

WEBSTER TIMES

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Friday, September 11, 2020

COVID keeps school budget in flux

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – Many uncertainties remain for the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to loom over the new school year and beyond. As with many districts across the state, finances are one of the biggest question marks with many different possible scenarios being examined for the rest of the fiscal year.

The district's financial status was one topic of discussion during a Regional School Committee meeting on Aug. 26, where Director of Finance and Operations Richard Mathieu spoke candidly about the budget in his report saying that the FY 2021 spending plan is still very much "in flux."

"In normal years, this would be unthinkable, but given all the realities that have hit us all over the past six months it real-

ly just draws a shrug of the shoulders. Certainty and finality are impossible at our level and even at the state level we still receive conflicting messages and statements that make planning a real challenge," Mathieu said.

Realistically, he said inaction on the federal level has proven to be one of the biggest hurdles, as the federal government has not provided additional funding as state officials had anticipated. Looking ahead, Mathieu said the district still plans to apply for COVID relief grant funding which is expected to be discontinued at the conclusion of the calendar year.

"To me, that means apparently, COVID is not going to be an issue in 2021. That would be good news to everybody, let's just hope that's actually true. However, given the rules of the road, our funding in those particular areas that the state points to as providing a lot of relief for COVID related

expenses apparently they only run through the end of December at this point in time," Mathieu said.

Currently, the district is looking as potential expenses ranging from long term substitutes, remote learning adjustments, and the potential for additional technological needs or AVAC improvements to help adjust to the "new norm" of the pandemic.

"With the grant expiring, we certainly wouldn't want to leave any money on the table so we may take a look at using some of this to purchase technology if indeed we're not going to be able to fund personnel through the entire year," Mathieu said.

The school committee will continue to examine the status of its budget throughout the year as the district awaits further details from the state and federal governments on funding and COVID relief.



Courtesy

WEBSTER NATIVE RECEIVES PENN STATE ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP

Lauren Makie was recently awarded the Penn State Chapter of Greater Boston Endowed Scholarship. Scholarships are established by generous alumni and friends wanting to make a difference in the lives of Penn State students. Lauren is the daughter of Kevin and Michelle Makie of Webster. She is a 2020 graduate of Marianapolis Preparatory School, Thompson, Connecticut. Lauren is currently a freshman at Penn State, University Park Campus, located in State College Pennsylvania. It is the largest campus in the Penn State system, and home to a diverse population of about 46,000 undergraduate students. Lauren is a Health and Human Development major.

Malser grants to fund local historical projects

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – The Dudley Historical Commission has announced the receipt of monies that will allow for signage to be erected in the town's Historical District comprised of Center Road and surrounding areas near the town common.

Chairman Ed Bazinet revealed the good news during a meeting on Aug. 26 announcing that the Janet Malser Humanities Trust has awarded \$1,700 to the town for the initiative.

"When we get these signs produced will be another issue because we'll have to work with the company and then we'll have to figure out proper placement and timing to do this," Bazinet told the Historical Commission. "It's to pro-

vide signage north and south as you enter and exit, one in the center at the four corners. Those will all say that this is a historic district. We also have money in there for signage at the Village Cemetery. That will be an interpretive panel and it will take us some while to develop what should be on that."

Speaking of the Village Cemetery, the commission also received a second grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for surveying, planning and installation of plant material for that cemetery. The effort has been spearheaded by Michelle Jervis, the Administrative Secretary in the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator offices who Bazinet said will continue to be the lead on the project.

"The hope is we get

a survey done that will give us good points on all the monuments and the location of things in the cemetery, topographical issues, and then bring in the landscape architect to work off those and do appropriate plantings. The survey also will allow for us to do other things like determination of grave sites. Right now, it's very difficult for some of us to pinpoint where graves are," Bazinet said.

Their hope is that the cemetery, which hasn't seen a new interment for at least 20 years, will look more presentable and not, as Bazinet put it, like "a wasteland." There has been no confirmation of when landscaping will take place at the cemetery however the town is currently working with a landscape architect to help move things forward.

Kennedy leads Democratic primaries in Dudley and Charlton

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – The numbers are in, and while incumbent Democratic Sen. Edward Markey might have bested challenger Joseph Kennedy III in statewide in the primary for the 2020 election, Dudley and Charlton voters chose to support Kennedy when they took to the polls on Sept. 1.

Kennedy earned 940 votes in Dudley and 1,031 votes in Charlton to Markey's 590 votes and 850 votes in each town, respectively. Kennedy dominated the two small-town communities on

a day where he earned much of the support from Worcester County but failed to unseat his rival for the nomination. Markey took 55 percent of the overall vote from voters in the Commonwealth while Kennedy became the first member of the famed political family to lose an election in Massachusetts.

On the Republican side, both Dudley and Charlton voted to support Kevin O'Connor as the GOP candidate for the Senate seat. O'Connor earned 370 votes in Dudley and 489 votes in Charlton opposed to his opponent Shiva Ayyandurai's 268 Dudley

votes and 314 Charlton votes. O'Connor defeated Ayyandurai with 60 percent of the votes statewide to earn the right to contend against Markey in November.

In the race for the House of Representatives, Democratic Incumbent Richard Neal staved off a battle from Alex Morse easily winning the primary with 59 percent of the votes and winning both Dudley, where he received 959 votes to Morse's 537, and Charlton, where he defeated Morse 1,184 votes to 649.

Looking at the state
Turn To **PRIMARIES** page **A7**

Oxford select vote to seek new chicken bylaw

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — Selectmen reversed their decision to take no action on a proposed change to fowl ownership rules last week.



Instead, they voted 4-1 to seek a zoning change that will allow up to six chicken hens or ducks without a special permit.

Town Manager Jen Callahan brought the idea forward in response to Rachel Perez's citizen petition for a Town Meeting article, noting residents have noted the current process is costly. At present, people seeking special permits have to go before the Planning Board, paying up to \$300 for their hearing. But Callahan noted the town allows various permits under a much simpler process that still requires notifying neighbors and a hearing (in this case, held by the selectmen), but not advertising.

"I've been opposed to this for a long, long time," said Selectman John Saad.

He noted it's "outrageous" that getting a handful of chickens is so difficult, and it "shouldn't have gone into the special permit process to begin with."

Meaghan Troiano agreed, describing today's process as "arduous and cumbersome." But she believes it should still have oversight by the Animal Control Officer to ensure the birds are adequately housed and cared for. (Callahan's plan would, also getting input from the Board of Health.) She also suggested a renewal fee of \$10-\$20.

Cheryll Leblanc was the lone opponent, saying she feels the cost of the pres-

Turn To **BYLAW** page **A1**

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QCC's early college program a direct pathway to higher education

WORCESTER — Students in the Worcester Public Schools and the surrounding communities have been taking advantage of Quinsigamond Community College's Early College Program and the results have been promising. Early College Programs have become a way for high school students to get a head start on college, by enabling them to earn college credits while still in high school, and accord-

ing to the Baker-Polito Administration, the Early College program model has been successful. QCC has seen 42 percent of its Early College students enroll at the college within one year of taking early college courses during the program's early beginnings.

In the first preliminary data analysis completed since the state's Early College Initiative began in 2018, the findings showed that Massachusetts high

school students who graduate from Early College programs are applying for Federal financial aid and are enrolling in college at significantly higher rates than their school or state peers. Data from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education showed that high school graduates who participated in Early College programs are enrolling in college at a rate that is 20 percentage points higher than their school or state peers; and their FAFSA completion rates are 25 percentage points higher than their school peers.

Since 2018, QCC has been providing Worcester Public Schools' diverse student population with educational services, creating college equity access to more students who have historically been underserved. Data collected by QCC, found that of those

students who participated in the college's Early College Program during the 2018-2019 academic year, the largest participating student populations were Latinx (29.2 percent) and Black (28.8 percent).

"At a time when we see racial equity gaps widening, it is encouraging to see the impact of Early College as an effective strategy to propel Black and Latinx students to successful college completion," said Higher Education Commissioner Carlos E. Santiago.

The state data also showed that when outcomes for Black and Latinx students enrolled in Early College were compared with peers of the same race who were not enrolled in the program, Early College students of color attended college at higher rates. The differential between Black Early College graduates who enrolled in college and their Black school peers was 25 percentage points. Between Latinx early college program graduates and their

Latinx school peers the difference was 30 percentage points.

"While the Commonwealth performs well in many education measures, the launch and growth of Early College is an important step forward in equitable access to college for all students and a proven way to close the college degree completion gap," said Education Secretary James Peysers.

QCC has partnered not only with the seven Worcester Public High Schools, but also with 22 additional area Central Massachusetts High Schools. Students take classes that range from general education, business and healthcare, and fulfill their high school requirements while completing college credits.

"Our Early College Program is making such a difference in the lives of students. It is giving them a pathway to higher education and a way to realize their dreams and have a better life," said QCC President Dr. Luis G. Pedraja.

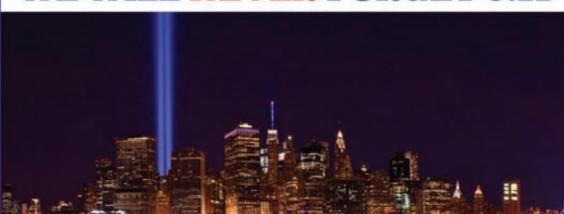
According to QCC's Director of Educational Partnerships K-12 & Early College Initiatives, Christina Hebert, the majority of high school students taking classes are juniors and seniors, with a small percent who are sophomores.

"Some students take two courses per semester and summer classes," she said. "The goal of Massachusetts Early College Programs is to have all high school students graduate with at least 12 college credits. The opportunity is there for students to graduate from high school and also earn a certificate or associate degree. Some students have graduated with 15 to 24 or more credits."

