- Tianna Welcome*

S o u t h b r i d g e -

Khamphan Houatchanthara, Angeley Santa, Sonya Ugrinow

Spencer- Julia Martinez, Ashley Winters

Webster- Brianna Laforest, Elizabeth Larson, Stefanie Lauretano, Risper Wanjiru*, Amanda Wonderlie

Worcester- Monique Bull*, Loise Kamero*, Beatrice Kamunyu, Luz Mercado, Grace Mwangi*, Digmery Sanchez

*Denotes National Technical Honor Society Inductee

WEBSTER TIMES

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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.news or call (508) 909-4106. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voicemail box.

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It may look like a peach. What we really see is the potential for colon cancer. If you're 45 or over and due for a screening, get your butt in gear. It's painless and can save your life. And at Day Kimball, it's part of one of the most comprehensive digestive health programs around, all in a COVID-safe environment. So if you think you see a peach, you need help. **Make an appointment today.**

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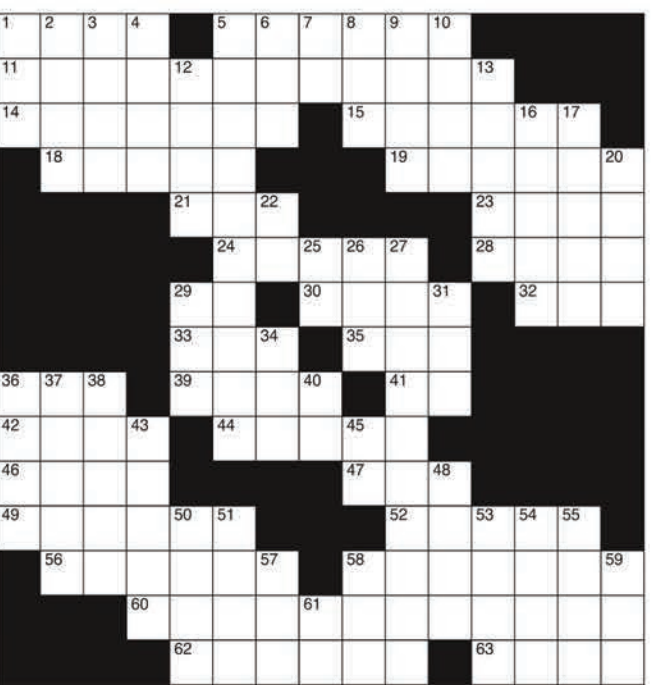
A community partner of YaleNewHavenHealth



Humphries receives Michael Branniff Memorial Scholarship

The Black Tavern Historical Society of Dudley is pleased to announce the recipient of the Michael Branniff Memorial Scholarship for 2021 is Colin Humphries. Colin is a graduate of Shepherd Hill and will attend the University of Massachusetts this fall, with a major in political science.

The Board of Directors met with Colin at their annual meeting on Saturday, June 26. Marc Mosely, a member of the scholarship committee, presented the award.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Absence of difficulty

5. Preserve a dead body

11. Gratitude

14. The act of coming together again

15. More cushy

18. Visionaries

19. Fish-eating bird

21. Indicates near

23. NY Mets legend Tommie

24. Icelandic poems

28. Pop

29. Hammer is one

30. Senses of self-esteem

32. Trigraph

33. Not around
35. Electronic data processing

36. Driver's licenses and passports

39. Snakelike fishes

41. Military flyers

42. Raincoats

44. Type of community

46. Feature of worm's anatomy

47. In the center

49. Laid back

52. Jewelled headdress

56. In slow tempo

58. ___ Falls

60. Saying things again

62. Periods in history

63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

1. Body part

2. Mimics

3. Expel or eject

4. Sea eagle

5. Subdivision of cenosespecies

6. Dialect of Chinese

7. Mr. T's character on "The A-Team"

8. Consumed

9. Chinese dynasty

10. NFL great Randy

12. Ireland

13. Palm trees

16. Fungal disease

17. Willis and Jerry are two

20. Affirmative!

22. Potato state

25. "The First State"

26. A way to develop

27. Associations
29. Woman (French)

31. Sunscreen rating

34. Brew

36. Mosque prayer leader

37. Indigo bush

38. Burn with a hot liquid

40. Jr.'s father

43. Scad genus

45. Morning

48. Length of a straight line (abbr.)

50. Double curve

51. Small thin bunch

53. Worn by exposure to the weather

54. Mars crater

55. Humanities

57. Of the ears

58. "To the ___ degree"

59. Residue

61. It keeps you cool



Dudley Lions Closes Doors, Donates Funds to Emergency Responders

BY JASON BLEAU
NEWS STAFF WRITER

DUDLEY – The Dudley Lions Club is sadly closing its doors after 52 years of service to the local community. Club President and King Lion Stephen Bouchard made the announcement before the Board of Selectmen at a meeting on June 21 where he also announced the final donations being made to help support public entities in town.

Bouchard said the Lions Club was ending its tenure in Dudley on June 30 but decided as one of its final acts to disperse funding between the Dudley Fire and Dudley Police Departments. "It is unfortunate, but times have changed. In our essence to give back to the communities Lion Paul Driscoll approached the fire and police chiefs to see what they needed and what the community needed. Both departments are among the first in line to help the

community out from our eyes. In the approach, they listed off a few items that they would like," Bouchard said.

The Lions will donate \$3,000 to the Dudley Fire Department helping support the town's Hazardous Waste Day and purchase new shields and gloves for firefighters. The Dudley Police Department will receive \$2,500 to purchase a projector and some monitors for the dispatch center with the remaining balance supporting the department's D.A.R.E. programs and holiday giving.

"It's bittersweet. We certainly thank the Lions Club for thinking of us at this time," Police Chief Steven Wojnar said. "It is sad to see an organization that's been so dedicated to the community go, but it's a real tip of the cap to the folks that are involved in that association that this is the first thing they thought of as they were closing up was to give back to the community."

Fire Chief Dean Kochanowski echoed Chief Wojnar's sentiments and also thanked the Lions for their support. "I'd like to thank (the Lions Club) and I'm sorry that you're closing your doors. It's too bad. It's a good organization that did a lot for the community," Chief Kochanowski said.

Before leaving the microphone Stephen Bouchard took a moment to thank the community for their support and expressed pride that the Lions could help out two worthy causes one last time. "We appreciate all the support in the past from both of the departments. One of the events they've helped us with in the past that first comes to mind is our Halloween parade and party. They provided fire trucks and police officers to help out and it all went to the kids. We do appreciate it. It's from the bottom of our hearts. We do thank the community and all of you guys," Bouchard said.

Oxford's successful season ends in Central Mass. Division 4 semifinals

BY KEN POWERS
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

BOYLSTON — It's possible the outcome of Oxford High's Central Mass. Division 4 Baseball Tournament semifinal-round game against Tahanto Regional — an 11-0 win by the Stags on Friday, June 25 — could be linked to the very first pitch of the contest.

As the No. 4 seed taking on the No. 1 seed, the Pirates batted first and the initial offering by Tahanto pitcher Ryan Walton was hit sharply by Oxford senior Aiden Fahey, but the liner went right into the glove of Stags' first baseman Austin Stone, who didn't have to move to make the play.

At the very moment the ball found Stone's glove it seemed like the Pirates, collectively, let out a tremendous sigh of frustration. The team went quietly in the top of the first inning after that, sophomore Evan Remington flying out to right field and junior Evan Brindisi taking a called third strike.

Tahanto took control of the game in the bottom of the first inning, scoring four runs on three singles, two walks and a wild pitch. After getting Tahanto's first batter, Adam Fuller, to fly out to center field, Brindisi, the Pirates' starting pitcher, allowed, in order, a single, a walk, another single and another walk. The Stags led 2-0 and had runners on first and second.

At that point Oxford coach Justin Richards replaced Brindisi, after just one-third of an inning, with freshman Connor Fantasia.

"Evan was struggling throwing strikes in the first inning," Richards said. "In a playoff game all runs are magnified a little bit more so I felt we had to make the switch. I thought Connor did a good job keeping us in the game for a few innings, but we just couldn't keep (Tahanto) down."

Tahanto, the defending Division 4 Central Mass. champions, pushed its lead to 6-0 in the third inning, and then blew the game open with a five-run fourth inning that extended its advantage to 11-0.

"Baseball's a funny game; we just got beat," Richards said. "They were just better than us today. Everything that could have gone wrong early in the game did."

Stone pitched into the seventh — semifinal- and final-round tournament games go seven innings regardless of the score, according to Central Mass. Tournament Director Bob McNamara — allowing two hits while striking out 11, walking two and hitting a batter.

"(Stone) kept us off-balance," said Richards, who guided the Pirates to the 2018 Division 4 Central Mass. title. "Baseball's funky and he had our number."

Oxford finished its season 13-4, won the C Division of the Southern Worcester County League, as well as the inaugural Division 3 Central Mass. Athletic Director's Association (CMADA) title, defeating Tyngsborough High, 4-3.

"Not having last year [2020], having the year off [because of COVID-19 and the global coronavirus pandemic], I feel like that year is kind of gone now," Richards said. "We came back from it and learned enough and the guys that weren't part of our system are now part of it. I think there were a lot of positives to take from this season. Hopefully the bad taste that's in their mouths stays with the guys we've got coming back and that we'll be better next year."

Scheduled to return next spring for Oxford is Brindisi and fellow juniors Cole Anderson and Antoine Lacourt Ramos, Remington and fellow sophomores Lucas Lambert and Zak Parmenter, Fantasia and fellow freshmen Jordan DeLeon, Brady Margoupis, and Alex Perry, and eighth-grader Brayden Mercier.

Looking for "Mini" Golf Enthusiasts

Do you love watching that little ball bounce along the artificial turf headed for the hole? Do you know how to use the wall to guarantee a hole in one? Do you have a knack for designing obstacles? If you were to name a hole after a book, what would it be? How would you make sure the golfer got the meaning?

Those are just a few of the things the Friends of the Gladys E Kelly Library are contemplating as they plan their fall welcome back to the library event. Mini Golf will be played throughout the library on October 1st and 2nd. The holes will have book themes of course. Adults will be invited to compete on the Friday night, with Saturday open for family fun. But there is lots to do to make it happen. If you would like to turn this vision into reality, join the Friends Mini Golf Planning Committee. It will meet in the Library on Wednesday, July 14th at 11am. If you have ideas and would like more information about the event, please contact Tom Klebart on 860-614-6135 or 508-943-8586. In any event, start practicing your swing this summer so your golf balls will roll and not bounce, and watch for updates about the event. In the immortal words of Ben Hogan: "The most important shot in golf is the next one."

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Knights of Columbus Webster Council 228 Announces Member Ordination



On May 22nd Fernando Ayala was ordained a priest at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Boson. Fernando is a member of Council 228 and the Council’s RSVP Scholarship recipient for the last 7 years. Fernando came to this country as a youngster with his family from El Salvador. He studied at the Holy Name Seminarian House in Worcester where we first made our connection with him and spent weekends at St Anthony of Padua Parish in Dudley. Following his preparatory courses in Worcester he went on to graduate from Providence College and continued his work at St. John’s Seminary in Brookline. Fernando was ordained a deacon in October and was assigned to St Mary’s Parish in Brookline. In April 2021 Fernando was accepted by Cardinal Sean O’Malley for the priesthood. Celebrating with Fernando were his parents, family members and friends. Council 228 was proud to support Fernando in his studies and was blessed to be part of his ordination with Past Grand Knight Paul Perry and wife Diane attending. Congratulation to Fr. Fernando Ayala!

Fernando will now be serving at St. John the Evangelist collaborative in Chelmsford.

The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic lay organization in the world with over 2 million members. Any man 18 years of age and a practicing Catholic can join our council by contacting PGK Paul Perry at pijknights@yahoo.com or GK Steve James at sdj6@email.com.



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St. Joseph School organizes several extra-curricular activities

WEBSTER – Although the pandemic caused many clubs and athletic teams to be suspended, St. Joseph School is proud to have successfully organized several extra-curricular activities during this unprecedented school year. Building upon the success of its fall season, the St. Joseph School Athletic Department, overseen by Joey Boudreau, ran a second Cross-Country program this spring. Students in grades five through eight participated on the team. Although the students knew that they still would not have the opportunity to compete against other schools, the team's popularity grew as each runner focused on personal improvement. The group, coached by St. Joseph School Math and Science Instructor Jeffrey Grupposo, ran several trails: the Quinebaug River Trail on Schofield Road in Dudley, where the runners had the

option of running either 1.8 miles or a full 5k (3.1 miles), trails at Memorial Beach in Webster, the Air Line State Park Trail in East Thompson, CT, and a 2-mile time trial at the Blackstone River Greenway in Millville/Blackstone. Surfaces had pavement, dirt, grass, and beach sand. The length of the trail runs ranged from 1.2 miles to 3.1 miles. At each trail run, volunteers timed the runners so the students could track their times and see their progress.

In addition to the Cross-Country program, the St. Joseph School Athletic Department also offered a basketball clinic and a cheer clinic for students in grades two through four. First Grade instructor Mrs. Kayla Maynard ran the spring basketball clinics and focused on basic ball handling and shooting skills. Second Grade instructor Ms. Gina DiCola ran the cheer clinics and was assisted by

Seventh Grade students Hannah Watson, Maeve Sullivan, and Gianna DiCola-Keddy. The clinic provided the opportunity for the young cheerleaders to work on their tumbling skills and learn a dance routine that they performed for their families at the end of the school year.

Finally, St. Joseph School also started a Hiking Club to have students learn about and experience Webster's natural world. The club was organized and run by a parent volunteer, David Johnson. Students completed a total of four hikes and two at school meetings. During the two school meetings, the students learned about reading maps, using a compass, trailblazing, tying the 'Big 6' knots, and much more. They hiked the Quinebaug Rail Trail, several parts of the Mid-State Trail, and around Bad Luck Pond in Douglas. In total, the students walked for over 11

miles in 4 hikes! During their treks, the students also played a game of "Guess the Poop," see-

ing if they could identify animals by the droppings they left behind. St. Joseph School plans

to run the Hiking Club during the fall and spring sessions again next year.



St. Joseph School Cheer Clinic participants included (front) Second Grade students Sophia Surowaniec, Evelyn Macko, Ariana Benson, Amelia Potem, Bella Kicilinski, and (center) Fourth Grade student Ayla Reed. The clinic was run by (back) Second Grade Instructor Ms. Gina DiCola who was assisted by Seventh Grade students Hanna Watson, Maeve Sullivan, and Gianna DiCola-Keddy



The St. Joseph School Spring 2021 Cross-Country Team coached by Math and Science Instructor Jeffrey Grupposo



Members of the St. Joseph School Hiking Club pause for a photo during their recent hike around Bad Luck Pond in Douglas.

Zion Lutheran Church reopens outdoor chapel

Zion Lutheran Church, located at 70 Main Street, Oxford, MA, celebrated the reopening of its beautiful outdoor chapel on June 20, 2021. After a year of gypsy moth infestation and another year of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, Pastor Michael Bastian and Zion parishioners were delighted to worship at last in this peaceful tree studded sanctuary, also a refuge for several species of Northeastern birds and a small herd of deer. Worshipers felt rejuvenated to bask in the sunlight beaming through the trees while finally being able to sing during this Fourth Sunday after Pentecost service. Lutherans love to sing!

This lovely sanctuary, the brainchild of the late Dr. Walter and Mrs. Delta Schur, took approximately ten years to complete. Parishioners cleared the bushes and trees overgrowing the

land behind the parking lot and employed a local contractor to lay a red brick walkway that culminates at an altar of stone, embellished by a simple red brick cross inserted at its center. Overlooking the altar and the stone pews is another rustic wooden cross nailed into a towering oak tree. Flanking the altar are urns of giant scarlet begonias.

At this service a special blessing was offered for 117 personal care kits assembled by our joint social outreach ministry with Webster's Church of the Reconciliation. Simple items such as towels, combs, bars of soap, toothbrushes and nail clippers were transformed into gifts of care for people enduring displacement by war or natural disasters and afflicted by dire illness or poverty. The boxes containing the kits have barcoded tracking labels



Photo (see attached L to R): Pastor Michael Bastian, Laurie Larson, Jacklyn Bonneau, Paula Kilian Clark

and will be shipped by Lutheran World Relief wherever the need is greatest. In past years, these gifts of love were delivered to Syria, Peru,

Kosovo, and sub-Saharan Africa. Parishioners are curious to learn the destination of our kits this year when the need is especially desperate.

Everyone is welcome to worship at Zion. Services begin each Sunday morning at 9:00. Out of an abundance of caution, please call the church office at (508) 987-1248 by noon on Thursdays to make a reservation for seating. If you prefer to socially distance, bring a lawn chair and sit in the adjacent memorial garden or parking area where the words and music of the liturgy are easily heard. All are invited and encouraged to visit our chapel for prayer and meditation throughout the week.

Webster Democrats to elect delegates to 2021 Democratic State Convention

Registered Democrats in Webster will hold a virtual caucus on Saturday, July 24, 2021 at 11:00 AM to elect Delegates and Alternates to the 2021 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. The caucus meeting will take place virtually via Zoom. Democrats who wish to participate may register in advance for the meeting at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZYsdu-vpjoVtEtZQB5nMINBx-jP7_ykMDYDtI

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Participants may sign in to the July 24 meeting beginning at 10:30 AM.

This year's state convention will be held on September 25, 2021 at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell, where Democrats from across the state will come together to adopt a Party platform, discuss Party business and celebrate our successes as we prepare for upcoming elections. The event will take place

in-line with all federal, state and local health guidelines and will include a virtual option for participation.

The caucus is open to all registered and pre-registered Democrats in Webster. Pre-registered Democrats who will be 16 by June 15, 2021 will be allowed to participate and run as a Delegate or Alternate. Webster can elect 6 Delegates and 4 Alternates to the Convention.

Youth, minorities, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ individuals who are not elected as a Delegate or Alternate may apply to be an Add-on Delegate at the caucus or at www.massdems.org by August 6, 2021.

For more information about the caucus and to get involved with the Webster Democratic Town Committee please contact Tom Klebart at 860-614-6135 or visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/WebsterMATownDemocraticCommittee>

Local students earn Dean's List recognition at Norwich University

NORTHFIELD, Vt. – The following students from your readership area have been recognized on the Dean's List at Norwich University for the Spring 2021 semester:

- * Reagan Victoria Sanborn, Charlton (01507)
- * Hunter Patrick S. Lavigne, Charlton (01507)
- * Hannah Jane Mendez Rockwood, Webster (01570)

Full-time undergraduate students, who earned a semester grade point average of at least 3.40 and had no failures in the previous Fall or Spring semester are awarded Dean's List honors. These students cannot have any pending Incomplete (I) grades. Dean's List honors are noted on the official transcript each term earned. In addition to the above criteria, students in the Spring 2021 semester had to meet the following criteria in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which introduced the option for students to choose an alternative grading system or to maintain earned letter grades. To be eligible for President's (GPA 4.0) and Dean's lists (GPA 3.40) for the Spring 2021 Semester, students must have additionally maintained full time enrollment for the Spring 2021 Semester, chosen to keep letter grades in at least 12 credits of classes, and must not have received any Incomplete or No Pass grades.

About Norwich University

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WEBSTER TIMES

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

“What would Barry say?”

When sitting down to write this Editorial, this Editor had heavy on her mind her old mentor from the radio days, Barry Lunderville who has since passed on, or as he called it “taking a dirt nap”. Barry owned radio stations in NH and worked for CBS out of Boston. He was especially great to talk to when discussing small town politics and joked, “Well between us girls.” During one particular time of discord, he passed this poem along and it is one that is read often, especially when thinking, “What would Barry say?”

IF BY RUDYARD KIPLING

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don’t deal in lies,
Or being hated, don’t give way to hating,
And yet don’t look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you’ve spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build ’em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: ‘Hold on!’

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds’ worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that’s in it,
And—which is more—you’ll be a Man, my son!

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!
We think you’re important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.
But first, you have to write us!
Mail your letters to the Webster Times, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.
Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news.
You’ll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.
We don’t have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you’re going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.
If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.
Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.
So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!

VIEWPOINT

Our guide, comforter, encourager and empowered

We all want a comforter and an encourager in our lives, someone who stays with us and helps us in our times of need, someone who guides us in truth and empowers us to fulfill all that is good. Where can we find such a comforter and helper, such a guide and one who empowers us?

Jesus promised to send His Spirit of Power and of Help to come upon each one of us and to stay with us always guiding, comforting, encouraging, and empowering! On the day of Pentecost 2000 years ago, the disciples were confused and shocked to experience, in the midst of their prayer, a rushing, mighty wind that brought tongues of fire upon each one of them. The Spirit of God so touched and imbued the apostles that they felt overwhelmed with joy and wonder. They joyously entered into the streets of Jerusalem causing a ruckus while proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. A crowd of thousands gathered around them, first thinking they were drunk from the cacophony of sounds they were making; the disciples were speaking in languages they didn’t even understand. Yet, the crowd heard a clear message of hope and wonder in their own particular languages.

What was happening? How did illiterate fishermen proclaim an unbelievable message of Good News in languages they didn’t even understand? They announced that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and through Him everyone could be baptized, would be forgiven of their sin and would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Everyone felt the presence of God in a tangible and powerful way!

The Apostle Peter explained what was happening through the words of the Prophet Joel, when he said, “I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.” From time to time in the Old Testament, we see the Spirit of God inspire and speak through particular people – through particular prophets, or patriarchs, or judges. Yet, Joel prophesized that a time would come when God will send His Spirit upon all flesh, all people!

This is the promise that you and I can embrace and find great comfort! I always repeat the central idea of our faith that “God is with us!” Yet, how is God with us? One of the fundamental ways is through His Holy Spirit dwelling in us!

We receive His Holy Spirit on the day of our baptism. We renew the Holy Spirit within us through our worship every time we gather together and participate in the Holy Eucharist. In our daily prayers, the first prayer we can offer up is to the Holy Spirit - “O heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth who are present everywhere and who fills all things, the treasurer of blessings and



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

He longs to fill us with His Spirit! He desires to give us the fruit of His Spirit in our daily lives – so that we can live with “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control.” This fruit of the Spirit is a gift He freely offers each one of us! It’s our decision whether we open up our hearts and lives and live with His Spirit guiding, comforting, encouraging and empowering us!

Jesus says in the Gospel of John, “If anyone thirst, let them come to Me and drink. The one who believes in Me as the Scripture said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. By this He spoke concerning the Spirit.” (John 7:37-39) Imagine, the Spirit of God comforts our thirsty souls by flowing “like rivers of living water” within us!

Jesus promised His followers, “I will pray to the Father and He will give you another Helper, that this Helper (the Holy Spirit) may abide with you forever.” (John 14:16) We all need constant encouragement in our lives and Christ offers us this aid and succor!

Christ goes on to encourage us, “When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13) During a era when the world bombards us with confusion and deception, the Spirit of God guides us in divine, eternal Truth!

Our Lord’s final words to His friends were that they would never be alone and on their own in whatever they faced in life. “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the world.” (Acts 1:8) We will never face the world’s trials, any overwhelming challenges and fearful uncertainties with our own might. The Psalmist declared, “The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.” (Psalm 118:14) With the Holy Spirit we receive the power to acts as Christ’s ambassadors to the world, to face whatever the world brings us with courage and strength because He is with us, His Power dwells in us!

We remember the precious promises our Lord made to His followers. Christ desires to give us His Holy Spirit to comfort us by quenching our thirsty souls, to help us with His encouragement, to reveal to us the truth of life, and to fill us with His Divine Power!

May we each open up our hearts today and receive the Holy Spirit as our guide, our comfort, our encourager, and the One who empowers us!

the Giver of life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.”

Of course, the Good News is that God wants to come to us.

Can a person drive a vehicle with bare feet?



CHIEF S CORNER

STEVE WOJNAR

According to the calendar, and the warm weather, we have finally reached the summer season. Each year it seems, I am asked a common question. Can a person drive a vehicle with bare feet?

The short answer, at least in Massachusetts, is yes. However, many other states do not allow this. It

is important to check on the laws from other places if you plan to ravel and drive in this manner. Even though it is not prohibited specifically by law here in the Commonwealth, I would advise against driving this way. Should an accident or other violation occur, the driver could be liable. One potential violation is “impeded operation.” It is found under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90 Section 13 and states in part, “No person, when operating a motor vehicle shall permit to be on or in the vehicle or on or about his person anything which may interfere with or impede the proper operation of the vehicle or any equipment by which the vehicle is operated or controlled...” This definition covers many situations. The key phrase here is “on or about your person.” If the lack of footwear somehow impedes the safe and proper operation of the vehicle, such as injuring your foot while moving between pedals, this can have a direct impact on your driving. It will be a significant factor should a crash occur. A violation of this law carries a \$35 civil fine.

It is just as important for drivers to consider the type of footwear they choose to wear while operating. Often “flip flop” style sandals can be an impediment, particularly if they are on loose. They tend to catch on pedals when your foot moves between them. Appropriate footwear should be one piece of equipment every driver uses. This small precaution could make a big impact in preventing a crash.

This also marks the end of a very different school year for the Dudley students. We at the police department wish everyone a happy, fun, and safe summer vacation.

For those still seeking vaccination information, it can be found at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling 508-949-8036. Please continue moving forward with the “re-opening” of our state in a reasonable manner. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. This has been a challenging year plus for everyone. We, at the Dudley Police Department, 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Words and Phrases Banned

The “woke-sters” at the University of Michigan have a list of words and phrases that they want banned.