To learn more about QCC's Early College program, visit www.qcc.edu/early-college.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 orjmartin@qcc.mass.edu

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Oxford Fire Department to receive federal grant

OXFORD — The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today \$42.4 million in direct assistance grants to 221 fire departments nationwide through the agency's Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. Additional phases will soon be announced.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program includes grants to the following fire departments in Massachusetts:

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (Stow) - Federal share of \$400,000 for a mobile protective gear washing unit
Andover - Federal share of \$336,667 for firefighter breathing

apparatus
Athol - Federal share of \$591,613 for a fire pumper truck
Boston - Federal share of \$200,001 for fire officer training
Boxborough - Federal share of \$9,296 for firefighter training
Bridgewater - Federal share of \$28,699 for firefighter cancer screenings
Newton - Federal share of \$164,863 for firefighter training
North Attleborough - Federal share of \$49,092 for thermal imaging cameras
Oakham - Federal share of \$61,905 for an air compressor / breathing apparatus refill system
Oxford - Albion Fire

Department - Federal share of \$200,000 for firefighter breathing apparatus

Plympton - Federal share of \$230,476 for a brush fire truck
Somerset - Federal share of \$45,821 for firefighting hose
Wareham - Federal share of \$909,091 for an aerial tower truck
Watertown - Federal share of \$181,818 for portable radios
Woburn - Federal share of \$545,454 for a heavy rescue truck
Worcester - Federal share of \$332,282 for firefighter training

Since 2001, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) has helped firefighters and other first responders obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.

This grant is funded through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. Eligible applicants include local fire departments, fire districts, nonaffiliated EMS organizations, tribal fire departments and State Fire Training Academies. The grant applications are submitted from each agency directly to FEMA, where the applications are reviewed and scored by fire service personnel from throughout the nation.

FEMA obligates funding for this project directly to the recipient agencies. It is the recipient agency's responsibility to manage their grant award within federal guidelines with technical assistance and monitoring provided by FEMA Fire Program Specialists.

Additional information about FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters grant program(s) may be found at <https://www.fema.gov/firegrants>.

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	\$749⁹⁹	\$429⁹⁹	\$799⁹⁹	\$599⁹⁹	\$549⁹⁹
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Baker launches initiative to help local businesses

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – Gov. Charlie Baker recently announced the launch of an initiative aimed at supporting local businesses.

Joined by Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito at an Aug. 25 press conference, Baker unveiled the new statewide effort to promote shopping local and supporting small businesses and attractions in a safe manner.

Although several sectors of the state's economy have reopened since May, countless businesses have seen significant drops in customers from pre-pandemic levels. Restaurants have had an especially difficult struggle, with many patrons afraid to return to their favorite locations due to COVID-19 concerns. Small shops have also struggled, and area attractions and recreational businesses have suffered the impacts of decreased discretionary income.

With his newly launched platform, My Local MA, Baker is employing several tools to promote safe in-person business interactions, online sales, curbside pickup, and takeout meals.

"The intent of the campaign is to showcase Massachusetts' vast array of businesses and attractions – from family-owned restau-

rants to artisan boutiques to museums – that are a critical part of the Commonwealth's economy," read a statement released by the Governor.

One of the major problems for area businesses, officials said, is that many residents aren't aware of safe shopping accommodations like curbside pickup. Owners are encouraged to promote such offerings through physical signage, social media, and website announcements. Curbside pickup options should be heavily promoted, as well as a list of safety and sanitation measures in place at a given business, state leaders said.

"From Stockbridge to Provincetown, our local retailers and restaurants are open for business and are utilizing safe practices," Baker said.

To assist local businesses with promotions, Baker's My Local MA program will feature several advertising mediums. The campaign, which runs through December, will include print, broadcast, billboard, and digital ads, along with social media encouragement for residents to shop local.

Moreover, officials will feature resources for consumers and additional information on the website: www.FindMyLocalMA.com.

The Governor is also

reminding residents that the best way to support local businesses and ensure they can stay open is to shop safely and responsibly. To that end, the My Local MA program features a "Masking Up" component devoted to promoting facial coverings and social distancing efforts.

"Supporting beloved local businesses also means acting responsibly," Baker added. "Masking up and practicing social distancing will be emphasized throughout the campaign to protect our quality of life and ensure that businesses can safely serve customers."

The Commonwealth's small business community plays a vital role in the overall state economy. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses in Massachusetts employ approximately 1.5 million workers, accounting for approximately 45 percent of the state's total workforce.

"Through My Local MA, residents are encouraged to protect and preserve those elements that make Massachusetts unique," Baker said.

In central Massachusetts, local leaders continue to advocate for support of small businesses and entrepreneurs. Area officials have seen several residents step

up and seek out ways to help local enterprises as they begin their emergence from the COVID-19 crisis.

"We need to keep supporting our local businesses and make sure we do everything we can to help," said State Rep. Peter Durant, of Spencer. "There is a ground swell of people who are promoting buying local, but a lot of businesses are still struggling. We're seeing permanent layoffs in many places, and that affects everyone. People want to get back to work and start to come out of this."

Local officials remind residents that supporting farmers and growers is just as important as shops and restaurants.

"Our main streets and side street businesses have all suffered during this health crisis. We are blessed to have so many small businesses and farms in our region – all offer unique products and produce," said Sen. Anne Gobi, also a Spencer resident. "The more we can shop local, the better for our local economy, business owners, and their families."

For more information about the state's shop local effort, visit www.FindMyLocalMA.com.

WEBSTER TIMES

ACCURACY WATCH:

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

DUDLEY

POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 28 to Sept. 4.

An adult male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 2 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer or Court Official, Assault & Battery on a Disabled Person aged 60 or older with Injury, and Strangulation or Suffocation.

John Patrick Healy, age 56, of Dudley was arrested on Sept. 2 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License (subsequent offense), Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (fourth or greater offense), Operating Under the Influence of Drugs, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, a Marked Lanes Violation, and Possession of a Class B Drug.

Quinsigamond Community College raises funds for students in need

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has raised \$109,070 for its Student Emergency Fund and repurposed \$53,000 in grant awards to assist more than 700 students in need. In a show of strength and solidarity to support its student body, QCC's Foundation and the College banded together to respond to the COVID-19 health crisis by setting up a Student Emergency Fund for students in significant need and hardship due to the pandemic.

In March, the Foundation jumped in to help QCC students and allocated \$25,000 that created the Student Emergency Fund. Knowing there was a much greater student need to be met, the Foundation began an aggressive fundraising campaign with donations coming from QCC's faculty, staff, directors and trustees, alumni, foundations, banks, corporations, private donors and grants. To date, the Fund has assisted 526 QCC students to help with rent, food, medical services, childcare, other basic life and educational necessities. Students typically received anywhere from \$100 to \$250. Additionally, several repurposed grant awards provided 200 students with laptop computers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A survey done by the college found that of those who applied and received aid, 52 percent did not qualify for other aid, 47 percent had lost their jobs, 72 percent had reduced working hours, and 33 percent had out-of-pocket medical expenses. Most students said they used the aid to help with rent, mortgage, groceries, utilities, transportation, credit card bills, student loans, books and healthcare, due to the economic impact of the pandemic. The survey also showed that of those who received assistance, 81 percent were women, 63 percent were minorities, 43 percent were immigrants, 66 percent were parents, and 32% were enrolled in adult learner and workforce programs.

"The Student Emergency Fund solidifies the Foundation's mission of eliminating barriers that prevent student success," QCC Foundation President Dr. Linda Maykel said. "The many generous individuals, corporations and local foundations that recognized the needs of our student body and stepped up to assist has been overwhelming and heartwarming. However, the need is great and there is much more that must be done to help our most vulnerable students from the hardships incurred by the virus."

To date, 76 percent of the Student Emergency Fund has been used, and while many students noted the difference the finan-

cial assistance has made, many others noted the ongoing financial struggles they were incurring.

"When COVID-19 hit us, my technology was not updated enough to be able to continue taking my courses online. Without QCC's help, I would not have been able to purchase a new device to attend my sessions. The cash help I received is destined to buy the materials that I will need for the Fall Semester. I am deeply and truly grateful for this help," said one student aid recipient.

"I lost two jobs. The only one left was four hours a week. It was terrible," said another student aid recipient.

While all colleges and universities nationwide received Federal CARES Act funding, many students were exempt from receiving this aid because of citizenship, residency or enrollment status. QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja noted the positive repercussions the Fund has had on students, particularly those who otherwise would be ineligible for aid.

"This aid has been crucial for our students' success. The statistics speak for themselves. Of those students who received aid, 74 percent said the aid allowed them to stay in college for the semester; 80 percent said it reduced the stress caused by financial constraints, and 45 percent said that without it they would have had to withdraw from college," he said. "Furthermore, 93 percent who received aid did not withdraw from college and 90 percent did not withdraw from any course. This is a testament to the impact the Student Emergency Fund is having on our students."

As the Fall semester gets underway soon, the Foundation and College will continue with its efforts to help students in need.

"The full impact of the pandemic on the economy and our community remains to be seen. In spite of all of the unknowns and all of the challenges, I am certain of one thing: we will do what needs to be done and we will make sure our students succeed," Dr. Pedraja said.

To learn more about the college's

Student Emergency Fund or QCC's enrollment opportunities, visit www.QCC.edu.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu



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Friday's Child



Jaiden
Age 6

Hi! My name is Jaiden and I love to snuggle!

Jaiden is a sweet and loving little boy of Caucasian descent. Those who know him best adore him and share that he can make you smile as soon as you see him. Once you start speaking to Jaiden, he will turn towards you to see who is visiting and will give you a wide grin. The more you speak to him, the more excited he gets. He absolutely loves to be held and is a very happy boy. All of the staff members in the program at which Jaiden resides,

as well as his teachers at school, have fallen in love with him and are hoping that he finds his forever family soon.

Jaiden's favorite activities include playing with the Singing Elmo that he received for Christmas and listening to music. He loves being in the pool and enjoys pushing off the wall and splashing around in the water. Jaiden is also able to engage in many activities at school such as arts and craft projects with the help of his teachers and aide. Jaiden enjoys going to school and is always happy to see his teachers. Jaiden is non-verbal, is wheelchair bound, and has been diagnosed with cortical blindness. He relies on 24/7 support and receives occupational, physical, vision, and speech therapy at his school.