Don’t these people ever go to class? The list is from the University’s Information and Technology Services

Words Matter Task Force. Words must be a tenacious opponent and more dangerous than one would think, as the term task force is one that I would normally associate with Admiral Halsey in the Pacific in 1944-45. This academic “take no prisoners” hit squad has deemed the words man and men possibly offensive to some people. Apparently, the word “people” is not on the list – yet. Wonder what the vaunted Michigan football team will substitute for “men?” “Let’s go, persons” just doesn’t do it.

If you happen to enjoy a brown bag lunch you ain’t “woke.” What you should be eating is “lunch and learn.” Doesn’t that sound appetizing? Going on a picnic? Not now, you’re going to a “gathering.”

One wonders how these expressions and other words and phrases made the list. Is this the product of someone’s really bad hang over? Did someone trip over a manhole and decide that memory was too much, an intestinal bug after a picnic? The process, if that’s what it is called, isn’t explained. Nor are the word assassins identified by name, number or qualification. I wonder if they include this word-killing exercise on their resumes. Do they vote on what must go, or is one thumbs down [thumbs up is banned] a death sentence?

Perhaps one of craziest [oops, crazy is also banned] aspects of this Stalin-like erasure of language is that it is being taken seriously by what was once a reputable academic institution.

To quote George Orwell, “If thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought.” Or to paraphrase Jason Whitlock, an African-American sports journalist and radio personality, if you control language you control thought. If we allow the Information and Technology Services Words Matter Task Force at The University of Michigan to control our language and thus our thoughts, we are definitely in need of another banned phrase, a “sanity check.”

RICHARD CLARK DUDLEY

Critical Race Theory forum to be held July 12

Parents, grandparents and residents of Charlton and Dudley please plan to attend a very important forum sponsored by the Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee. The topic of discussion will be CRITICAL RACE THEORY. Please plan to attend and voice your opinion and concerns.

This forum will take place in the auditorium at Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley on Monday, July 12, 2021 at 7 p.m.

SINCERELY,
MARY SANSOUCY

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

news@stonebridgepress.news

SEND

Don't Let Investments Go On Vacation

Now that we've gained at least some space from the COVID-19 pandemic, summer travel is heating up. But while you might be eager to hit the road, you won't want your investments to take a vacation – you need them to work hard for you consistently. But how can you make this happen?

Here are some ideas:

Know your destination. "If you don't know where you want to go, then it doesn't matter which path you take." This bit of wisdom, paraphrased from the classic children's book, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, may be appropriate for, say, hikers exploring a new landscape. But as an investor, it matters a great deal which path

you take. If you only dabble in investing, occasionally putting some money into one investment or another, it will be difficult to build a portfolio that's consistently working in your best interest. It's important to create a long-term investment strategy based on where you want to go in life – that is, how long you plan to work, what sort of retirement lifestyle you envision, and so on.

Match goals with investments. Some investments are designed to achieve certain goals. To illustrate: When you contribute to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan, you're investing for one specific, long-term goal: a comfort-

able retirement. While you can tap into these accounts for other purposes – though doing so might incur immediate taxes and penalties – they are designed to provide you with income during your retirement years. Similarly, you may have other investments for other purposes, such as a 529 education savings plan. Here's the key point: Goals-based investing, by its nature, can help ensure your portfolio is

always working on your behalf, in the way you intended.

Invest for growth. Ideally, hard work produces results, and one of the main results you want from your investments is growth – that is, you want your investments to appreciate in value so they can eventually help you meet your goals. But if you are overconcentrated in vehicles such as certificates of deposit (CDs) and government securities, you may end up lowering your growth potential. That's not to say that CDs and Treasury bills are in some sense "lazy." They can provide you with income and help you reduce the impact of

market volatility on your portfolio. But to achieve most of your goals, you'll need a reasonable number of growth-oriented investments working for you, with the exact percentage based on your needs and life stages.

Check your progress. How else can you ensure your investments aren't just taking it easy? By checking up on them. If you follow a buy-and-hold strategy, your portfolio shouldn't require many changes if it already reflects your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. Too much buying and selling could jeopardize your ability to follow a consistent, long-term strategy. However, "buy and hold" doesn't mean "buy and forget." By reviewing your port-

folio at least once a year, you can determine if your investments are performing as they should. If they're not working for you as you'd like, you may need to make some changes.

If you're traveling this summer, relax and enjoy yourself – but keep those investments working hard.

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

Dying in public

I'm asked lately why I'm still writing. My answer is, "it's what I do. I'm a writer." For me, not writing is like not breathing. Something occurs to me, and my mind and heart conspire to create the words that come out on paper. It's just what I do and it's who I am.

Then I'm asked the question, "How can you write and speak so openly about your death?" That's a different question with a different answer. I write openly about my upcoming death in hopes of helping others deal with the inevitable. We are all going to die, and I don't believe death is something to be feared, but even welcomed.

Then there are those who are left behind and there will be grief, but

I also hope to help my loved ones joyfully celebrate with me as I pass.

Then of course there are 'Death and Taxes.' I've been too sick to properly deal with my taxes, and I'm currently on an extension. I think it's weird that in my last days, I'm more concerned about the IRS than dying. I understand they can't chase me into heaven, but they can pursue my family. A simple flat tax could solve it all but that won't happen in my lifetime. And besides, it would end an entire unnecessary industry, so this week is "tax week."

What's so interesting about dying? First and foremost, it's what we don't know that stirs the mind ...

We are glued to stories about near death experiences (NDE's are highly debated, by the way), only because we all want to know what it will be like when we ourselves die. As consumers, we are obsessed with reviews before eating at a restaurant or purchasing a product. There is no "Yelp" for death. We read reviews because we want to know if the purchase is worth it, and we want to know what it would be like to have said product. But when it comes to

death, we don't really get to read reviews. We also don't get a choice. We will all die, and no one really knows exactly what to expect. I won't know how it will be experienced, but I do trust in the heavenly promise. I do trust God is and will be present every breathing moment.

I find it fascinating, the small daily changes in my body. I'm not really experiencing much pain. My lungs become a little more congested daily. I see my family slowly coming to terms with the impending reality, which is what I hope for. I'm told my kidney and liver function is weakening. Death may not come easy but easier is always better.

I still have not given up. I serve the Great

Physician ... my God of Miracles and Wonders. I do not understand His plan, but I'm confident that whatever it is, it serves the greater good. As much as I'd prefer to live, I submit my life to His will.

My greatest prayer is not for me, but for my family. I know there will be grief even though I pray for joy. Where there will be sadness, I pray for celebration of a happy life. The best I can hope for is an understanding that those I love are still loved and know and pray that I carry my concern as an eternal devotion to them with me to the grave.

And finally, I pray the words to this old country and western song over all those whom I love and

love me in return ...

"Will the circle be unbroken, by and by lord by and bye? There's a better home there waiting in the sky lord in the sky."

Yes, I believe with all my heart that I will soon return to my eternal home, prepared for me by my Lord and Savior where I'll spend eternity with my loved ones surrounded by peace and joy.

May God bless you all.

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 @GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com

Tips for Skill at the Grill

Backyard grilling has become much more than a casual and tasty cooking technique. Today, serving up creatively prepared foods grilled to perfection has been elevated to a fine culinary art. The good news is you don't have to be a cooking school graduate to earn your BBQ apron. Whether you're striving for the title of neighborhood grill master or simply want to receive rave reviews for supper, the following strategies are sure to earn you top chef status behind the grill this season.

Tenderizing Techniques: Great grilling starts with meat preparation. Taking the time to tenderizing tough cuts of meat can make the difference between grilling success or failure. While the goal is to break down the muscle fibers in the meat, there are a few standard methods that have been proven successful. The manual method employs the use of a kitchen mallet, which is used to "beat" down the fibers in raw meat. Also, there are several meat tenderizers available on the market that can be sprinkled onto the meat before cooking. Perhaps the most popular tenderizing option is the use of marinades, as these liquids not only make the meat tender but impart an important boost of flavor too. Add the fact overnight marinating can reduce cooking time by up to 35%, and it's no surprise the marinating method is a top choice.

BBQ experts recommend tender cuts of beef marinate for just a couple of hours, while tougher cuts may require overnight soaking. Keep in mind marinating should be used with zippered plastic bags or glass or plastic bowls as the acids in some marinades can react with metal. After marinating, be sure to pat the meat dry with paper towels to ensure it cooks evenly on the grill.

Certified Angus Beef Signature Steak Marinade

This recipe from the country's premiere beef brand is a tasty tribute to

TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

Ingredients: 1/2 cup Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce; 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar; 1 1/2 tablespoons Dijon mustard; 1/2 teaspoon pepper.

Instructions: Combine all ingredients. In large, shallow non-aluminum baking dish or plastic bag, pour marinade over steaks; turn to coat. Marinate in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Remove steaks; discard marinade. Grill or broil steak to preferred doneness.

No Fail Marinade

This unconventional recipe from the retro era promises taste and tenderness.

Ingredients: one third cup steak sauce; one half cup packed brown sugar; one twelve ounce can 7Up or Sprite; one half cup melted butter; four tablespoons red wine vinegar; one quarter teaspoon each onion powder, garlic powder, salt and pepper.

Instructions: Combine all in a bowl or zip lock bag. Allow meat to marinate in mixture for at least an hour, or as long as overnight.

Hot off the Grill: Gauging Doneness

Gauging meats grilled to perfection can be a tricky challenge. Beyond checking the temperature of the meat, backyard chefs have learned to rely on a few "rules of thumb" to test for doneness.

*This "old school" chef trick is still a reliable way to gauge your meat without cutting into it:

To test doneness by "feel" this method compares your hand and fingers to the firmness of the cut of meat. Pressing on the middle of the steak, a rare steak should feel the same as the heel of your hand (the fleshy area between your thumb and wrist) when hand is relaxed; a medium rare steak should feel like the heel of your hand when you press your thumb and forefinger together (which is firmer); a medium rare steak will feel as firm as the heel of your hand when you touch your middle finger to your

grilled steak suppers.

Ingredients: 1/2 cup Lea & Perrins Worcestershire Sauce; 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar; 1 1/2 tablespoons Dijon mustard; 1/2 teaspoon pepper.

Instructions: Combine all ingredients. In large, shallow non-aluminum baking dish or plastic bag, pour marinade over steaks; turn to coat. Marinate in refrigerator for 30 minutes. Remove steaks; discard marinade. Grill or broil steak to preferred doneness.

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thumb (firmer yet); and medium well should feel as firm as the heel when you press your ring finger and thumb.

***Another common "rule of thumb" for doneness is the inch method is to cook by thickness of the meat. For a one inch thick steak, cook seven minutes for rare; nine minutes for medium; and 11 minutes for well done.**

BBQ Basics

***As a general guide, when you grill with charcoal, it takes about 30 minutes for coals to reach a medium temperature and become ash covered.**

***For gas grills, allow about 15 minutes for the grill rack to preheat properly.**

***To increase the heat on a charcoal grill, simply push the coals together, add more coals as needed lower the grilling surface, or fan the fire and tap the ashes from the coals.**

***Steaks best for grilling without the need to tenderize, are such cuts such as Ribeye, Filet Mignon, T-Bone and Porterhouse. .**

***For best results cook pork on direct heat to seal the juices. Then finish it with indirect heat to ensure the center is completely cooked. Just be sure to preheat the grill so it will seal in the juices quickly.**

***Cooking for a crowd? To ensure even grilling, meats should be placed about three quarters of an inch apart on the grill rack.**

***Does your fish dry out and break up when you cook it on the grill? Brush it with lemon juice while cooking to keep it moist.**

***Fish should be from one to one and a half inches thick to prevent drying out.**

***Always apply sweet basting sauces made with sugar, honey or syrup during the last few minutes of grilling only to prevent burning.**

***When cooking steaks on the grill don't season the meat until each side has browned to keep the cut tender.**

***When using a dry rub during barbecuing, always allow the meat to cook for approximately one third to one half of the total time before applying any basting sauce. This allows the meat to become warm and start absorbing the dry rub seasonings.**

***If you are marinating meat, you'll need one to two cups of marinade for every one and a half to two pounds of food. You want enough marinade to completely surround the food.**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House – Contest has resumed!

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick 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 dispensing 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 email KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ StonebridgePress.com



OBITUARIES

Carol Ann Cherrier, 84

Carol Ann (Was) Cherrier, 84, died Monday, June 21, 2021 in St. Luke's Hospital at the Vintage, Spring, Texas, after an illness. Carol was born on July 18, 1936, in Putnam, CT, to John and Mary (Weigel) Was. She was a graduate of Putnam High School. She married Milton Cherrier on July 11, 1959 at the United Church of Christ, Federated, in Webster, MA. After her marriage, she resided in Webster until 2005 when she and her husband moved to Cypress, Texas. Carol leaves her husband, Milton



Cherrier; her daughter, Karen Blackketter, and her husband, Keith Blackketter, of Cypress, TX; two sisters, Mary S. Morin of Thompson, CT., and Kathleen Blanchette of Abington, CT; two nieces, Jill Blanchette and Stephanie Nugent; two sisters-in-law and two brothers-in law. Carol was an excellent seamstress, easily able to make anything you could possibly imagine. She especially loved to sew Barbie doll clothes. She also loved to knit. Carol loved to bake, but hated to cook. A memorial service was held on June 30, 2021 at 10 am at Klein Funeral Home, 9719 Wortham Boulevard, Houston, TX 77065.

PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

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Join us for one of our virtual programs at the Pearle!
To register go to www.crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021

KNIT & CROCHET GROUP
Thursday 5:30PM – 7:30PM and Friday 10:00AM-12:00PM

All stitchers are welcome for this informal group, meeting weekly beginning June 24th in the Fels Room.

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR SUMMER READING!
June 21st-July 30th
Sign up for summer reading and enter to win some of our great prizes for kids, teens, and adults!

LUNCH TIME STORY TIMES
Wednesdays at noon throughout the summer

Story time will be held outside in the lot near the children's wing. There will be a take home craft each week that goes with what we read.

These are geared for ages 0-5. Sessions are limited to 15 families. Be advised we will be in a wooded lot so bug spray and sunscreen is recommended.

6/23 Fish
6/30 Unicorns
7/7 Mermaids
7/14 Dragons
7/21 Animal Safari
7/28 Bubble Party

Free; registration required.

MAKE A BUG HOTEL
Friday June 25 - multiple sessions
A backyard habitat series for birds and pollinators! This program teaches participants the basics of backyard habitats. We will be making a bug hotel to hang in your yard!
This is for ages 6+. Limited to five participants per session.
Sponsored by the Hugh and Harriet Crawford Endowment. Free; registration required.

MAKE A MAGIC WAND
Tuesday June 29 – multiple sessions

Come join us to make a magic wand! This is geared for ages 8-12. Limited to five participants per session.
Sponsored by the Hugh and Harriet Crawford Endowment! Free; registration required.

ROCK PAINTING
Thursday July 1 – multiple sessions
Join us to paint your own rock! We will have some sample ideas you can copy or make your own idea!
Ages 8-14. Limited to five participants per session.
Sponsored by the Hugh and Harriet Crawford Endowment. Free; registration required.

PLAYFUL ENGINEERS
Tuesday July 6 11:00AM

Jay Mankita leads a Rube Goldberg-inspired romp into the world of building complicated chain reactions to accomplish simple tasks, from our own ordinary stuff.

Free, but registration is required. Registered participants will receive a link for the Zoom program 24

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church announces Raffle Winners

St. Nicholas Albanian Orthodox Church announces the winners of their raffle held on Sunday, June 27, 2021.

First Prize: \$1,500 Cash , James Walckner Port St. Lucie, FL
Second Prize: \$700 Cash, Alex George ; Avon, CT
Third Prize: \$300 Cash, Jorgjeta Bukli; Holden, MA
Fourth Prize: \$300 Lottery Tickets, Rob Pano ; Sutton, MA
The Church appreciates the support of everyone who helped to make it a success.

Which antiques and collectibles are hot now?

It's been over five years since I shared my top-10 list of hot selling antiques and collectibles. Many of the items from that column are still doing well over five years later. Some have even gained in value while others have dropped. There are also many other items that have become valuable in the years since. Here's my list from 2015:

1. 1960's and earlier toys, comic books and other collectibles
2. Early Chinese and other Asian antiques
3. Mid-20th century Scandinavian and other modern design art and furnishings
4. Arts and crafts and art deco design furnishings
5. 1960's and earlier baseball and other sports memorabilia
6. Advertising signs, posters, and displays
7. Gold coins and jewelry – silver coins, flatware, and hollow ware
8. Important historical memorabilia
9. Antique and classic automobiles and motorcycles
10. Paintings by listed artists

In recent columns, I've shared how hot baseball and other sports cards currently are. They would certainly move up from the No. 5 spot if I wrote the list today. Gold coins and jewelry would also move up the list. Gold prices averaged \$1,158.86 per ounce in 2015 Gold is close to \$1,800 per ounce as I write this column. Silver also took a big jump from when it averaged \$15.66 in 2015. It's at \$26.10 as I write.

1950s classic cars are items that have dipped in value since my original top-10 list. Hagerty.com's index of collectible American cars of the 1950s shows that classic 1950s cars were averaging around \$105,000 in 2015. The average is now well under \$100,000. This isn't a huge drop in price but is noteworthy.

A search of recent online auction results shows items selling for huge sums that I never could have imagined would be so popular when I wrote my



list back in 2015. For example, a box of O-Pee-Chee Canadian Star Wars bubble gum cards with 36 wax packs recently sold for over \$8,400. A Super Mario 64 factory sealed 1996 first print Red Label video game went for \$16,000 in May. That same month, a 1985 pair of Air Jordan 1 size 13 sneakers in used condition sold for \$24,000. In April, a 1985 Topps Garbage Pail Kids First Series # 1a Nasty Nick graded PSA #9 brought \$50,000. A Magic the Gathering Beckett graded and authenticated 8.5+ grade Alpha Mox Ruby card went for nearly \$100,000. In a March online auction, a sealed Fossil 1st edition mint English Pokemon cards Wizards of the Coast booster box sold for \$1.3 million. Looking back even further to when I started selling antiques over 30 years ago, I could have never imagined that I might see 18th century high boy chests selling for under \$1,000 while a 20-year-old game card brought \$100,000. I will be updating the top-10 list in a future column.

Our next online auction of model railroad trains, die-cast cars, and model kits will begin soon. We will be offering more 1950s sports cards in another online auction later this summer. Other events are also being planned. Visit our website for details on upcoming events: <https://centralmassauctions.com>

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111) info@centralmassauctions.com

Plant Roses in Honor of National Rose Month



The Carefree series of shrub roses, like this Carefree Spirit rose, are repeat bloomers, hardy, and disease resistant.

Celebrate National Rose Month (June) by adding a rose or two to your garden or containers this month. Now it is easier than ever to enjoy their beauty and fragrance thanks to lower maintenance and disease resistant varieties.

Many gardeners have switched to hardier, more pest resistant shrub roses for just this reason. The Earth-Kind roses are among the easiest and most environmentally friendly roses for all to grow.

The goal of the Earth-Kind program was to help gardeners enjoy roses while limiting the use of fertilizers, pesticides and water. The Texas Agrilife Extension Service started the program by conducting field trials of 100 rose cultivars for at least four years. They evaluated the roses for outstanding performance, superior pest resistance and tolerance of a wide variety of soils from acid to alkaline and sand to clay. To earn the Earth-Kind designation, roses also needed heat and drought tolerance once established.

The effort has expanded and now the National Earth-Kind research study includes test sites throughout the United States and several countries.

A few popular roses you may recognize carry this designation. The Fairy is a dwarf polyantha shrub rose covered with bouquets of small pink roses throughout the summer and is hardy in zones 4 to 9. Carefree Beauty, hardy in zones 4 to 9, has fragrant double pink roses all season long on 5 feet tall and wide plants. It's no surprise the popular Knock Out™ rose with its raspberry red flowers and glossy green leaves, hardy in zones 5 to 9, received the Earth-Kind designation in 2004.

Evaluations continue and the list of Earth-Kind roses grows. You are sure to find one suitable to your garden design and growing conditions.

Repeat blooming, hardy and disease resistant shrub roses are another group to consider. This group of species, hybrids and varieties tend to be hardier, tolerant of a wider range of soil condi-

GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

tions with greater disease resistance. Bonica and the Carefree series are two that have been gracing gardens for years. Newer introductions are continually being introduced, expanding your planting options.

Once planted, enjoy your roses outdoors in the garden and indoors in a vase. Proper harvesting and deadheading will keep your repeat blooming roses beautiful throughout the season.

Cut roses for arrangements in the morning just as the top of the bud is starting to open. Make the cut above an outward facing, five-leaflet leaf. Cut flowers back to a three-leaflet leaf on young plants that may not tolerate or be large enough for more severe pruning. Remove the lower leaves, recut the stem on an angle and place it in a vase of fresh water.

Keep your plants looking their best and encourage new blossoms by removing faded flowers. Deadhead single-flower roses back to the first five-leaflet leaf to encourage stouter and stronger stems. Remove only individual flowers as they fade from roses that bloom in a cluster. Once all the flowers in the cluster are done blooming you can remove the flower stem back to the first five-leaflet leaf. Always leave at least two, five-leaflet leaves attached to the plant.

Start looking for a few sunny spots in your landscape to fill with easy care roses. They are sure to boost your landscape's beauty and your enjoyment for years to come.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook* and *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. Her web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Worcester County Overdose Response Program Sees Successes in First Year



WORCESTER – More than half of those offered services following an overdose accepted treatment as part of a program launched last year by District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr. and all 60 police departments in Worcester County.

Critical Incident Management System (CIMS) launched in March 2020 and was used by police departments in

all of Worcester County’s cities and towns over the last year to collect overdose data and respond to non-fatal overdose victims to offer services. The response visits were performed with a plain-clothes police officer and a recovery coach usually within 48 hours of an overdose incident.

Data from the last year shows that on 52 percent of the follow-up

visits, individuals accepted services. In another 9 percent of instances the individuals were already seeking services.

“These are encouraging numbers,” said Mr. Early in a press conference today. “It was a challenging year to launch this program with the roadblocks presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. These numbers are a promising start. Any

time we can help even one person get access to treatment is a life that is being saved.”

The District Attorney’s office purchased the CIMS software for \$40,000 using drug forfeiture funds in 2019 from developers Kelley Research Associates. The implementation of CIMS was a successful partnership between the District Attorney’s Office, local police departments and municipalities.

“By getting the names of the folks who’ve had the non-fatal overdoses and by giving the opportunity for the follow up... what you’ve done is open the door. You’ve made the connection. You’ve provided an opportunity for that person when they’re ready to take advantage of the treatment options that are available to them,” said Worcester City Manager Edward Augustus.

CIMS allows police departments to share information, as

well, so that when a person overdoses outside of their hometown they are still receiving a follow up visit.

“Addiction has no jurisdictional boundaries,” said Fitchburg Police Chief Ernest Martineau, former President of the Central Mass. Chiefs of Police Association. “When there’s no boundary for that, there can be no boundary for helping people. And that’s what this does. It connects 60 cities and towns police departments in responding and helping.”

“The beauty of CIMS coming on board is now we have a centralized database that’s tracking and we get an alert when we have to go offer up services. And the other thing that we were missing was when people were outside of Webster having an overdose, we never knew. Now with CIMS, we can follow up with them. It’s a really integral part of getting these people the help

they need,” said Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw. Webster’s responses to those in need are assisted by a partnership with Opening the Word Recovery Center, run by Rev. Janice Ford, which opened in June 2020 and served more than 2,000 people.

In fall of 2020, the District Attorney’s office was awarded a \$1.2 million grant from the federal Department of Justice-Bureau of Justice Assistance to fund recovery coaches that will respond with police to follow up and offer services after an overdose.

Mr. Early was also joined at the press conference by Worcester Police Chief Steven Sargent, current President of the Central Mass. Chiefs of Police Association and Southbridge Chief Shane Woodson, Dudley Police Chief Steven Wojnar, and Worcester Fire Department Deputy Chief John Powers.

Households In Need Encouraged To Apply To Good Neighbor Energy Fund In Anticipation Of End To Moratorium On Shut-Offs

CANTON, MA, June 24, 2021 – Due to the end to the moratorium on home energy shut-offs for customers of investor-owned utilities not on protected status next Thursday, July 1st, 2021, the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund’s sponsoring energy companies are encouraging those in need to apply for assistance as soon as possible by visiting their local Salvation Army Corps Community Center. If unsure of where the nearest Community Center is located, please visit www.magoodneighbor.org.

The Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund is often the last resort for families who are in temporary financial difficulty and do not qualify for federal and state fuel assistance programs such as LIHEAP. The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division pays the energy provider directly for households whose gross income falls between 60 and 80 percent of the state’s median

income levels. For example, a household size of 4 would need to have a total gross yearly income of between \$75,202 and \$100,268 to qualify. This campaign year’s Fund disbursement is \$300 per eligible household per heating season.

“Once the investor-owned utilities’ moratorium on energy shut-offs ends there is often a spike in the urgency of need for energy assistance,” said Marie McCabe, Chairperson of the 2021 Good Neighbor Energy Fund campaign and Customer Service Representative at North Attleborough Electric Department. “With this in mind, households who are having trouble making ends meet due to the pandemic or another crisis shouldn’t delay in looking to the Fund as a potential source for help.” McCabe added that the easiest way to determine if a household qualifies is to visit the Fund’s website at www.magoodneighbor.org.