Legally freed for adoption, Jaiden is seeking a loving and caring home that can understand the complexity of his needs. The staff at his program are committed to helping a pre-adoptive family make Jaiden comfortable and happy in a home setting. Jaiden has the potential to thrive in family of any constellation, either as an only child or with siblings (he very much enjoys being around other children). It is important to Jaiden that he maintains a relationship with his two siblings who are placed in another home.

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

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Some items available from an apartment clean out: small wooden 2-drawer file cabinet; large black TV stand; side wooden bed stand; misc. cookware and dishes; many various collections of elephants; Peanut Pals Sculptures by The Hamilton Collection (\$5 ea.); Protect Nature's Innocents Collectibles (\$5 ea.); Effenbee Legends Series George Burns doll (boxed); Franklin Mint Diana Princess of Wales porcelain doll (boxed); small wooden roll-down cabinet with key; many record albums and cassettes; 2 tall light oak wooden swivel chairs; stained glass lampshades; small black roller suitcase; used washer (\$35) and dryer (\$35); antique clothing armoire (56"x34"); round (6 ft.) wool braided handmade rug (\$25); grandfather clock; and other collectibles and odds and ends.

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Primary sets the stage for November contests

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – With last week’s State Primary in the books, the stage is set for several central Massachusetts rematches in the Nov. 3 general election.

Incumbent Democratic Congressman Jim McGovern is being challenged again by Tracy Lovvorn for the Second Massachusetts Congressional District. Lovvorn, a Republican from Grafton, only picked up 33 percent of the votes in her 2018 battle against McGovern. After running unopposed in the Republican Primary on Sept. 1, she is looking forward to her rematch with the longtime incumbent McGovern.

“I want to bring a new energy to Washington – a

positive energy focused on unification and solutions,” read a statement released by Lovvorn. “I am tired of being lied to by career politicians. I am done with allowing them to advance their personal agendas and careers, instead of working for us in support of our needs.”

Congressman McGovern, who has held his seat for 24 years, is the current Chair of the House Rules Committee.

“Since his first election to Congress in 1996, Jim has consistently delivered millions of dollars for jobs, vital local and regional projects, small businesses, public safety, regional and mass transportation projects, and affordable housing throughout his district and Massachusetts,” read a statement from Congressman McGovern’s office.

The Second Massachusetts Congressional District contains communities in four counties, including the Worcester County towns of Auburn, Leicester, North Brookfield, Douglas, Uxbridge, Northbridge, Spencer, Sutton, West Brookfield, and Webster.

Another rematch is looming in the state Senate race, with Senator Anne Gobi once again facing opposition from Republican challenger Steven Hall, of Sturbridge.

In their 2018 battle, Sen. Gobi, of Spencer, took 55 percent of the votes. Her Senate district represents portions of Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, and Middlesex Counties. The dis-

trict runs from Winchendon and Ashburnham at the northern end of the state to Monson and Wales at the southern end.

Sen. Gobi currently chairs the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, as well as the Joint Committee on Higher Education.

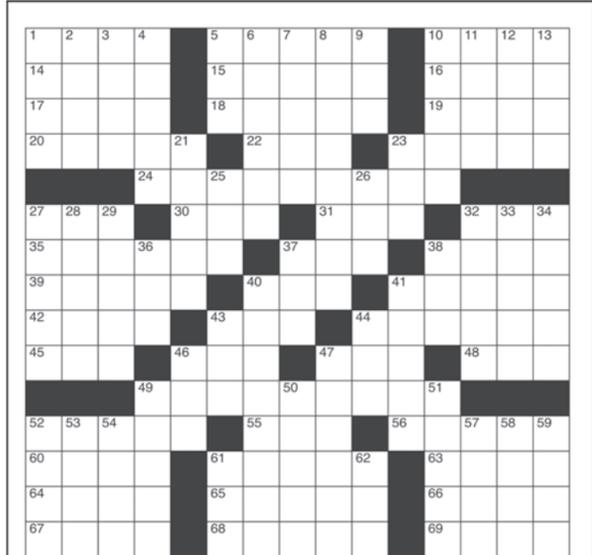
Meanwhile, State Rep. Donald Berthiaume will be challenged for the Fifth Worcester District by Samuel Biagetti, a North Brookfield Democrat. In 2018, Berthiaume cruised to re-election over challenger Jean Strauss, collecting 60 percent of the votes.

Biagetti, an antiques dealer and teacher, is focusing on healthcare, education, and infrastructure improvements as part of his platform.

The Fifth Worcester District includes the towns of Barre, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Oakham, Spencer, Ware, and West Brookfield.

In other State Primary news, Incumbent Senator Edward Markey defeated Joseph Kennedy III in the Democratic Primary. Markey, 74, will face challengers Kevin O’Connor, Andre Gray, and Frederick Mayock in the Nov. 3 general election.

“Tonight is more than just a celebration of an election – it is a celebration of a movement,” Markey said after the Primary. “Thank you to the thousands of grassroots supporters who organized around the principles that we believe in. We could not have done it without you.”

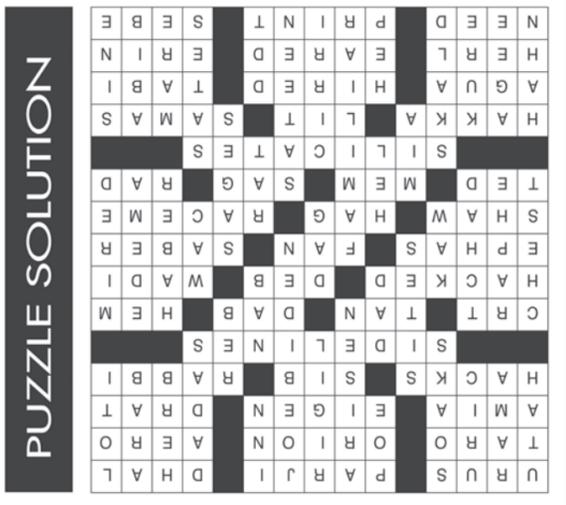


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Aurochs
- 5. Central Dravidian language
- 10. Split pulses in Indian cooking
- 14. Tropical starchy tuberous root
- 15. Well known constellation
- 16. About aviation
- 17. Bowfin genus
- 18. Proper
- 19. Expression of annoyance
- 20. Cabbies
- 22. Bro or sis
- 23. Spiritual leader
- 24. Where football coaches work
- 27. Old TV part
- 30. A way to color
- 31. Touch lightly
- 32. Surround
- 35. Breached
- 37. Aristocratic young woman
- 38. Dry ravine
- 39. Hebrew measurement units
- 40. Supporter
- 41. Type of sword
- 42. Influential Irish playwright
- 43. Witch
- 44. Flower cluster
- 45. Mark Wahlberg’s animal friend
- 46. Psychedelic amphetamine
- 47. Actors’ group
- 48. Cool!
- 49. Salts
- 52. Group of SE China
- 55. Illuminated
- 56. Semitic Sun god
- 60. Water (Spanish)
- 61. Employed
- 63. Japanese ankle sock
- 64. Fishing fly
- 65. Some pheasants are this
- 66. Literary name for Ireland
- 67. Must have
- 68. A way to write
- 69. One point east of southeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. American state
- 2. Hindu model of ideal man
- 3. Type of acid
- 4. Drenches
- 5. “The Raven” writer
- 6. Emerged
- 7. Alpha Centauri: __ Centaurus
- 8. Democratic Presidential candidate
- 9. Hostelry
- 10. Fathers
- 11. Any plant with leaves used for flavoring
- 12. Member of a Semitic people
- 13. Lesotho monetary unit
- 21. Lots
- 23. Jewish address for “Sir”
- 25. Male parent
- 26. A way to get
- 27. Body part
- 28. Seam in an organ
- 29. Landlocked African country
- 32. Process for producing ammonia
- 33. Fluid accumulation in tissues
- 34. Bugged down
- 36. Native American tribe
- 37. Unfashionable person
- 38. Female grunts
- 40. Well known
- 41. Gurus
- 43. Norse mythological site
- 44. Tell on
- 46. __ Farrow, actress
- 47. Cotton fabric
- 49. Reciter of Scandinavian poems
- 50. Clouds
- 51. Satisfies
- 52. Shuttered Air Force base in Germany
- 53. Phil __, former CIA
- 54. Japanese seaport
- 57. Female horse or zebra
- 58. 1st month of ancient Hebrew calendar
- 59. Trigonometric function
- 61. Fashionable knowledge (Slang)
- 62. Insecticide



Suzy Langevin

WORCESTER – Open Sky Community Services has announced the appointment of its new Director of Training and Professional Development, Suzy Langevin. As part of her new role, Langevin, who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in behavioral health, will also lead the Bridge Training Institute, replacing long-time employee and recent retiree Stephen Murphy.

“2020 has brought unique challenges for the individuals we serve and our staff need high quality, up-to-date training. Suzy is the right person for that important job,” said Ken Bates, President and CEO of Open Sky Community Services. “COVID-19 may have started as simply a health crisis, but it has morphed over the past several months into a mental health crisis as well. In order to help the individuals we serve, our Clinicians and Direct Care staff, we will be looking to Suzy to strengthen our collective skill sets.”

For years, the Bridge Training Institute had hosted workshops at an off-site hotel, but these types of large gatherings have been suspended due to COVID-19. Langevin sees this suspension as a growth opportunity rather than a barrier.

“Having worked with Steve Murphy for years, I have a strong understanding of what the Bridge Institute was, and I’m excited to expand its offerings. Having to innovate where and when we provide workshops is a real opportunity to broaden our audience beyond our core here in Central Massachusetts,” said Langevin. “Reducing barriers like time and travel to make training opportunities accessible to as many professionals as we can will exponentially help more people and expand the training opportunities we currently provide from Open Sky.”