The Fund’s distribution award

letter will also serve as qualification for the Mass Save Enhanced Insulation Incentive for customers of a Massachusetts investor-owned utility. Specifically, the offer provides qualified customers with no-cost insulation, as well as other no-cost energy savings measures.

The Fund’s 35th annual “Give The Gift of Warmth” campaign is a cooperative effort between the Fund’s 19 sponsoring energy companies, the general public and the corporate community to raise \$500,000 and help an anticipated 1,500 households. The campaign relies on the generosity of individuals, families, local corporations and foundations for support and has raised more than \$22.5 million and assisted over 91,250 households since its inception in 1985.

Massachusetts residents and businesses that wish to donate to the Fund are encouraged to use the green Good Neighbor Energy Fund dona-

tion envelope found as an insert in monthly energy bills. Some energy companies offer an ‘add a dollar’ program which allows customers to contribute on their monthly bill payment by one dollar or more. Anyone can also donate with a credit card online at www.magoodneighbor.org. Donors can also simply mail a check payable to “Good Neighbor Energy Fund”, c/o The Salvation Army, 25 Shawmut Road, Canton, Massachusetts 02021-1408. Participating energy companies support their respective customers’ generosity through various giving programs.

For more information about how to apply for the Massachusetts Good Neighbor Energy Fund, visit your local Salvation Army Corps Community Center or call 800-334-3047 if you live in area codes 508, 617, 781 or 978 or 800-262-1320 if you live in area code 413. Web: www.magoodneighbor.org.

Local Residents Earn Dean’s List Honors from MassBay Community College

WELLESLEY HILLS, Mass. - The following local students have been named to MassBay Community College Dean’s List, achieving outstanding academic honor for the spring 2021 semester.

- * Robert Russell of Auburn (01501) studying cyber security
- * Sean Wheeler of Auburn (01501) studying general studies
- * Cailan Bennett of Holden (01520) studying general business
- * Alexander Reitz of Holden (01520)
- * Gemima Augustin of Millbury (01527) studying surgical technology
- * Keri-Ann Dayhoff of Oxford (01540) studying computer tomography
- * Minhchau Phan of Worcester (01608) studying general studies
- * Nicole Hoxworth of Worcester (01608) studying interior design
- * Cassandra Pires of Worcester (01609) studying paramedicine
- * Brittany Curry of Worcester (01610) studying general studies
- * Njideka Omasan Unokesan of Worcester (01610) studying general studies
- * Robert Yawlui of Worcester (01610) studying general studies
- * Hajarrah Shakir of Worcester (01602) studying radiologic technology
- * Taylor Merk of Worcester (01602)

To be eligible for the MassBay Dean’s List, students must complete at least six credits of college-level courses, be in good standing with the College, and earn a grade point average of 3.500 or higher. The spring 2021 semester Dean’s List

includes 930 full- and part-time students.

To learn more about MassBay visit www.massbay.edu.

MassBay Community College is the most affordable higher education option in MetroWest Boston, offering a robust portfolio of courses and more than 70 associate degree and certificate programs with flexible day, evening, and weekend classes in Ashland, Framingham, Wellesley Hills, and online. MassBay students receive an unmatched educational value by earning stackable credits that transfer to bachelor’s degree programs, and workforce-ready skills necessary to advance careers in high-demand fields such as health and life sciences, automotive technology, engineering, business, cybersecurity, and the humanities. MassBay’s Associate Degree in Nursing (RN) and Practical Nursing (LPN) programs were both ranked as the #1 Nursing Program in Massachusetts in 2020-2021 by national nursing advocacy organizations RegisteredNursing.org, and PracticalNursing.org. Since its founding in 1961, MassBay has been accredited by several governing bodies and remains firmly committed to its mission of meeting the needs of the diverse local communities it serves. We value the intrinsic worth of all individuals, collectively in pursuit of inclusiveness and prioritize our work towards achieving equity within our community and beyond.

Springfield College Recognizes 2021 Graduate

SPRINGFIELD, MA (06/25/2021)--Springfield College Recognizes the following local 2021 graduates:

Virginia Richert of Dudley, MA has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Exercise Science.

Ariana Guenther of Webster, MA has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science/Occupational Therapy.

Katie Israelian of Webster, MA has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.

Springfield College concluded its 2021 Commencement Weekend ceremonies with eight separate in-person ceremonies at Stagg Field on the Springfield College main campus, four on Saturday, May 15 and four on Sunday, May 16.

“To the Class of 2021, I congratulate you and I thank you, you have made us proud in more ways than we can count,” said

Springfield College President Mary-Beth Cooper. “Please remember to stay connected to us and to each other. Through the Springfield College network, great things can be accomplished. And remember to come back and visit us. You will always have a home here. All the best as you continue your journeys.”

Springfield College is an independent, nonprofit, coeducational institution founded in 1885. Approximately 4,100 students, including 2,500 full-time undergraduate students, study at its main campus in Springfield, Mass., and at its regional campuses across the country. Springfield College inspires students through the guiding principles of its Humanics philosophy - educating in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others.

Governor Baker launches VaxMillions Giveaway program

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
NEWS STAFF WRITER

REGION – Just in case getting protected against COVID-19 wasn’t incentive enough, the Baker-Polito Administration recently added over five million more reasons for residents to schedule their shots.

In a partnership with the Massachusetts State Lottery, Governor Baker and his team announced last month the launch of the VaxMillions Giveaway program. All Massachusetts adults who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are eligible to enter for a chance to win one of five separate \$1 million cash prizes.

Additionally, fully vaccinated residents between 12-17 years of age may enter for the chance to win one of five \$300,000 scholarship grants.

Although Massachusetts ranks third in the nation in vaccine rate, (59.76-percent of the population), state officials are determined to raise that number even higher.

“The VaxMillions Giveaway is one of the many ways our administration is encouraging people to get the vaccine, and we are grateful for the partnership of Treasurer Goldberg and the Mass. State Lottery in developing the program,” said Governor Charlie Baker.

Eligible residents will be able to enter the drawing on July 1. Drawings will be held once a week for five weeks, beginning the week of Monday, July 26, and continuing through the week ending Friday, August 27.

“Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “We are hopeful that this new initiative will encourage even more residents to get the COVID vaccine and help return our Commonwealth to a new normal.”

Added State Treasurer Deborah Goldberg. “The Massachusetts State Lottery is proud to join Governor Charlie Baker and the Department of Public Health to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of every person across the Commonwealth. The Lottery has decades of experience and know-how to hold drawings with integrity, and our team is excited to fulfill an essential role in this initiative.”

The Commonwealth is launching the VaxMillions Giveaway as one of many strategies to increase awareness of the availability and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines. Beginning July 1,

Massachusetts residents will be able to enter the VaxMillions Giveaway online. If you do not have access to the internet or require assistance, there will be a call center available. Signup information and call center contact info and hours will be made available prior to July 1.

“We greatly appreciate the trust that Governor Baker, his administration, and Treasurer Goldberg have in the Mass. Lottery to assist in the implementation of this important public health initiative,” said Michael Sweeney, Executive Director of the Massachusetts State Lottery. “The Mass. Lottery has worked diligently to build a reputation as one of the most successful lotteries in the country, and it is an honor to be entrusted with this responsibility.”

Massachusetts residents 18 years of age and older who have received two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, will have a chance to win.

Massachusetts residents between 12-17 years of age who have received two doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will have a chance to win one of five \$300,000 scholarship grants via a 529 College Savings Plan managed by the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA). Funds in a 529 Plan can be applied to cover tuition, room and board, and related expenses at any college, university, or technical or trade school, or another post-secondary educational institution eligible to participate in a student aid program administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Winners with a qualifying disability may elect instead to receive an equivalent financial contribution to a special needs trust or federally qualified ABLE account to cover qualified expenses.

Only lawful, permanent residents of Massachusetts who are fully vaccinated can apply. Residents must have received their vaccine doses within Massachusetts. Residents must be fully vaccinated prior to submitting their entries.

There are over 900 vaccination locations across the Commonwealth, with appointments and walk-ins widely available. Residents seeking a vaccine can visit www.mass.gov/COVIDVaccine.

For more information on the Mass. VaxMillions Giveaway, visit mass.gov/VaxMillions.

University of New Hampshire’s Dean’s List for the Spring 2021 Semester

DURHAM, NH (06/24/2021)– The following students have been named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire for the spring 2021 semester.

Michael Gevry of Oxford, MA for earning Highest Honors

Oktawia Gielarowicz of Webster, MA for earning High Honors

Kaylee Galvin of Dudley, MA for earning High Honors

Students named to the Dean’s List at the

Worcester Polytechnic Institute Announces Spring 2021 Dean’s List

WORCESTER, MA (06/24/2021)– The criteria for the WPI Dean’s List differs from most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean’s List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects. The following undergraduates were named to the Spring 2021 Dean’s List:

Jeffrey Harnois of Webster, MA class of 21 majoring in Computer Science
Leila Card of Dudley, MA class of 22 majoring in Aerospace Engineering
Thomas Dziechciarz of Webster, MA class of 22 majoring in Chemical Engineering
David Bilis of Dudley, MA class of 23 majoring in Mechanical Engineering
Alexandra Kieley of Dudley, MA class of 23 majoring in Physics
Bradley Markiewicz of Webster, MA class of 23 majoring in Mechanical Engineering
Deep Patel of Dudley, MA class of 23 majoring in Aerospace Engineering
Hayden Smith of Webster, MA class of 23 majoring in Computer Science
Edison Doko of Dudley, MA class of 24 majoring in Electrical & Computer Engineering

Brock Dubey of Dudley, MA class of 24 majoring in Data Science
James Ralph of Webster, MA class of 24 majoring in Mechanical Engineering
Austin Rebello of Oxford, MA class of 24 majoring in Computer Science
Justin Santiago Wonoski of Dudley, MA class of 24 majoring in Computer Science
About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI’s pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs across 17 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robotics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. www.wpi.edu

University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

The University of New Hampshire is a flagship research university that inspires innovation and transforms lives in our state, nation and world. More than 16,000 students from all 50 states and 71 countries engage with an award-winning faculty in top ranked programs in business, engineering, law, liberal arts and the sciences across more than 200 programs of study. UNH’s research portfolio includes partnerships with NASA, NOAA, NSF and NIH, receiving more than \$100 million in competitive external funding every year to further explore and define the frontiers of land, sea and space.

To learn more about the opportunities at the University of New Hampshire visit: www.unh.edu.

Springfield College Recognizes 2021 Graduates

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Virginia Richert of Dudley, MA has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Exercise Science.

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Katie Israelian of Webster, MA has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.

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Springfield College is an independent, nonprofit, coeducational institution founded in 1885. Approximately 4,100 students, including 2,500 full-time undergraduate students, study at its main campus in Springfield, Mass., and at its regional campuses across the country. Springfield College inspires students through the guiding principles of its Humanities philosophy - educating in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others.

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO21P0942EA
TRUST CITATION
In the matter of:
William J DeVito Family Trust

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by:
Karen S Ammerman of Sarasota FL requesting for the appointment of a Successor Trustee.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 07/20/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 21, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 2, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO21P2046EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Robert J. Doucette
Date of Death: 06/11/2019

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Robert J. Doucette, II of Sutton MA**

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Robert J. Doucette, II of Sutton MA**

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/13/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of

objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 17, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 2, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO21P1807EA
Estate of:
Judith Elaine Martinek
Date Of Death: April 20, 2021
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Deborah A. Martinek of North Grosvenordale, CT**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate
Deborah A. Martinek of North Grosvenordale, CT

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
July 2, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO21P2121EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Brian F Parent
Also known as:
Brian Francis Parent
Date of Death: 10/14/2020

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of**

Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by **Bonnie L Parent**

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Bonnie L Parent**

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/20/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 24, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 2, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO03P1330GR1
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN
In the interests of:
Valentin Pesin
of Webster, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons,

A petition has been filed by **Department of Developmental Worcester, MA** in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian. The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or

your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 07/13/2021

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 16, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 2, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO21P2003EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Edward A Webber
Date of Death: 03/27/2021

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Mark J O’Brien of Douglas MA**

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Mark J O’Brien of Douglas MA**

be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/13/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: June 11, 2021

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
July 2, 2021

CRSD Hoping for COVID-Free Start to School in the Fall

BY JASON BLEAU
NEWS STAFF WRITER

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – With the school year concluded and graduation in the books the Dudley Charlton Regional School District is looking ahead to the fast-approaching fall of 2021 and the unknowns a new school year in a post pandemic world will bring. One thing has been made loud a clear, there are more questions than answers.

Superintendent Steven Lamarche addressed what the 2021 school year might look like during a meeting of the regional school committee on June 23 acknowledging that the committee and his office are constantly

getting questions of what the return to school might look like. With many districts and states across the country weighing the implementation of masking and mandatory vaccinations Superintendent Lamarche indicated that the local district will follow whatever guidelines are presented to them by the state rather than simply making its own rules.

“I completely understand the desire to know now what will happen in nine weeks, but it would be misguided for me to predict what the state of our affairs will look like that far out,” Superintendent Lamarche said. “All of our planning is for a safe return to pre-COVID schooling. No masks

requirements, no social distancing, and no testing. Any one of these could change as we get close to the start of school next year, not because of us but because of the guidelines and guidance from our state agencies.”

One of the most controversial topics discussed nationally right now is whether or not schools will require students to be vaccinated before returning to the classroom. While Superintendent Lamarche openly stated that he and his family are or are in the process of being vaccinated and that he himself is not an “anti-vaxxer”, he doesn’t foresee the district requiring anyone to be vaccinated at this time, although again that can

change depending on a variety of factor.

“Listening to my colleagues there are some districts that are looking for legal opinions to determine if they can require such because they want to require such. I need to reiterate that I will not bring forward a recommendation to this school committee as the superintendent of the Dudley Charlton Regional School District. I strongly believe that the decision must come from a state or federal agency and not from me. Of course, if the

school committee decides differently, I will implement that decision,” said Lamarche.

In the months leading up to the new school year, summer programs are still following masking guidelines imploring those that are not vaccinated to continue to wear masks. However Superintendent Lamarche stressed that this is not a requirement but merely a recommendation and is based on guidelines currently in place from the Department

of Elementary and Secondary education. “We are not going to require masking of our students and staff. If they are unvaccinated, we certainly encourage them. If someone chooses to wear a mask, they have that right and they will have a hundred percent of our support to do so,” Lamarche concluded.

The district will continue to provide updates on what the new school year will look like as the committee continues to meet in July and early August.

WEBSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL QUARTER 4 HONOR ROLL

Grade 5 High Honors
Chase Anthony
Jaesean Atkins
Brian Bui
Noah Cole
Holly Dailey
Dejanay Darby
Calee Gardner
Lily Gatsogiannis
Kyrah Gingo
Isabella Leatham-Wright
Amelia Magorian
Raider Newton
Giavanna Orsi
Julian Papierski
Ava Reed
Angela Sarfo
Olivia Shelburne
Don Ta
Julia Urato

Alexander
Santiago
Bella Shepard
Jade Stien
Johan Vanlamoen
Lopez
Lauren Young
Aidan Zurawski

Madisyn Crawford
Alexander Croteau
Manuella Das Neves
Alejandro DelRio
Elias Erraihani
Cameron Hast
Libby Kokoszka
Ehab Labib
Patrick McGrath
Morgan Minor
Autumn Mitchell
Samantha Morley
Jeremiah Njoroge
Caleigh Ortiz
Jack Patterson
Kendyl Pelletier
Caleb Robson
Trevor Rose
Julian Saez
Ava Schiff Benway
Isabella Sepulveda
Macai Spruill
Lily Starr
Kloie Torres
Raleigh Trudell
Madalynn
Velasquez
Sterling Whitney

John Smart
Luigi Villegas
Arianna Watson
Jonathan Weagle
Reagan Wright

Grade 8 High Honors
Faith Binney
Adrianna Burdick
Aiden Castillo
Hope Cooper
Ella Doering
Avery Gifford
Kira Gillette
Lexani Lewis
Jacob Morello
Ian Mulbah
Maya Ortiz
Rafael Trivino
Amelia White

Grade 8 Honors
Dominic Balducci
Savannah Bjork
Owen Boisseau
Lillyanna Cannon
Jayden Casey
Emma DeRoche
Ayden Do
Ari Erkoc
Colin Farraher
Arianna Figueroa
Sydney Fuller
Joshua Furtado
Taryn Gerber
Lilian Grenier
Abigail Haynes
Ayden Heenan
Justin Ilarrazza
Kayah Jadcak
Leah Johnson
E v a n g e l i n e
Mayotte
Dakota Ouellette
Joseph Owusu
Carmen Pantoja
Willis Perreault
L e x i m e e
Phanthavong
Adam Phillips
L i l i a n n a
Rockwood
Perla Romero
Corey Scovil
Annika Stockhaus
Gabriella Troy
Adam Urato
Odelis Valentin
I s a b e l l a
Vasconcelos
Dakota Vaudreuil
Maya Wetherbee

Grade 5 Honors
Nicholas Ahern
Maria Anjos
Cabidelli
Nyameri Barjolo
Peter Bebb
Alijah Belle
Zuaylianice Benito
Torres
Addam Bergeron
Jaila Bergeron
Julia Bukowski
Naryanne
Casemiro
Jowell Cedeno
Xzavier Charest
Matthew
Czernicki
Madisyn Derie
Natalia DosSantos
Emanuel Feliciano
Rodriguez
Jennynne Hamm
Athena Henning
Stephen Jones
Brooke Kasprzak
Lucian LaBonte
Brianna Laforest
Easton Moberg
Jariel Morales-Diaz
Marieliz Morel
Max Motrucinski
Morgan Nelson
Darius Nixon
Olivia Plante
Brandon
Rivernider
Camden
Rockwood
Luis Sanchez-Falcon

Grade 6 High Honors
Anaís Alamo-Abad
Vincent Balducci
Brett Beltzer
Alexandria
Blanchard
Jordan Bouthillier
Cornell Collins
Daysha Collins
Trinity Crompton
Camden DeCarolis
Michael DiPhillipo
Brianna Dwomoah
Ava Erkoc
Hailey Ferrara
Leland Fisher
Samantha Fleck
Brooke Fuller
Brayden Greene
Abena Kwarteng
Benjamin Labbe
Sangey Lama
Anjeliz Mercado
Megan Milligan
Jillian Moran
Natalie Napierata
Keren Napoli
Mayli Pedersen
Nickolas
Piwowarczyk
Devin Robinson
Brady Smith
Michael Stawiecki
Lillybelle Trotter
Brady Weeks
Cassidy White
Tyler Whiting
Julia Williams
Olivia Williams
Jazzelle
Wolverson
Jackson Young
Payton Ziemski

Grade 6 Honors
Jamar Austell
James Belanger
Brendan Bell
Addison Belle
Braeden Binette
Janyla Campis
Gabriella Cintron
Melendez
Avery Colon
Saul Colon

Grade 7 High Honors
Jacob
Archambault
Alexander Haynes
Nia Laforest
Alysha Rosario-Green
Sienna Stawiecki
Gabriel Turcotte
Esmeralda Velez
Grade 7 Honors
Kenneth Arpin
David Betancur
Tristan Booth
Brianna Brink
Emily Casault
Nathan Chenevert
Niel Duszak
Jayla Fowler
Rylee Fulmine
Hailey Gentile
Ethan Gomes
William Guivas
Ashley Heath
Tyler Heath
Cassie Kotomski
Philippos
Makrodimitras
David Morales
Liam Nicoll
Mariah Pereira
Eryk Piwowarczyk
Luis Shevchuk

Local students receive diploma from Norwich University

NORTHFIELD, Vt. – Hannah Jane Mendez Rockwood of Webster (01570) received a Bachelor of Science in environmental science and psychology from Norwich University at the May 1 commencement ceremony in a hybrid of virtual streamed and in-person events held campus-wide in accordance with Vermont pandemic guidelines and with the Norwich community’s health and safety as the highest priority. Norwich University was honored that Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Mark A. Milley gave the commencement address to the Class of 2021 in recorded remarks. Milley is the military’s senior-most ranking member and serves as principal adviser to President Joe Biden, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin III and the National Security Council. The Class of 2021 includes approximately 447 stu-

dents from 32 undergraduate programs and one master’s program: 437 bachelor’s degrees and 10 Masters of Architecture as well as 18 International students from 10 countries on five continents. There were four separate commencement ceremonies, two each running simultaneously in Shapiro Fieldhouse and Kreitzberg Arena at 9 a.m. and noon. Graduates include future military officers, law enforcement officers, engineers, nurses, and many who will go on to graduate school, jobs in the federal government, athletic training, construction management, cyber security and numerous public-service sectors. The Class of 2021 consisted of 169 civilian students and 268 students in the Corps of Cadets. Milley shared with Norwich graduates that both his parents fought in WWII, and shared details of notable Norwich alum-

ni who distinguished themselves in service to the nation. “You’re about to graduate from an institution that has taught strength of character and leadership and perseverance,” he said. Norwich University is a diversified academic institution that educates traditional-age students and adults in a Corps of Cadets and as civilians. Norwich offers a broad selection of traditional and distance-learning programs culminating in Baccalaureate and Graduate Degrees. Norwich University was founded in 1819 by Captain Alden Partridge of the U.S. Army and is the oldest private military college in the United States. Norwich is one of our nation’s six senior military colleges and the birthplace of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC). www.norwich.edu

QCC is a Vaccine Champion College

WORCESTER, MA— June 23, 2021— Quinsigamond Community College has joined President Biden’s COVID-19 College Vaccination Challenge. Colleges across the country are being asked to commit to taking actions that will engage their college communities and encourage everyone to get vaccinated. Statistics show that a significant portion of the older population have been vaccinated; however, the younger generation is lagging behind. Colleges and universities offer a significant opportunity to reach that younger generation.

“We are committed to keeping our college community, our city, and the Commonwealth safe. The best way to do this is by getting vaccinated,” said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. “This is a challenge I hope all colleges and universities will stand behind so that we can put an end to this global health crisis.”

QCC has taken a visible role in COVID-19 community outreach. The College developed a comprehensive, COVID-19 vaccination webpage offering vaccination information through public service videos in multiple languages, along with fact sheets in multiple languages, a link to vaccination locations and a link to the Massachusetts COVID-19 information website.

QCC has already hosted two Moderna Vaccine Clinics on its campus (670 West Boylston, Street, Worcester) for the QCC community, as well as faculty, staff and students from Assumption University, Anna Maria College and Becker College. Approximately 90 people were vaccinated at each clinic.

“Spreading the word about the importance of getting vaccinated has been a priority at QCC. Offering information that is easily accessible, in multiple languages, enables us to reach

more in our community,” President Pedraja said. “By hosting vaccine clinics, we are providing easier access for our students, their families, as well as QCC employees, which enables more in our community to be vaccinated.”

President’s Biden’s goal is to have 160 million Americans being fully vaccinated by July 4.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508.854.7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu

Quinsigamond Community College provides the community with high quality, affordable higher education in Worcester County. As a regional leader in education and workforce development, QCC serves the diverse educational needs of Central Massachusetts by providing affordable, accessible, and high quality programming leading to transfer, career, and lifelong learning.

Resident Earns Dean’s List Honors from MassBay Community College

WELLESLEY HILLS, Mass. - Leomara Lacerda Silva of Webster (01570) has been named to MassBay Community College Dean’s List. Leomara Lacerda Silva, who studies liberal arts - psychology/sociology, achieved this outstanding academic honor for the spring 2021 semester. To be eligible for the MassBay Dean’s List, students must complete at least six credits of college-level courses, be in good standing with the College, and earn a grade point average of 3.500 or higher. The spring 2021 semester Dean’s List includes 930 full- and part-time students. To learn more about MassBay visit www.massbay.edu.

MassBay Community College is the most affordable higher education option in MetroWest Boston, offering a robust portfolio of courses and more than 70 associate degree and certificate programs with flexible day, evening, and weekend classes in Ashland, Framingham, Wellesley Hills, and online. MassBay students receive an unmatched educational value by earning stackable credits that transfer to bachelor’s degree programs, and workforce-ready skills necessary to advance careers in high-demand fields such as health and life sciences, automotive technology, engineering, business, cybersecurity, and the humanities.

MassBay’s Associate Degree in Nursing (RN) and Practical Nursing (LPN) programs were both ranked as the #1 Nursing Program in Massachusetts in 2020-2021 by national nursing advocacy organizations RegisteredNursing.org, and PracticalNursing.org. Since its founding in 1961, MassBay has been accredited by several governing bodies and remains firmly committed to its mission of meeting the needs of the diverse local communities it serves. We value the intrinsic worth of all individuals, collectively in pursuit of inclusiveness and prioritize our work towards achieving equity within our community and beyond.

Ribbon Cutting Celebrated at Summit Agency

A ribbon cutting celebration to announce the opening of Summit Health & Wellness Center and Summit Campus for children and young adults with Autism and related diagnoses took place on Thursday, June 17th.

Thursday night’s ribbon cutting was a celebration of the addition of the Summit Campus and Health & Wellness Center which was a natural progression of the Summit Agency’s mission. Their goal is to support this vulnerable and underserved population in the Worcester community, and the surrounding areas.