Open Sky Community Services is an affiliation of The Bridge of Central Massachusetts and Alternatives Unlimited, Inc., which came together in 2018. Langevin previously served as Director of Dual Diagnosis Services, where she developed a model for services for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. She also previously worked to implement and super-

vice the provision of Illness Management and Recovery (IMR) services and was instrumental in the development and opening of The Bridge Counseling Center, Open Sky’s outpatient division. As a consultant and trainer, she specializes in Motivational Interviewing, and is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers (MINT). She was recently named to the Leadership Worcester Class of 2021.

For more information about Open Sky Community Services, please contact Lorie Martiska, lorie.martiska@openskycs.org

For more information about the Bridge Training Institute and its 2020-2021 training calendar, please visit the website www.thebridgetraininginstitute.org or contact traininginstitute@openskycs.org

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 \$83M with more than 100 programs throughout the region. For more information, please visit www.openskycs.org.

About The Bridge Training Institute

The Bridge Training Institute is an industry leader in providing both theoretical and real-world training on evidence-based and best practices for clinicians and school personnel. Offering over 20 trainings per year, the Institute features expert trainers from human services, education, professional practices and academia. Institute trainers have worked directly with leaders in the field such as Marcia Linehan, Aaron Beck, the BU Center for Psychological Rehabilitation and others.

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A life of accumulating stuff

I heard once that the first half of our life is spent accumulating things, while the second half is getting rid of those very same things. In our case, time has been more heavily weighted to accumulation, while getting rid of them has been a more sudden and quicker event.

As most of you know, we are at a time and age where we are downsizing. We've spent the last 26 years in an exceptionally large home on forty acres and are downsizing into a significantly smaller place. The move requires that we sell, donate, give away or dump, eighty percent or more of our belongings. In the beginning, the thought sounded arduous and painful, but it has been quite the opposite. It has been a "freeing" experience.

It has lightened our load and relieved a fair amount of pressure.

As we've sorted through forty-five years of marriage in boxes of our belongings, I wonder why we ever bought most of it to begin with. It's as if we were on a search for meaning in things, that we later found to be meaningless. I believe I bought things to make myself feel better and when I didn't ... I bought more. The more I bought, the more of a burden it became, so to relieve the stress ... I bought more. I think it's a vicious cycle that most of us go through. We all become burdened at some point with boxes of stuff. We either deal with it or leave it all to our kids to deal with after we are gone.



POSITIVELY SPEAKING
GARY W. MOORE

So, we decided to have an estate sale, which turned out to be the right choice for us. It went well and I'm guessing half our stuff sold. It was an interesting experience. I thought I'd be able to hang around, greet people, answer questions ... but I was wrong. An hour before the sale began, George, the owner of Cait's, the estate sale company, asked me where I was going during the sale. I responded that I planned on staying and he began emphatically shaking his head and said, "No. You cannot be here. Go hang out with a

neighbor or find another place to be."

It was a mixture of feeling insulted and hurt. It was my stuff, in my house! How could he tell me to leave? Arlene looked at me and smiled. "He didn't want to see you holding on to someone's ankle as they drag you out the door, while you are crying and pleading, 'please don't take my stuff!'"

"You think I'd do that?" I asked.

"It didn't take long for him to figure you out." She took me by the hand and pulled me towards the door. "Let's not stay and find out."

We got in the car and instead of leaving, parked under a tree near the entrance to the prop-

erty and watched people come in and later leave with our stuff. It wasn't a sad experience but just an odd sense of curiosity. Why did they want that? Where are they taking it? What will they do with it?

The next day was different. I decided to hide in the bedroom and stay close, but my personality and curiosity didn't allow me to stay in hiding long. I slowly ventured out and had a fun time greeting friends, meeting new people, and seeing smiles on faces as I watched our 'stuff' bring joy to others.

I also smiled, knowing someday, sooner or later, that same stuff may be in someone else's estate sale as they wonder, "why on earth did I buy this?"

My advice, for whatever it's worth ... Don't put

your faith and happiness in material things. They eventually end up being burdensome and rarely deliver the expected pleasure. First and foremost, look to a higher source. For me, that is in Jesus. For you it may be something different. Then, find your earthly joy and satisfaction in family and dear friends.

Stuff ... is just stuff. I don't miss any of it.

Neither will you.

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.

BYLAW

continued from page A1

ent process "weans out the people who are really committed to doing this and want to take care of the chickens and ducks." To her, reducing the cost could create "potential problems."

Chairman Dennis Lamarche disagreed, saying the fact applicants will have to put up fencing and ensure proper food storage and composting will make sure they are "pretty serious."

This is just the first step of changing the bylaw. The proposal still needs to go to the Planning Board for review and a public hearing, then get a two-thirds vote of approval

at Town Meeting next month.

Additionally, the board voted to let a temporary permit allowing access to a Forest Street property over town land to expire and to pursue enforcement if necessary.

The issue came up a few weeks ago, when the property of 58 Forest Street changed hands. For years, its only access was across the neighboring property, which was donated to the town for conservation purposes.

The land in question is on McKinstry Pond.

According to town Attorney Mark Reich, the owner "bought the property knowing there's an access issue." At their last meeting, the board voted

to give the new owner (whose name was not mentioned, and who was not at the remote meeting) a license to access his home for 60 days while working out some other solution.

But more recent research found the land in question is under Article 97 of the Mass Constitution, which imposes very strict requirements for uses other than conservation. Reich said there's "a very significant process for any reuse or change in use" that includes getting it surveyed, obtaining Conservation Commission and Town Meeting approval, review by the Attorney General, and special legislation that has to pass both houses of the General Court by at least two-thirds. Additionally, the town must designate and pro-

tect a similar-sized property of "equal conservation value" to replace it. In total, he estimated the process would take at least two years and be quite costly.

But he said such a process is normally used only for projects that have major public value (his example was a new school), while this would only benefit one private landowner.

"I don't really see the benefit to the town of expending these funds," Reich said. "You don't have the kind of compelling interest."

He gave the board four options for dealing with the situation: the Article 97 process, giving the buyer a temporary or open-ended license for the driveway; enforcing the law as it is; or doing nothing, which he described as "tacit approval" that

might later result in a claim of "proscriptive rights" in court. (The latter is defined in law as "adverse possession" and dates back to the colonial era, but he noted it's very hard to win such a claim against a town. It's normally used in disputes between private landowners.)

Regarding the license concept, Town Manager Jen Callahan said she's concerned about "setting a precedent" and having to spend "an inordinate amount of money to defend a decision that was not wise" on the buyer's part. Although the town did tell the realtor this was an issue, she said she's not sure the owner knew before the sale. Since that happened quickly for cash, it didn't go through the normal title search a mortgage would require.

The board opted for

enforcement, with several members noting the town told the realtor and buyer's attorney the issues existed before purchase. Reich said he believes the previous owner had been related to his neighbor, so nobody questioned it. But only after the sale did it become clear the driveway was actually on town land.

"The town did not do anything to create this problem," Reich added.

Selectman John Saad saw that as their way out, noting, "We tried to accommodate them and we can't." The board voted 4-0, with Leblanc abstaining, to let the license expire and "stop the [parcel's] use for anything other than conservation purposes."

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

PRIMARIES

continued from page A1

House and Senate seats, Republican incumbent Peter Durant look as if he will easily continue representing both Dudley and Charlton having no opposition from his own party in the primary or Democrats in the November vote. Ryan Fattman will continue to represent Dudley in the state Senate also having no opposition in the primary and no clear Democratic challenger for November. Republican Paul Frost has no opposition going into November to retain his seat as State Representative for Charlton. Democrat Anne Gobi easily retained her party's nomination for her seat in the state Senate representing Charlton and other towns, however she will have a Republican challenger as Steven Hall earned the GOP nomination during the primary running unopposed.

Finally, the Register of Probate vote saw incumbent Republican Stephanie Fattman win the GOP nomination unopposed. Democrat Kasia Wennerberg won the majority of the votes from both Dudley and Charlton however she was unable to earn enough votes throughout Worcester County to earn the nomination. Instead her challenge John Dolan will contend against Fattman for the position after earning 54 percent of the votes in the primary.

Dudley resident facing charges after fourth OUI offense

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – A Dudley resident is facing numerous charges after police discovered drug paraphernalia in his vehicle and determined that he was intoxicated behind the wheel.

According to a release from the Dudley Police Department, troopers responded to reports from a resident that a man was found sleeping inside of a GMC pickup truck just after 5 p.m. on Northwest Schoolhouse Road in Dudley on Wednesday, Sept. 2. Police located the GMC traveling down Dresser Hill Road #2 while responding to the call and observed the truck swerving over the center line. Officer conducted a motor vehicle stop where they identified the driver

as 63-year-old John Healy, who has had his right to operate a motor vehicle revoked in Massachusetts.

Police performed an on-site assessment determining that Healy was intoxicated, and upon searching his vehicle, officers discovered several small baggies containing a white powdery substance believe to be cocaine. Healy was then taken into custody without incident.

As a result of his arrest Healy is facing numerous motor vehicle and drug-related charges including operating under suspension, his fourth recorded offence of operating under the influence of alcohol, operating under the influence of drugs, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, violation of marked lanes, and possession of the class B substance cocaine. Healy was scheduled to appear in Dudley District Court on Thursday, Sept 3.



John Healy



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BRENDAN BERUBE
 EDITOR

VIEWPOINT

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

Competition vs. compassion

EDITORIAL

The flavors of fall

The first day of fall is upon us. Sept. 23 will mark the first day it is socially acceptable to drink pumpkin and apple flavored coffee, doughnuts, bread and burn fall scented candles. Coffee shops and bakeries are already busting out the fall flavors.

Pumpkin enthusiasts beware, on the flip side, there are several people who think it is too soon. A survey that posed the question, "When is it OK to start drinking and eating pumpkin?" produced the following responses:

- "Right now!"
- "First day of fall."
- "I always strive for after Labor Day, but often start on July 12th."
- "I'm waiting until September 1st."
- "After zucchini season."

It is true, there are more people in New England who are holding on to every last bit of summer than those looking forward to fall. To those people, we get it. Some people refuse to swap their flip flops for boots until the first snow fall. The end of the summer season really isn't so bad. With fall comes hearty crock pot recipes, crisp evenings, sweaters, boots, and Halloween. The closer to Halloween we get, the closer to snow, which means the ski resorts will soon be open for businesses. What could be better?

Perhaps the best part about fall is foliage. The leaves are already changing and soon New England will be swarming with tourists, camera's in tow. Peak foliage will hit during the last week of September through the first week of October.

Within the next four weeks, temperatures will drop drastically, with some hot days still sprinkled in for balance. The good news is, there is still plenty of time to sneak in a few more summer hikes, a kayak excursion on the lake, a few more backyard barbecues, or a day reading out on the hammock.

The Old Farmer's Almanac says of winter 2021, "Our long-range forecast is calling for a cold winter with normal to below-normal temperatures in areas from the Great Lakes and Midwest, westward through the Northern and Central Plains, and Rockies. Remember last year's almost snow-free winter in the Northeast? Well, this year our prediction is very different, with the possibility of a blizzard hitting the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast states during the second week of February. This storm may bring up to one to two feet of snow to cities from Washington, D.C. to Boston, Massachusetts."

So wether you're still sipping pina colodas or drinking a pumpkin spiced latte while dreaming of jack-o-lanterns and the smell of wood stoves, this IS the perfect time of year for you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Janet Malser Humanities Trust has our thanks

To the Editor:
 The Dudley Grange #163 would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for the grant which will enable us to purchase and install two restaurant quality refrigeration units. These units will help us to continue putting on the Dudley Grange Strawberry and Apple Festivals when they are able to resume.

WITH SINCERE THANKS,
 DUDLEY GRANGE # 163



All We Know Is Local
 Local News
 StonebridgePress.com

Competition v. Compassion. Think about that comparison. Competition v. Compassion. Where do we stand when we see others? From a young age, our society cultivates and instills in us the spirit of competition. I want to do better than others. Why do they have more than me? How can I win! Our American, individualistic spirit pushes us inward toward our ego. Me against the world. The spirit of competition!

Jesus, on the other hand, surely didn't compete against others, and never pushed his followers to compete with one another. Instead of viewing the world through the lens of competition, he saw the world with compassion. He looked at the other not as a foe, but as a friend in need of help. He wanted to bring out the best in others; he saw the beauty in others; he tried to understand the struggles of others. He empathized with those He met, entering into their world of struggle, suffering, need, while helping them become "winners" in life.

A compassionate worldview is quite different from a competitive worldview!

Compassion implies a consciousness or awareness of the need of others, and a desire to help them in their struggles, alleviating their suffering. It's not important for me to win over you, as much as it is for me to understand you and to help you get better.

In the life of Christ, we see how he compassionately deals with others. A good example is in the gospel story where Jesus encounters a very desperate situation. A widow has just lost her only son. A widow in Jesus' time was probably one of the most marginalized and desperate people in society. She had no husband, no protector or provider, no support and little hope. This particular widow had an only son in whom she placed her hope, and then even he was gone.

As the funeral crowd walked with the woman to bury her only son, the Gospel says, "Jesus saw her and had compassion on her." Jesus saw her situation and understood. He empathized with her in her distress and pain, comprehending her situation. He saw her hopelessness and wanted to help. And he did.

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

He raised the dead son back to life, and gave him back to his mother.

This story is followed in the Gospel of Luke by another interchange highlighting our Lord's compassion on those around him. When John the Baptist was arrested and languishing in prison, he wasn't quite sure if Jesus was the actual Messiah. Either that, or he wanted to help his disciples understand that Jesus was actually the Messiah. In either case, St John sent his followers to Jesus to ask him whether He truly is the Christ, the anointed One. To which Jesus responds, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news preached to them." (Luke 7:22)

Think about that description of Jesus' life and ministry. He reaches out to all those in the most desperate need – the blind, the lame, the deaf, the lepers, those who are poor, and even the dead – people with little hope for a better life. They all are desperate. Life is a great challenge for them., and there seems to be little hope, that is until Jesus comes along. First, Jesus understands and empathizes with them, and then He reaches out and heals them. Ultimately, Christ even does something greater. He suffers (on the Cross) with those who suffer, He experiences the pain of the forgotten and broken, and then he lifts all humanity up!

The word compassion comes from the Latin word which means "to suffer with." Here is the deepest meaning of compassion. It is not simply doing good for another, but it is entering into another's pain and suffering, into their fear and brokenness, empathizing with them and then walking with them toward a path of healing.

Henri Nouwen reflects on compassion in this way: "When I pray for the endless needs of the millions, my soul expands and wants to embrace them all and bring them into the presence of God."

But in the midst of that experience, I realize that compassion is not mine but God's gift to me. I cannot embrace the world, but God can. I cannot pray, but God can pray in me. When God became as we are . . . He allowed us to enter into the intimacy of the divine life. He made it possible for us to share in God's infinite compassion. And by grace we not only share the experience of God's compassion, but by his enabling grace we can become the conduits of that compassion, following in Christ's footsteps as did a host of our spiritual forbears."

We, Christ's followers, are called to be conduits of His compassion to the world. Maybe we can't perform miracles of healing, as Jesus did, but we can walk with those who suffer, journey with those who struggle, empathize with those in despair, listen to those who are in desperate need. Compassion is the hallmark of a follower of Jesus!

As individuals, each of us should strive every day to be instruments in God's hand, bringing His compassionate love to everyone we meet. And as a Church Family, we are called in a communal way to reach out to the world with compassion.

And I thank God when I see how we strive to do this as a community. Our church family goes to Project Mexico to build homes for the needy and build relationships with the boys at the orphanage in Tijuana. We participate in Habitat for Humanity, building hope for families on the margins of society. And have a beautiful ministry of compassion in our monthly "Living Bread Luncheon," which unfortunately has stopped for these months of COVID. Yet in the midst of this crisis we are trying to reach out to families that have been impacted by this pandemic in different ways.

This is our call as followers of Jesus Christ. He is the all-compassionate one. He reaches out to each one of us every day with love and mercy, with kindness and goodness, with charity and grace. We are then called to go forward as His ambassadors, showing the same compassion to the world around us. Life is not about competition, but all about compassion!

Approach flashing yellow arrows with caution

The flashing yellow left turn arrow remains a point of interest for many people. These signals have become more common in recent years. Someone I met recently was confused by what to do when approaching these lights.

Turn arrow signals are generally found at intersections where there is heavy traffic flow. These lights allow vehicles to make uninterrupted turns to alleviate back-ups and provide clear guidance to drivers. The green turn arrow lights, at the intersection of

West Main Street and Schofield Avenue, have been very effective in reducing crashes and traffic congestion. The rules for these turn arrows are generally contained in the state highway regulations and / or in local traffic by laws or ordinances. Most intersections have only red or green turn arrows. A local example of a flashing yellow arrow is at the intersection of Thompson Road and Lake Parkway in Webster. While traveling north on Thompson Road, drivers will see this left turn arrow flashing yellow on occasion.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Drivers Manual, provided by the Department of Transportation, specifically addresses these yellow flashing turn arrows. It states in part, "A flashing yellow arrow allows you to turn left when oncoming traffic has a green light, but the traffic is clear. You must carefully determine that there is an adequate gap in the oncoming traffic and ensure that there are no pedestrians in your path before making your turn." Therefore, this signal serves as a caution to drivers. It allows for the left turn if the driver properly yields to others with the right of way.

It is very important to note the presence of signs, posted at some intersections, which make certain movements illegal. Like the "No Turn on Red" signs for right turns, some intersections may allow turns on green arrows only. The Lake Parkway and Thompson Road intersection has one of these signs informing drivers of what is permitted when the arrow is flashing yellow. Take the time to look for any possible signage to make your turn safely. This is especially true if you are in an unfamiliar location. Drivers should exercise caution at all intersections. Take the time to cautiously enter these locations to avoid accidents and possible injuries.

In addition to the Coronavirus Pandemic, there is a great deal of turmoil taking place in our state and around the country. We continue to serve the people of Dudley and work with the community to improve the quality of life for everyone. I continue to thank the men and women from my department for their continued dedicated service to the Town of Dudley during these trying times. Thanks also go out to the many Police Officers, Fire and Emergency Services members, public works, government and all other "essential" personnel for their continued hard work and service. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

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



CHIEF'S CORNER
 STEVE WOJNAR

Girls on the Run Worcester County launches fall season

REGION — Recently, Girls on the Run Worcester County (GOTR) announced the launch of its fall season. GOTR is a leader in delivering evidence-based, life skills curriculum to girls of all abilities. Through more than 20 sites across Worcester County GOTR has served more than 2,100 since it was founded in 2015. For the 2020-2021 school year, GOTR is offering a variety of programs to accommodate the changing and unpredictable school year due to the pandemic. Registration for the fall 2020 season is open at several of our sites, with more being added daily at www.gotr-worc.org.

"Our staff and coaches are ready to bring critical social-emotional programming to Worcester County girls at a time when they need it the most," said Karen Spencer, Executive Director. "We have adapted based on the recommendations of local health officials and decisions of local governments and school districts. Our fluid model will work completely in-person, completely virtual or can seamlessly transition between the two as needed. We are excited to offer for the first time, our new residential program which will work great for small teams of 6-12 neighboring girls or home schoolers. Coaches do not need to be runners to implement this amazing social emotional curriculum."

Flexible Programming Model

If schools and sites are in session, GOTR afterschool programming can be delivered as in the past, with enhanced safety measures including physical distancing modifications. Should school and site close, the program will be easily transitioned to a virtual model, with lessons that mirror the in-person program. This fluid programming model ensures that participants will experience the social, emotional, and physical outcomes of the program while allowing local teams to adjust to changes in the school and community health guidelines throughout the season.