This comes at a good time as the prevalence of ASD (Autism Spectrum Diagnosis) and related diagnoses are on the rise. According to the CDC 1 in 54 children are diagnosed with ASD . In the US alone there are roughly 550,000 children with ASD who will be transitioning into adulthood over the next decade, and it is expected that approximately 45 percent of these emerging adults will enroll in a university, college, or technical/vocational school in the coming years. Springer’s Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders. (January 2018)

The Summit Health & Wellness Center and Summit Campus ribbon

cutting took place on Thursday June 17th, 2021 from 5pm - 7pm outdoors at the corner of Fruit Street and William Street in Worcester. The Summit Health and Wellness Center will be opening July 1st, appointments can be made now by visiting the website: www.summitagencyma.com or by calling 774-701-0670.

Guests at the ribbon cutting included: Senator Michael Moore, Worcester Councilor-at-Large, Kathleen Toomey, Worcester District 2 Councilor, Candy Mero-Carlson, and Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce President, Tim Murray. Summit Agency was recognized by the State of Massachusetts with an Official Citation.

“Think back to 20-30 years ago and the services that were available for young adults who had intellectual or developmental disabilities, we were just learning, we were just providing services in K-12, we were beginning inclusive enrollment legislation to provide more services for this demographic in colleges and universities; so I think it is great that we’ve been able, through your advocacy, and grassroots efforts and getting the attention of legislators and other policy officials to tell us what your chil-

dren need to be successful and have a good quality of life.” stated Senator Michael Moore.

There were over 70 guests, and the celebration included a tour of the facilities, refreshments and hor d’oeuvres, along with raffles for a Worcester Railers Gift Basket and gift cards to Wings Over Worcester, Smoke Stack Urban BBQ, ‘Olo Pizza and Meze Estiatorio.

The Summit Health & Wellness Center will offer the following clinical modalities that include: psychiatric services, behavioral services, counseling services, and general health & wellness practices with Dr. Oliver Joseph, as the Agency’s Chief Medical Officer. Many are excited to begin making appointments. It will serve both the Summit Campus residential students and the Worcester ASD community.

Summit Campus, which is accepting applications for the 2021-22 school year, is a residential program providing a dormitory experience for college students with autism. Summit Campus was created to provide critical support to students attending any of the consortium colleges and universities in Worcester.



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NEW PRICE



ON DEPOSIT



ON DEPOSIT



WEBSTER LAKE - 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Real Nice Set on .68 Acres of Park Lake Grounds with 297' Waterfront! Over \$4 Million Spent! Nothing was Spared! 18 Spacious Rooms! 5 Water View Bedrooms, 4 with their Own Bathrooms! 5.5 Bathrooms Total! Brazilian Cherry Hardwood Floors, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator from the Ground Floor up 3 to the Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bathroom with Steam Shower just off the Mirrored Exercise Room! Billiard Room! Media Room with Custom Cabinetry & Wet Bar! Fantastic Center Island Granite Kitchen with Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Refrigerator, 16' Butler's Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Floor Plan! Dining Area, Family Room with Cherry Entertainment Center & Wet Bar! Open Formal Dining Room, Fireplace Living Room & Atrium! Library with Private Deck! Waterfront Master Suite with Private Office, Bedroom with Triple Glass Door to its Private Deck with Panoramic Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Lake View Bathroom with Huge Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool Tub, Double Vanity Sinks & Separate Commode/Bidet/ Pedestal Sink Area! 16 Zones of Updated Geothermal Heat & Air Conditioning - 30 Tons! Recessed Lighting & Sprinkler System Through Out! 3 Car Heated Garage! Full House Generator! Slate Roof! All Decks & Railings Brazilian Ipe Hardwood! Copper Gutters & Downspouts! It's Time to Reward Yourself! **\$2,149,900.00**

DUDLEY WATERFRONT! 14 Elizabeth St! Sought After Merino Pond, AKA High Pond! Full Recreational - All Water Sports and Activities! Your Kids will Love the Sandy Beach! 7 Rm Colonial! First Floor Features a Spacious Eat-in Country Kitchen w/Tons of Cabinet Space, Plenty of Room for a Huge Dining Table, Island w/Lunch Counter, Laundry Closet, Pantry Closet & Entry Closet! Comfortable 13 X 26' Living Rm! Possible Office or Bedroom off the Kitchen! Full Tile Bathroom! Second Floor w/4 Possible Bedrooms, 2 w/Water Views! Convenient Second Full Bathroom! Full Storage Basement! 2 Zone Oil Baseboard Heat! Town Services! **\$379,900.00**

SUTTON - 30 Jones Rd! 9 Room 2,156' Colonial! 5.31 Acres of Privacy! Long Circular Drive! New Granite Kitchen! Dining, Living & Fireplaced Family Rooms w/Hardwood Floors! Year Round Sunroom w/2 Skylights! 3 Bedrooms! 24' Master w/ Master Bath! 2.5 Bathrooms Total! 12x24 3 Season Porch w/3 Skylights! Expandable Attic! Wraparound Deck! 2 Car Garage! Central Air! Super Easy Access to Rte 146! **\$549,900.00**



NEW LISTING



ON DEPOSIT



ON DEPOSIT



DUDLEY - 10 Camelot Circle 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath, 2,520' Center Hall Colonial featuring an In-Ground Pool on a 28,131' Lot! Tile Entry Foyer w/ Guest Closet! SS Appliance Granite Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Spacious Dining Area, Tile Flr, Pantry Closet, Recessed & Pendant Lighting! Formal Din Rm w/Hrdwd Flr & Chair Rail! Formal Liv Rm w/Crown Molding! 13.6X27' Fam Rm w/Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Insert, Soaring Cathedral Ceiling, Ceiling Fans & Skylight! Half Bath! 3 Season Porch! 1st Flr Laundry! The 2nd Floor w/4 Bdrms! Spacious Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Dble Granite Vanity! Full Hall Bath w/Dble Vanity! C/Air & Vac! 2 Car Garage! Fire Pit! Many Updates! Original Owner - Pride of Ownership! **\$509,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rooms, 6 Bedrooms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kitchen! Formal Dining Rm w/ Cherry Hardwoods! Lake Facing Living Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hardwoods! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bedroom w/Full Bath, Cherry Hardwoods & Walk-in Closet! Fireplaced Lower Level Family Rm! 1st & 2nd Floor Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$979,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 504 Treasure Island! 6 Room Townhouse Overlooking the Pool! 1,874 Sq Ft! Stainless Steel Appliance Granite Kitchen! Open Floor Plan! Dining Room - Full Mirrored Wall - Sliders to the Trex Deck! 2 Bedrooms! Master Bath! 2.5 Baths! Fireplaced Family Room! Garage! Central Air! Gas Heat! CVac! 2 BOAT SLIPS! Sandy Beach! Complex Recent Siding & Roof! **\$389,900.00**



June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan * Matthew Ross * Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Brian Bohenko



PUTNAM CT - 89 PERRY STREET UNIT# 250

Heritage Pines Condo Town House - Everything one would expect and then more! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, all Hardwood floors, granite, stainless steel appliances, central air, 2 decks, 2800 sq ft +/- of finished living area, and so much more! **\$329,900.**

WATERFRONT THOMPSON - BECOLA RD



ON DEPOSIT

5+ Acre Waterfront Land On "Little Pond/ Schoolhouse Pond. Private Setting. Open Field. 250+ feet Waterfrontage. Dead end road! **\$179,900**

FEATURED NEW LISTING - WEBSTER - 22 ELAINE STREET



Bonnett Acres - Beautiful Residential Neighborhood! 3 bedroom Ranch, Hardwoods, cabinet packed kitchen! Tile bath, partially finished lower level! 20' X 12' deck! Garage! all on a nice level lot. Private well plus town water & sewer! A must see. **\$255,000.**

FEATURED NEW LISTING - WEBSTER - 135 LAKE STREET



by natural gas. Spacious Rooms, High Ceilings, Impeccable hardwood flrs & solid doors, granite tops, laundry hookups in ea. unit. Incredible Common Areas to Enjoy like the L-Shaped Covered Farmers Porch! Level Lot! **\$399,900.**

2 THUMBS UP! A RARE FIND! A TRULY ABOVE AVERAGE-TOP NOTCH-HIGH QUALITY-TWO FAMILY! SPACIOUS, CLEAN, UPDATED & EXTREMELY WELL MAINTAINED! Apt# 2 - 1,536 SF+ & 3 BRs on the 2nd Flr. Apt# 1 - 1,290 SF+ & 2 BRs on the 1st floor. Perfect setup for the INLAWS or MORTGAGE HELPERS. 1st Flr. HWBB By Oil, 2nd Flr apt. HWBB

LAND
WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Webster - Douglas Rd (Rte. 16) 26 ACRES on Sugarloaf Hill. 1000+/- ft of road frontage

SORRY SOLD! \$200,000

Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **\$89,900**

Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE. **\$115,000.**

Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **ON DEPOSIT! Each \$24,500.**

WEBSTER - 99 UPPER GORE ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Location! Scenic, Upper Gore! "BIRDS EYE VIEW" of Webster Lake! Spacious Tr-Level. 2,279 sf., 4 BRS, 1 full Bath, 2 half baths. Inground pool. 2 Car Garage **\$275,000.**

WEBSTER - 155 THOMPSON ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Terrific opportunity for one Large business or Several businesses. 4784 sq bldg. Zoned B5. Off 1395 exit 1. High Traffic & Visibility. Excellent Location! assisted sale **\$695,000.**

SHREWSBURY • 15 ABBEY LN UNIT 15



SORRY, SOLD!

Detached Condo Brand Spankin New - 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath, all Hardwood Flrs, Granite C-tops Throughout, Crown Moldings Raised panels, Chair rails Picture-Frame Mouldings. Central air/Vac. High end Appliances Packed! assisted sale **\$480,000.**

WORCESTER - 28-L BOSTON AVE



SORRY, SOLD!

Very nicely maintained 5 room, 2 bedroom home. Open concept kitchen/living room. Many recent updates, including wall to wall carpeting! Easy commuter location! assisted sale **\$230,000.**

WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET



SORRY, SOLD!

large 3 Family- a rare find! 1st Floor spacious 2 bedroom apartment. 2 - 2nd floor, 3 bedroom apartments Walkout basement to off street parking. **\$289,900.**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



SORRY, SOLD!

WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind. Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a 25 acre level peninsula, 180' +/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplaced living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining, formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplaced lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! **Remember, Timing Is Everything!** **\$1,075,000.**



Webster - 401 Treasure Island Condo

WEBSTER LAKE! Treasure Island Townhouse! UNIT# 401 end unit. Year round enjoyment! Quiet summers on big & beautiful Webster Lake! 6 Rooms Appliance Kitchen. Open Floor Plan! Dining Area. Hardwood Floor & Carpet. Master Bedroom, W/2 Closets, Master Bath! 2-1/2 Baths Total! Slider to Deck & Slider to the Patio! Central Air! Central Vac! Very efficient natural gas heat & hot Water! 2 Boat Slips D10 & D11 in the Private Marina. Heated Pool! Natural Sandy Beach! **\$439,000.**

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FORUM

continued from page A1

parents concerning any potential changes to the curriculum, and the perceived implication by the motto of the committee that the students are not being taught how to be good people at home.

Kathleen Berry, a parent from Charlton, provided an impassioned statement against the addition of critical race theory to the schools asking the school committee why they felt the children’s “hearts and minds” needed to be changed in the first place.

“I truly feel that there were some things that were done while all of our attention as parents were focused on what was happening to our children during a pandemic. You have our

attention now,” Berry said later discussing the Equity Committee’s motto. “I’m not sure I have ever been more disturbed by such a phrase. I cannot help but wonder, what is wrong with my child’s heart and mind? What is it that you would like to change?” Berry added that critical race theory is being banned in states for “good reason” and after researching Dr. Eakin felt he was anti-law enforcement and that his perspective “puts people into boxes based on their skin color not their character”.

Berry was far from the only one upset with the situation. Paula Clark of Dudley, a former educator at Bay Path, said the lack of transparency and the implications of the Equity Commission’s motto are disturbing to parents. “One of the prob-

lems I see here is that people don’t know exactly what is going on and when people don’t know what exactly is going on there is uncomfortableness. I don’t think that’s something we want to foster,” Clark said. “I am very concerned about this verbiage, ‘changing the hearts and minds of students’. What specifically is it that needs to be changed and what are these changed hearts and minds going to look like?”

Parent Bob Carlson of Dudley felt that the idea of bringing critical race theory to the district implies that there is a racism problem in the community which he feels is untrue. “I don’t see much racism within our communities,” Carlson said noting that his daughter plays on local soccer teams with

children of different ethnicities. “All I see is kids having fun together and I think what we’re doing now is we’re planting seeds in their minds that people are different, but we don’t need to do that.”