100 percent Virtual

Virtual fall programming is delivered by trained coaches in a safe virtual space, with lessons that mirror the in-person Girls on the Run or Heart & Sole program. Virtual programming will include physical activity and social-emotional learning, providing girls with an opportunity to still build meaningful connections with their peers and caring adult role models.

GOTR at Home Activity Kit for Fall

For 25 years, Girls on the Run I has provided evidence-based programming that builds confidence and empathy in girls when they need it the most. Girls on the Run is proud to unveil the GOTR at

Home Activity Kit. Designed to fuel girls' mind, body and spirit, the kit includes 50 activities that emphasize the important connection between physical and emotional health. Each activity helps girls learn valuable skills such as how to cope when things get difficult, demonstrate care for self and others, and practice positivity. From the silly starters to the fun movement games and challenges, girls will laugh, create, and grow through each activity

Volunteer coaches will receive the training and materials required to provide girls a safe, trauma-sensitive space to learn valuable life lessons and be active.

Added Spencer, "Together, we will find a way to motivate girls to nurture their physical and emotional health, no matter the circumstances."

About Girls on the Run Worcester County

Through more than 20 sites across the Worcester area, GOTR Worcester has served more than 2,100 girls since it was founded in 2015. Last year, over \$33,000 was provided in financial assistance to 44 percent of participants, ensuring that the program remains accessible to all girls who wish to participate. For more information, visit www.gotr-worc.org and follow us on social media @gotrworchester.

Open enrollment choices can have big financial impact

It's that time of year again, where, if you work for a medium-to-large employer, you've got some decisions to make because it's open enrollment time. Of course, depending on your situation, you may have been working remotely for a while, but, even so, you will likely have the opportunity to review your benefits package and make changes. And you'll want to make the right moves, because your choices can have a big financial impact on your life.

So, take a close look at these key areas of your benefits program:

Health insurance – Think about your health care needs over the coming year – will you or someone in your family be coping with a chronic illness or facing a surgery? Will you need to at least consider testing and possible treatment for COVID-19? In any case, make sure you're choosing the right plan for your needs. And pay close attention to any changes in your health insurance, such as whether the plan's provider networks have changed – you may want to make sure your own doctor is still in-network. Also, check to see if you can reduce your health care premiums by taking part in a wellness program or health-risk assessment.

Life insurance – Your employer may offer a group life insurance policy for free, or for a small amount. It's prob-



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ably worth your while to take this coverage, but it may not be enough for your needs. If you only had this group policy, but your family situation has recently changed through marriage or the addition of a new child, you may well need to add some private insurance.

Disability insurance – In addition to offering group life insurance, your employer may provide short-term disability insurance as an employee benefit. Like group insurance, this disability coverage may not cost you anything, but it may not be adequate – typically, short-term disability only replaces part of your income for three to six months. And while you may never need to miss work for an extended period of time, you never can tell – after all, more than one in four 20-year-olds will become disabled before they retire, according to the U.S. Social Security Administration. You may want to consider purchasing your own long-term disability policy on top of the coverage offered by your employer.

Retirement plan – You can probably make changes to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan at

any time, but why not look at it now, when you're reviewing all your benefits? If you can afford to increase your contributions, you probably should, because a 401(k), with its tax advantages and ease of contribution through paycheck deductions, is a great

way to save for retirement. At a minimum, put in enough to earn your employer's match. You'll also want to review your 401(k)'s investment mix. Is it still providing you with significant growth potential within the context of your individual risk tolerance? Over time, you may need to make some adjustments, either because an investment is underperforming or because you're getting close to retirement and you need to reduce your risk exposure. In any case, it's a good idea to check up on your 401(k)'s investments at least once a year.

Your employee benefits are an important part of your overall financial picture – so do what you can to get the most from them.

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

Home Canning Tips & Tricks

Farmer's Markets are selling tomatoes and cukes in bulk, workshops on preserving produce are filling up fast and canning jar manufacturers report double digit hikes in sales. There's no doubt about it, self quarantines and the current homebound culture have spawned a renewed interest in gardens and home grown goods.

Whether canning in bulk to stock the pantry, or filling a few jelly jars for holiday gifts, the following information is geared toward helping your preserving efforts pay off in both financial and "feel good" benefits.

One of the joys of canning is the ability to literally put the fruits of your garden labor on the dinner table. For those who do not grow their own foods, a trip to a farmer's market or neighborhood farm stand can reap bushels of freshly picked produce. In rural areas, farmers typically offer boxes of produce in bulk to home canners at discounted prices.

When choosing produce for canning, overlook those with bruises or obvious imperfections. Common backyard garden vegetables such as tomatoes and cucumbers are popular candidates for canning as they offer a variety of finished products from condiments to side dishes.

A few old fashioned canning recipes can transform the versatile garden favorites into glistening jars of pantry staples. For example, tomatoes can be prepped to be canned as tomato sauce, tomato soup, tomato juice, salsa, ketchup, and more. Cucumbers transform into sweet gherkins, dill pickles, chow chow and a variety of relishes. Orchard fruits such as apples and peaches can be processed as jelly, butter, chutney, pie filling, syrups and sauces.

Proper Processing: Before choosing a preferred method of processing be sure to study the options, all of which are available in canning "how to" books or online. For safety's sake be sure your resources are up to date, since processing recommendations have changed in the past several years. The classic Ball Blue Book serves as the canners bible. Online, a reliable and free resource titled "U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Complete Guide to Home Canning," is available and can be accessed by visiting www.uga.edu/nchfp/publications/publications_usda.html

A general rule is that the traditional boiling water bath is a canning option only for high acidic foods such as fruits, preserves and some pickled vegetables. All vegetables, which are low in acid (except some that you acidify first), must be processed in a steam pressure canner. Consult a trusted resource before you attempt to can your own food, as improper processing can cause Botulism, which is a serious and often fatal form of food poisoning.

Once you have completed processing of the jars according to safety guidelines, another important step in the canning process is testing your jar seals. After jars have cooled for 16-24 hours, a few easy visual and manual tests can ensure the jars have sealed properly. After removing the screw band:

1. Press down on the middle of the lid with your finger. If the lid comes back up when you let go, the lid did not seal correctly.
2. Lift the jar to eye level and look across the top of the lid. It should curve down slightly in the center. If the center is flat or convex, the jar did not take a good seal.
3. Or, try the old fashioned "tap test." Tap the top of the lid with the bottom bowl of a teaspoon. A properly sealed lid will make a high pitched ringing sound.

According to the National Center for Food Preparation, if lids are tightly vacuum sealed on cooled jars, the screw bands may be removed before storing the jars. Before storing, jars and lids should be washed to remove any waste, and rinsed and dried. Jars should be stored in a cool dark, dry place. For best quality, store between 50 and 70 degrees and use canned products within a year.

Home Canning Recipes: Even the novice home canner can experience success with the following recipes that use fresh garden ingredients:

Pepper Jelly
This jelly, which uses up the last of the season's garden peppers, makes a festive holiday gift.

Ingredients: 3 green bell peppers, minced; 2 (4 ounce) cans diced jalapeno peppers

1 1/2 cups distilled white vinegar; 6 1/2 cups white sugar; 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper; 1 (6 fluid ounce) container liquid pectin; 5 drops green food coloring.

Directions: In a large, stainless steel

TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR



saucepan, combine peppers, vinegar, sugar, and cayenne pepper. Cook over medium high heat. Stir frequently until mixture begins to boil.

Stir in pectin; boil 5 minutes longer, stirring constantly, and mix in food coloring. Skim off foam, and remove from

heat. Ladle into sterilized jars. Seal and process in a boiling-water canner for 5 minutes.

Apple Chutney
It's apple season in New England and this chutney, made from freshly picked fruit, will be the perfect accompaniment to upcoming holiday feasts.

Ingredients: 2 quarts chopped, cored, pared tart apples (about 10 medium); 1 cup chopped onions; 1 cup chopped sweet red bell peppers (about 2 medium); 2 hot red peppers, seeded and chopped; 1 1/2 pounds seedless raisins; 4 cups brown sugar; 3 tablespoons mustard seed; 2 tablespoons ground ginger; 2 tablespoons ground allspice; 2 teaspoons canning salt; 1 clove garlic, crushed; 1 quart white vinegar (5%).

Directions: Combine all ingredients; simmer until thick, about 1 hour and 15 minutes. As mixture thickens stir frequently to prevent sticking. Pour boiling hot chutney into hot jars, leaving 1/2 inch headspace. Remove air bubbles and adjust headspace if needed. Wipe rims of jars with a dampened clean paper towel; adjust two-piece metal canning lids. Process in boiling water canner according to the altitude recommendations below. Makes about six pint jars.

Recommended process time for Apple Chutney pints in a boiling water canner (altitude chart): 1-1,000 ft, 10 minutes; 1,001-6,000 ft, 15 minutes; above 6,001 ft, 20 minutes.

Home Canning DOs and DON'Ts

DOs
· Do be sure to wash, wash, and wash again! Wash hands, all food prep surfaces and all canning supplies thoroughly before starting the canning process.

· Always wash and examine all foods to be canned. Be sure to cut out any bruises and discard any overripe fruits and vegetables.

· Do an inspection of your glass jars, old and new. Before sterilizing jars, look and feel for nicks or chips. Inspect new lids for imperfections and make sure the screw bands fit properly.

· Do use only proper glass canning jars and avoid the old time practice of reusing mayonnaise and other such jars.

· Do take advantage of farm fresh fruits and vegetables in season. Buy in bulk and process to enjoy gourmet style foods at rock bottom prices.

DON'Ts
· Never use overripe fruit. A good rule of thumb to remember is that canning can't improve the quality of food, so always begin with top quality fruits, ripe and free of bruises.

· Never add considerably more spices or seasonings than a recipe calls for. Some spices can be high in bacteria and too much of a good thing can put your safety at risk.

· Never reuse canning jar lids. Be sure to seal jars with a new, clean lid each and every time.

· Do not store filled jars above 95° F or near hot pipes, a range, a furnace, in a non insulated attic, or in direct sunlight. Under these conditions, food will lose quality in a few weeks or months and may spoil.

· Don't store jars in damp areas such as a basement. Dampness may corrode metal lids, break seals, and encourage spoilage.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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 renown 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 E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Waterfowl weather sets in



The cool and pleasant weather of this past weekend signaled the start of the Massachusetts Waterfowl season. Although only Canada Geese are legal during the first segment of the hunting season, it will not be long before the opening of ducks and Pheasant season starting on Oct. 13. This year, the early goose season started on Sept. 8, and has a liberal daily bag limit of 15 birds. It may seem like a lot, but some areas in the state are overrun with Canada Geese that are polluting lakes and ponds and golf courses with their feces.

Unfortunately for sportsmen most corn fields are not cut during the early season, which has been keeping less areas open for sportsmen to hunt. Because of the extremely hot dry summer, farmers may be cutting their corn a bit early this year. Be sure to ask for permission to hunt private property prior to the season. A little courtesy goes a long way!

Numerous other problems are the posted private property that geese find every year to hang out in. Access to these properties are often off limit to hunting, or are just too close to houses. Remember to stay at least 500 ft. from any occupied dwelling when hunting. Hundreds of local geese have been spotted in many grass fields in the past few days, and will survive the early hunting season if they continue to visit the same fields. When the regular season opens on Oct. 13, the two-bird daily limit goes into effect. Setting up a spread of Canada Goose decoys to harvest a couple of birds has kept many hunters away.

More bear sightings in Douglas this

past week have prompted local deer hunters to purchase a \$5 bear hunting stamp from Mass. Fish & Wildlife this year. There are five bear hunting seasons in Mass. this year that include rifle, hand gun, muzzleloader, archery & shotgun, with the last two being the most popular among hunters in the Central District, as they coincide with the deer season. Be sure to read the 2020 hunting season abstracts prior to hunting.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will be holding their second Wild Game Supper on Sept. 12. It was postponed because of the Covid-19 outbreak. Sportsmen that had purchased tickets to the supper this past fall can pick up their meal at the outside window starting at 2 p.m. All meals are to go only. Anyone that cannot make the meal can redeem their tickets for a full refund if they wish. The club is also planning a pig roast on Sept. 19, to benefit the Pheasant program. Tickets are \$10

each. The meal is also to go only. The club asks attendees to wear face masks at both events.

Reports of fast action on seabass in Rhode Island this past week, prompted numerous local anglers to give it a try. Knowing were to fish was the key to success. The seven fish limit on big seabass were caught using squid strips baited on a single hook, or with squid strips and jigs. Very large bluefish were mixed into the fast action. Areas around Block Island were the most productive with large and small seabass.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!



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OXFORD – 377 Main St! 9 Rm Center Hall Colonial! .59 Acre Corner Lot! Charm of Yesteryear! Eat-In Frpld Granite Kit w/Updated Cabinets, Frpld Din Rm w/Built-in China Cabinet & Butler Closet! Gracious Foyer! Spacious Frpld Liv Rm! Breezeway to a Home Office or an Unfinished Cathedral Ceiling Fam Rm or Craft Rm! Sit on the Front Porch and Enjoy Morning Coffee or Evening Tea! Huge 2-Car Garage w/Loft-Storage Area! Mature Tree Studded Yard! **\$339,000.00**

WEBSTER – 10 Wyman St! Webster Lake Neighborhood Access at Lakeside Beach & State Boat Ramp Near-by! 10,000' Lot! 1 Level Living! 11 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths! Room for the Extended Family! 2 Complete Living Quarters! A/C! LP Gas Heat! Town Services! 2 Driveways! Fenced Back Yard! 2 Sheds! **\$189,900.00**

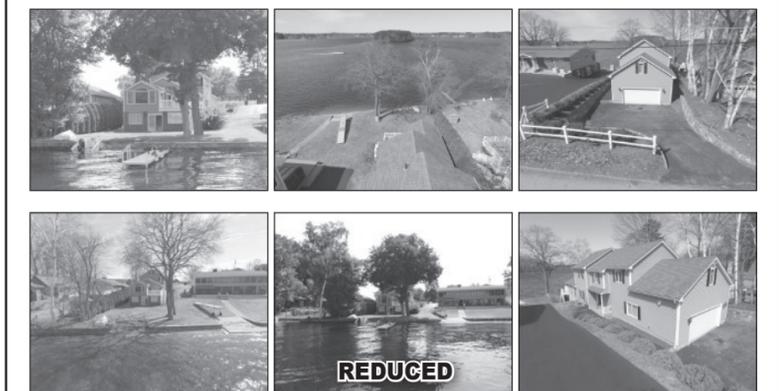


WEBSTER LAKE – 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks - Fill Up Once a Year! C/Air! Gas Fireplace! Whole House Fan! Meticulously Cared For! Large workshop! 3 Car Garage! Carport! 2 Sheds w/Electric! Back Yard is Perfect for Family Gatherings! Plenty of Off Street Parking! Summer is Here! **\$539,900.00**

HOLDEN – 315 Holden St! 6 Rm Ranch! Meticulously Maintained! 2 Spacious Bdrms, Full Tiled Bath & 1 Car Garage! Move In Ready! Granite Oak Cabinet Kit w/Tiled Back Splash & JennAir Stove! Frpld Liv Rm! Fam Rm! Gleaming Hrdwds! Perfect Yard w/Major Landscaping this Year! New Roof 2019! **\$344,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT – 3 Lakeview Rd! Middle Pond – Reid Smith Cove! Ideal Summer or Yr Round 6 Rm Ranch! Western Expo – Beautiful Sunsets! Near All the Excitement that "Indian Ranch" provides, Dining, Concerts & the Indian Princess! An Arched Bridge to Your Own Private Island, a Great Place to Enjoy the Lake from! Open Fr Plan! Being Sold Fully Furnished! Recent Kit w/Quartz Counters, Breakfast Bar, SS Appliances, Tile Flr & Recessed Lighting! Liv Rm w/Hrdwd Flr, 6x14 Lake Facing Picture Window & Stone Frpld! 3 Remodeled Bdrms w/Ceiling Fans & Hrdwd Flrs! Master w/Bath & Laundry Closet! Screen Porch w/Lake Views! Dock! Carport! Shed! Still Time for this Summer! **\$579,900.00**

GRAFTON – 168 Brigham Hill Rd! 8 Rm Garrison Colonial set on 1.3 Acres! 4 Comfortable Bdrms & 2 Full Bthrms! Freshly Painted, Floors Recently Refinished! Spacious Kit w/Lunch Counter! SS Appliances w/Gas Cook-Top! Grand Dining Rm for Family Gatherings! 19x26 Living Rm w/Pellet Stove! Master Bdrm w/Dble Closets & Hot Tub! Bright & Airy Mudroom out to the 2 Car Garage! Furnace & Hot Water Tank 5 Years Young! Radon tested at 2.5! Newer Roof on Garage & Breezeway! New Well Water Tank Installed! Title V in-hand! Property Abuts Grafton Land Trust - Hiking Trails Right Out Your Back Door! Convenient to Routes 90, 9 & 20! Immediate Occupancy! **\$449,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Appliance Granite Kit! Formal Din Rm w/Cherry Hrdwds! Lake Facing Liv Rm w/Cathedrals, Cherry Hrdwds! Slider to Waterfront Deck! Spacious 1st Flr Master Bdrm w/Full Bath, Cherry Hrdwds & Walk-in Closet! Frpld Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$949,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Nice! .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds! 297' Waterfront! \$4 Million Spent, Nothing Spared! 17 Rms! 5 Water View Bdrms, 5.5 Bathrms! Brazilian Cherry Hrdwd Flrs, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator, Ground Flr to Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bthrm w/Steam Shower off Exercise Rm! Billiard Rm! Media Rm! Center Isl Granite Kit w/Wiking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Frig, Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Fr Plan! Din Area, Fam Rm w/Entertainment Center w/Wet Bar! Formal Din Rm, Frpld Liv Rm & Atrium! Library w/Deck! Waterfront Master Suite w/Office, Bdrm w/Triple Glass Dr to Private Deck w/Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Bathrm w/Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool, Dble Vanity, Separate Commode/Bidet/Sink Area! 16 Z's of Updated Geothermal Heat/A/C! Recessed Lights & Fire Sprinklers Through Out! 3 Car Garage! Generator! Slate Roof! Reward Yourself! **\$2,499,900.00**

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WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD
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OXFORD - 4 LEICESTER ST
LAND LAND Great Opportunity for Developer! Total 8.47 +/- acres. Commuter access to several state highways. Scenic nature views. **\$89,900.**

THOMPSON - 452 FAYAN ROAD
ON DEPOSIT
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WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD
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WEBSTER - 39 OLD DOUGLAS RD
First time offered! Lovingly cared for ranch situated on 1 acre! Recent improvements: windows, siding, gutters & new composite rear deck. Cabinet packed kitchen to the cedar closets. 3 full baths! Master Bath with laundry! Lower Level - Potential for an in-law or extra personal space for the Kiddos!!! Don't miss out on this one!!! **\$338,000.**

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

WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE
ON DEPOSIT
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 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 frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! **\$1,075,000.**

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Spencer - Cherry St - 1st time on the market! Antique 5 bdrm, 2 ba home w/ original, charming features throughout. 3-season enclosed porch. Large family room, living room & dining room w/ hardwood floors. Beautiful yard w/ patio & garden space. **\$319,900.**

East Brookfield - Oakland Dr - Extraordinary timber frame 4 bdrm, 2 full, 2 half bath home. Large living room w/ vaulted & beamed ceilings. Gourmet kitchen w/ center island, cherry cabinets, breakfast bar. Master-suite w/ private bath, jetted tub, walk-in closets. Heated garage! **\$599,900**