David Smolski of Charlton was a little gentler to the school committee saying he felt the school committee was forthcoming about reforming the Equity Committee as it was discussed in open forums last summer. He did however echo many concerns that minutes were not posted for the Equity Committee’s meetings, which the committee clarified is not required by open meeting laws for that particular committee, which leaves parents in the dark.

“I think when many parents and educators try to get educated on

the equity committee’s approach there have been a lot of questions and a level of dissatisfaction with the information that’s been offered. Critical race theory is a hot topic these days. You could probably go on the internet, pick your browser of choice and find a dozen different definitions for it and you can gather information and opinions that are either strongly for it or against it depending on how it’s defined or, unfortunately, even politics,” Smolski said. “When it comes to Critical Race Theory locally, people want to know is our school district doing it or not doing it.”

The school committee determined that the discussion was too big to limit to just a school committee meeting agreeing to schedule a public

forum for July 12 at 7 p.m. in the Shepherd Hill Regional High School. The committee will also accept questions through email in advance of the meeting. Two parents, one from each town, stepped up to help work out the logistics of the meeting while another parent offered to manage questions through social media. It was also requested the committee explore livestreaming the meeting as they had during the pandemic to allow more people to view the meeting online.

Parents also requested that all meeting minutes for the Equity Committee be posted for reference and that a moratorium be placed on any further discussions of curriculum changes until the forum takes place.

PROPOSAL

continued from page A1

feet by 70) will dwarf the buildings in Plymouth Village, which are already “very large.”

Scott said it will be two or three times those buildings’ size, but fits more apartments on much less land.

Architect Robert Shaw said it’ll include one-, two- and three-bedroom units, community spaces and resident storage heated by an electric heat pump system. From outside, the walls will be stucco over insulation and wood, with a flat roof that might be available for solar later.

The fact they’ll be rentals bothers Lance, who expressed concern the renters won’t maintain the property.

“It’s not going to be as pretty as they make it out to be,” he said.

Although only 10-11 units are officially “affordable,” Sousa said Oxford will be able to count all of them toward its subsidized housing inventory. Right now, the town is at about 7 percent. The town gets two “checkpoints” in the 40B process – a 30-day comment period after DHCD issues an eligibility letter, and the ZBA’s public hearing, he added.

To Ansari, that means “You have good control over the whole thing.”

“There’s a lot of work left to do on this,” he added.

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

OXBOW

continued from page A1

should be on S&K, and noted they’re projecting more than \$1 million in income from this project. Under normal circumstances, Duvall said, an earth removal project has to post a bond of \$3500 per acre (in this case, about \$20,000), but selectmen expressed interest in hiking that significantly because of the road impacts. They did not discuss a specific figure, however.

Additionally, they agreed with Daniels proposals to require S&K to have flaggers on Oxbow and its intersection with Route 20 whenever trucks are departing and having “dust control on the days you’re not operating.”

Lassila said he believes the project’s timeline “can work well in concert” with the state’s major Route 20 redesign nearby. Duvall, however, noted

the state’s timeline is still somewhat tentative. He didn’t know, for example, whether the state work would begin in Auburn or Charlton, and “We don’t know what [the state’s] traffic controls will be at this point.”

Regarding citizens’ concerns, Lassila cited Mass Department of Environmental Protection well data to claim the project’s goal of “remov[ing] some of the overburden” “does not impact the lower, deeper aquifer levels” residents draw their water from. At its closest point, the local water table is now four feet below the surface, but work in the center of the parcel will stay “roughly 20-30 feet above the water table,” he said.

To handle surface runoff, which Sean MacDonald said regularly turns his pond brown, Lassila said S&K will enlarge the existing, heavily-silted detention basin and take other measures. Under state law, such stormwa-

ter controls have to be constructed before any excavation begins.

MacDonald was the most vocal resident, recalling the “hell” neighbors went through last time such a permit was approved for this parcel 22 years ago. He said that developer not only removed earth but also brought in bricks, concrete, rebar and other debris and otherwise “violated his special permit ridiculously.” He said he doesn’t want to see that happen again, and noted it should not take five years (the permit’s length) to remove the quantity of earth there.

Lassila said that duration would limit truck traffic to about seven per day during the site’s active time. Typically, that’s about April to November, but the selectmen can set more specific dates.

He agreed the prior owner “made a mess of it.”

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

SOFTBALL

continued from page A1

boards and decided as a Board to work toward that goal to improve the experience for our players at our home field on Slater Street. Thanks to Barry Equipment and Greenhouse Car Wash for making that a reality.”

With over 85 girls playing this season at all levels, Webster Fastpitch Softball teams are quickly growing.

“We had a great spring season, and we are excited to see all our girls and families again this fall,” read a statement released by the organization.

Fall registration is open now through August 16, and the season will run from early September through October. Players ages 5-18 of all ability levels are welcome to join the program.



Members of Webster Fastpitch Softball celebrate the acquisition of a new scoreboard. Courtesy photo.



WebSof 3: Bob Guinto, of Barry Equipment, with his daughters Olivia (left) and Sarah (right). Courtesy photo.

Springfield College Recognizes 2021 Graduates

SPRINGFIELD, MA (06/25/2021)-- Springfield College Recognizes the following local 2021 graduates: Virginia Richert of Dudley, MA has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Exercise Science. Ariana Guenther of Webster, MA has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science/ Occupational Therapy.

Katie Israelian of Webster, MA has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology.

Springfield College concluded its 2021 Commencement Weekend ceremonies with eight separate in-person ceremonies at Stag Field on the Springfield College main campus, four on Saturday, May 15 and four on Sunday, May 16.

“To the Class of 2021, I congratulate you and I thank you, you have made us proud in more ways than we can count,” said Springfield College President Mary-Beth Cooper. “Please remember to stay connected to us and to each other. Through the Springfield College network, great things can be accomplished. And remember to come back and visit us. You will always have a home here. All the best as you continue your journeys.”

Springfield College is an independent, nonprofit, coeducational institution founded in 1885. Approximately 4,100 students, including 2,500 full-time undergraduate students, study at its main campus in Springfield, Mass., and at its regional campuses across the country. Springfield College inspires students through the guiding principles of its Humanics philosophy - educating in spirit, mind, and body for leadership in service to others.



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New summer series launches July 8 with free concert by the Brubeck Brothers Quartet

VENUES IN JULY INCLUDE THE RILEY-PAPPAS PAVILION IN AUBURN, INDIAN RANCH IN WEBSTER, & THE HANOVER THEATRE IN WORCESTER.



Music Worcester begins its first summer series of concerts, Summer @ MW, on Thursday, July 8 with a free presentation of the Brubeck Brothers Quartet, the sons of legendary Dave Brubeck, in Auburn, MA. Two other concerts later in the month bring the Hot Sardines to Indian Ranch in Webster, MA on July 22, and the Gospel choir Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar to The Hanover Theatre in Worcester on July 25. This inaugural Summer @ MW season will continue through early September, with additional concerts being announced very soon. “As Music Worcester started plan-



ning to emerge from this recent pandemic, virtual season of programming, it became apparent that we could move somewhat quickly and bring back our live music presentations to Greater Worcester far earlier than our usual October season opener,” noted Adrien Finlay, Executive Director. “We are extraordinarily excited to add summer programming to our annual activities from this point forward, which will allow us to explore new venues and welcome even more varied artists and ensembles to the region.” The concerts at Indian Ranch and The Hanover Theatre will feature seat-



ing sections where distanced “pods” of seats will be available for patrons who prefer or need such an option, with general admission seating available elsewhere at both venues. Calendar listings for July: Brubeck Brothers Quartet Thursday, July 8 at 6pm Riley-Pappas Pavilion, Auburn, MA Free, open to the public Hot Sardines Thursday, July 22 at 6pm Indian Ranch, Webster, MA \$35+, tickets required, limited distanced seating available Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar

Sunday, July 25 at 6pm The Hanover Theatre, Worcester, MA \$25 students; \$35+ adults, tickets required, limited distanced seating available

About Music Worcester: Music Worcester, Inc., originally known as the Worcester County Music Association, for years ran the Worcester Music Festival. Current programs reflect the merger in the mid-1990s of the Festival with International Artists Series and the MA Jazz Festival. Great performances by world-renowned orchestras and guest soloists, chamber music, ballet, world music and dance, jazz and choral masterworks are hallmarks of Music Worcester’s annual operations. Multiple educational programs currently serve youth and families of greater Worcester: masterclasses by visiting artists, Tickets to Opportunity, in-schools residencies, and the Young Artist Competitions. The 2020-2021 virtual season has featured violinist Joshua Bell, pianists Asiya Korepanova and Simone Dinnerstein, the vocal ensemble Chanticleer, folk musician Rhiannon Giddens, and The Worcester Chorus. WWW.MUSICWORCESTER.ORG

Celebrating Clara Barton’s 200th birthday

The Clara Barton Birthplace Museum in North Oxford, MA is celebrating Clara Barton’s 200th birthday with free online presentations through Zoom. These presentations will highlight her remarkable life and achievements. The presentations are made possible by a grant from Mass Humanities and the Bridge Street Fund. The presenter is Emily Thomas, the tour guide for the Clara Barton Birthplace Museum and an Adjunct Professor of History at Nichols College in Dudley, MA. Ms. Thomas is currently work-

ing on an encyclopedic volume about Clara Barton. All three programs will begin at 5:30 pm and last approximately one hour. Thursday July 15: This presentation will examine Clara Barton’s childhood, family, and her life before she became famous during the Civil War. Excerpts from Clara’s the Story of My Childhood and other documents will explore her time as a teacher and as a clerk at the U.S. Patent Office in Washington D.C. Thursday July 29: This pre-

sentation will focus on Clara Barton’s work during the Civil War and how she earned her famous nickname “The Angel of the Battlefield.” Clara Barton attended to the wounded during and after several major battles of the war, including Antietam and Fredericksburg. The presentation will conclude with her establishment of a Missing Soldiers Office in Washington D.C. at the end of the war. Monday August 16: This presentation will focus on the founding of the American Red Cross by Clara Barton in 1881.

The presentation will begin with a brief history of the International Red Cross and Ms. Barton’s work with the Red Cross during the Franco-Prussian War. Several relief missions undertaken by the American Red Cross while Clara Barton was president will be included in the presentation, including the Johnstown Flood of 1889 in Pennsylvania. If you would like to attend one of these virtual presentations, please register by emailing emily.thomas@bartoncenter.org at least three days prior

to the presentation and provide your full name, which presentation you would like to attend, and the best email address to reach you, so we can send you a link to attend. For information on events, please visit <https://www.clarabarton-birthplace.org/events>. The Clara Barton Birthplace Museum is open for the season, Friday through Sunday from 10am-4pm. For more information, please visit <https://www.clarabartonbirthplace.org>.

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Ken Bates named to Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (ADDP) Board



Ken Bates

Worcester, MA –Ken Bates, President & CEO of Open Sky Community Services, has been named to the Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers (ADDP) Board of Directors.

ADDP is a state-wide association that focuses on issues relating to developmental/intellectual disabilities, Autism and brain injury services. They provide financial and political advocacy for their over 130 member organizations and also offer professional development opportunities.

According to the ADDP website, their mission “is to promote and ensure strength of community-based providers so provider members can be successful in improving quality, access and value of services in the community.”

Bates has served as President & CEO of Open Sky since its formation in 2018 and oversaw the affiliation of The Bridge of Central Massachusetts and Alternatives Unlimited. Prior to his position at Open Sky, he served as President & CEO at The Bridge of Central Massachusetts and as Executive Director of New Business and Financial Growth for the Commonwealth Medicine at UMass Medical School. He has also served as Vice-President of Behavioral Health at Advocates, Inc. and as Director of Outpatient Services at Spectrum Health Systems.

He received his undergraduate degree in Urban Studies from Worcester State University and his Master’s Degree in Counseling Psychology from Assumption University. In 2021 he was awarded an honorary Ph.D. from Assumption University.

Bates currently serves as Vice Chairperson on the Board of the Association of Behavioral Healthcare of Massachusetts and as a Corporator for Greater Worcester Community Foundation.

About Open Sky Community Services
Open Sky Community Services is dba for Alternatives Unlimited, Inc and The Bridge of Central MA. Open Sky offers a wide range of services for adults, adolescents, and children with mental health challenges, developmental and intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other challenges throughout Central Massachusetts. Open Sky Community Services has over 1,300 dedicated employees and an annual budget of \$89M with more than 100 programs throughout the region. For more information, please visit www.openskycs.org

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“I am Definitely glad to be a part of the team as well. I feel like I’m home and everyone has been wonderful.” — Nicole V. (LPN)

“In the time that I have been working at Quaboag I have witnessed the well-being and comfort of the residents as the main priority of the facility. The facility is centered around patient care and is designed in the best interest of the residents.” — Lynnea T. (CNA)

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For more information please contact: Julie Stapleton at 508.867.7716
Or apply online at: quaboagonthecommon.com