Leicester - Sargent St - 3 buildings w/ 13000 sq ft of space. Detached warehouse/storage building & a single family antique colonial home w/ in-law apartment. Two separate parcels - 1 w/ business building/parking lot & other w/ house & storage building. **\$549,000**

Spencer - Ridge Rd - Attention builders! Rolling Ridge Estates! Four-1+ acre lots near the Paxton line. Definitive Subdivision Plan in hand. Fantastic location with less than 15 minutes to Tabruk Square, minute to Moore State Park, St. Josephs Abbey, swimming @ Brooks & Browning Ponds! **\$215,000**

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SNOW REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

The Town of Auburn Department of Public Works is accepting applications for snow plowing for the 2020 - 2021 fiscal year.
 Applications may be obtained electronically from the Department of Public Works - Highway Division by emailing pdagostino@town.auburn.ma.us.
 Applications are also available on the Town's website www.auburnguide.com, under the Public Works - Highway Division.
 Application must be returned to the DPW by October 9, 2020 by mail or delivered to the drop box at the DPW located at 5 Millbury Street, Auburn, MA.
 The Town of Auburn reserves the right to waive any informalities and accept or reject any or all applications, or portions of such, if thought to be in the best interest of the Town

Kenneth Fairbanks
 Highway Superintendent

Trailer For Sale
 with enclosed porch located at Indian Ranch, Webster, site G13. Completely furnished. All appliances included and extras. Refrigerator, over/under wash/dry, A/C, Heat. View at www.indianranch.com.
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Under the general direction of the Building Commissioner, the Administrative Assistant is responsible for performing skilled administrative and secretarial work. High School Diploma required, Associates Degree in related field desirable, and two to three years of office experience; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Thorough knowledge of office practices, office equipment and computers software to include MS Word & Excel along with knowledge of applicable Massachusetts General Laws. Hourly rate: 22.31.
 Deadline for applications is 09/15/2020. Applications can be found at https://townofcharlton.net/158/Human-Resources.
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OBITUARIES

Patricia E. Starosta, 80



WEBSTER – Patricia E. (Landry) Starosta, 80, died Tuesday, September 1, 2020 in the presence of her family.

She leaves her husband of 58 years, Clemence A. “Clem” Starosta; 4 daughters, Michelle C. Fasshauer and her husband Michael of Thompson, CT, Theresa E. Haggerty and her husband Kyle of Charlton, Jean M. Kirby and her husband Timothy of Oxford, and Joanne B. Grzembki and her husband Edward

of Webster; 10 grandchildren, Joshua, Adam, Rebecca, Thomas, Elizabeth, Andrew, Patrick, Sean, Anthony and Allison; 2 great-granddaughters, Kamryn and Ellieana; a brother, Richard Landry, Sr. of Claremont, NH; a nephew, Richard Landry, Jr.; and cousins.

She was born on August 7, 1940 in Claremont, NH, the younger child of Oscar J. and Alberta I. (McCullough) Landry, and graduated from Stevens High School in 1958, where she had been a member of the swim team. She completed studies at Burbank Hospital School of Nursing in 1961 and graduat-

ed as a registered nurse.

Mrs. Starosta worked in all facets of nursing at Hubbard Regional Hospital in Webster for 44 years before retiring in 2005. She was employed as an EMT for the Webster Ambulance Squad and the school nurse at Nichols College in Dudley for many years. She was a CPR and First Aid Instructor for the American Red Cross.

She was a communicant of St. Joseph Basilica and a member and committee chairman for the St. Joseph Polish Women’s Club. When her daughters were growing up, she was a girl scout leader for Troop 494. She also belonged

to the PAV Auxiliary.

Her funeral was held Friday, September 4, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. A time of visitation was held from 9:00 to 10:30 AM Friday in the funeral home, prior to the Mass. Donations in her name may be made to either St. Joseph Elementary School, 47 Whitcomb Street, or to the Webster Ambulance Squad, 67 Thompson Road, both in Webster, MA 01570.

www.websterfunerals.com

Antiques, collectibles, and auction news

It has been over two months since my last update on antiques, collectibles, and auction news. As you might expect, much has occurred since then, including a recently uncovered fake work of art.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

The Los Angeles Times reported that a statue attributed to Paul Gauguin that was on display in the J. Paul Getty Museum has now been hidden away in a storeroom. The Getty Museum purchased “Head with Horns” while it was on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in 2002. The Los Angeles Times reported that the Getty described it as a “superb example” of Gauguin’s work. Fabrice Fourmanoir is a Tahitian art dealer who has stud-

ied Gauguin’s works. Fourmanoir informed the LA Times that he was contacted in 2002 by Wildenstein & Co. of New York who was handling the sale of the statue. He told them that he did not believe it was Gauguin’s work because it was smoother than the rougher pieces Gauguin created. Fourmanoir also noted that Gauguin never used a plinth (according to Merriam-Webster: a usually square block serving as a base) in his works. Additional research found that the plinth contained lacewood, which does not grow in Tahiti. Gauguin only used Tahitian wood. Photos of the artwork were later discovered that belonged to Gauguin’s friend,

Jules Agostini. Agostini took photos of the statue in 1894 a year before he met Gauguin and while Gauguin was still in France. The new evidence has led the Getty Museum to now attribute the statue to an unknown artist instead of Gauguin.

In more positive news, a 1950’s coin operated children’s Pegasus ride sold well at auction recently. The Antiques and Arts Weekly reported on the sale of the Pegasus. “The symbol of speed and power, this example predated Mobil’s adoption of the steed as its US trademark in 1968,” they wrote. It brought \$25,200.

A space suit from Stanley Kubrik’s movie “2001: A Space Odyssey” recently sold at auction, according to Vanity Fair. The space suit is believed to have been worn by Keir Dullea during the final shut-down sequence of the HAL 9000 computer. It sold for \$370,000,

well above the \$200,000 estimate.

Another item is expected to bring an even larger figure. Smithsonian Magazine reported that the world’s most expensive coin is headed to auction. According to the magazine report “the rare silver dollar is thought to be one of the first, if not the very first, coins minted in the newly independent United States of America.” The coin will fetch much more than pocket change with its \$10 million estimate.

We will feature coins from three different estates in our October 29th online multi-estate auction. There is still time to consign for that sale. The preview for our Warren, R.I. auction takes place on Sept. 12 with bidding ending on Sept. 16. Please see the link on our website to register and bid on this auction. I will be appraising items for the Townsend Historical Society’s virtual apprais-



al event on October 10th. Participants can submit photos of their items to the Townsend Historical Society in advance. You can also bring your items in person on the day of the event, and I will appraise them virtually. Please keep checking www.centralmassauctions.com for information on upcoming events.

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 trees now for decades of shade and beauty

Cooler temperatures and warm soil make fall a great time to add trees to your landscape. Make the most of this investment of money and time and give your tree its best chance at survival with proper planting and care.

Select a tree suited to the growing

conditions, your landscape design and available space. Make sure it tolerates the sunlight, soil and temperature extremes. Check the tag for the mature height and spread. You’ll have a better-looking plant that always fits the space with minimal pruning.



Avoid planting near overhead utilities since trees and power lines make for a dangerous combination. Contact your underground utility locating service at least three business days before placing the first shovel in the ground. It’s free and all you need to do is call 811 or file an online request.

Once the area is marked, you can get busy planting. Ensure your tree thrives for many years to come with proper planting. Dig a saucer shaped hole three to five times wider than the root ball. It should only be as deep as the distance from the root flare to the bottom of the root ball. The root flare, where the roots bend away from the trunk, should always be at or slightly above the soil surface.

Set the tree in the hole, then peel back and cut away any burlap and wire cages. These can eventually constrict root growth. Roughen the sides of the hole and backfill with the existing soil. Water thoroughly to moisten the roots and surrounding soil.

Continue to water thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist. Proper watering, especially during the first two years, is critical for establishing trees. Watering thoroughly as needed encourages deep roots and a more drought tolerant and pest resistant tree.

Monitor soil moisture near the trunk and beyond the rootball. Since many containerized trees are grown in soilless

mix, the rootball dries out more quickly than the surrounding soil. Adjust your watering technique and schedule to accommodate this difference.

Mulch the soil surface with a two- to three-inch layer of woodchips or shredded bark to conserve water, suppress weeds and improve the soil as it decomposes. Pull the mulch back from the trunk of the tree to avoid disease problems.

Remove any tags that can eventually girdle the tree and prune out any broken or rubbing branches. Wait a year to fertilize and two years, once the tree is established, for additional pruning.

Continue providing tender loving care for at least the first two years. Make regular checkups, prune to create a strong structure, and keep grass, weeds and lawn care equipment away from the trunk throughout the lifetime of your tree. Your efforts will be rewarded with years of beauty and shade.

Gardening expert Melinda Myers has more than 30 years of horticulture experience and has written over 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. Myers is the host of *The Great Courses “How to Grow Anything” DVD series* and the nationally syndicated *Melinda’s Garden Moment TV & radio segments*. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers’ Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS



LEGALS

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER G.L., C.255, SECTION 39A
Notice is hereby given by: Farrar Auto Body, Inc. 204 Main Street Oxford, MA 01540
Pursuant to the provisions of G.L., c.255, Section 39A that on September 18, 2020 at 9:00 AM at: 204 Main Street Oxford, MA 01540 by Private Sale, the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.
Vehicle Description: Year: 2015 Nissan Rogue
Registration#/State: Un Reg
Vin: KNMAT2MV3FP520254
Name and address of vehicle owner: Tanya L. Holmes, 272 Providence St, Putnam CT 06260
By David C Farrar 8/24/20
September 4, 2020
September 11, 2020
September 25, 2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division Docket No. 20P1412 Estate of: Mary M Malloy

Date Of Death: March 22, 2020 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Dana S Smith of Glen Mills PA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Dana S Smith of Glen Mills PA 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.
September 11, 2020

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