



Dudley police grateful for success of toy drive

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Every year, the Dudley Police Department steps up to help those in need in their communities through a variety of programs during the holiday season. In 2020, the department’s contributions were probably more needed than ever as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the livelihoods of many and forced local seniors and high-risk members of the community to reduce their exposure and remain indoors.

Dudley’s holiday efforts started in November with the department’s annual toy drive. Approximately 21 local families, including 62 children, benefited from the drive which say toys, clothing and other gift items distributed on Dec. 21 just before the Christmas holiday. According to a release from the Dudley Police Department, the outpouring of generosity from the public was “robust” and an “incredible effort” to give back to those in



Dudley Police Officer Chandler Boyd, Officer David Carpenter, and Chief Steve Wojnar stand with donations to the department’s annual toy drive.

need in the town. More than 500 gift cards and several thousand dollars were also donated toward the effort from private donors and public groups and businesses such as the Fels’ Family Foundation, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Jimmy’s Pizza, and the Bowlin, Rottman, and Brosnihan families. The Dudley Little League also made a generous donation of \$870 after initiating a challenge earlier in 2020 where league president Dan Colello agreed to plunge into Marino Pond if they raised \$500 by Dec 20. The effort exceeded that goal. Walmart in Oxford also donated a large sum of toys to the cause. Sgt. Marek Karłowicz and Officer Chandler Boyd were credited with organizing the 2020 toy drive. The toys leftover after the distribution were distributed to other families in need with the assistance of outside organizations like the Webster Dudley Food Share.

Toys and gifts weren’t

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Oxford honors Employees of the Year

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – Selectmen went into the holiday season by celebrating the accomplishments of a couple of town employees just before Christmas.

Town Manager Jen Callahan surprised Assistant Senior Center Director Laura Wilson with the Employee of the Year award, then honored retiring Health Agent Tom Purcell for his 43 years of service to Oxford.

Regarding Wilson, Callahan said she watched all town staff “give their best effort ... in a totally new routine” of having to deal with Covid-19 restrictions. During that observation, she was looking for ones who “really step up and give leadership,” watched “how they deliver customer service and how the employee actually acts” toward people on a daily basis, and whether they “extend that helping hand” to others.

Wilson, she said, “has actually taken two departments through this tumultuous time” – the senior center and town clerk’s office. Callahan noted she received several positive comments from seniors about Wilson and added she also volunteers at the Oxford Food Pantry.

Wilson said she was “totally caught off guard” by the announcement (she was at the meeting to report on the reignited senior food program). “I’ve got so much going on in my life right now, and that’s a huge bright spot.”

Selectmen praised Wilson for her “dedication, kindness and attitude,” while other town employees thanked her for professionalism in dealing with their departments.

The recognition was not a surprise to Purcell, who announced his

intent to retire some time ago. Callahan and the board praised him for a wide range of activities since 1977, including work on the fire department (including as chief), planning and zoning boards, Town Manager Search Committee, and health department – a list Acting Chair Meghan Troiano described as “a plethora of essential services.”

“You’re a man who has worn many hats here, and it’s certainly sad to see you retire.”

“I really enjoyed this rollercoaster ride,” Purcell replied, later joking his wife wondered if they had a job for him.

On the board nearly as long as Purcell worked for the town, John Saad said he’s seen Purcell’s “dedication to this community, and it’s been unmatched.” Among other things, he noted Purcell handled the interpersonal challenges of being the one enforcing the law well despite criticism.

“It’d take forever and a day for you to go over everything you’ve done,” he observed.

Purcell didn’t try to do that, but recalled specifically how he began. In 1977, he applied to the Fire Department “to add some excitement to my resume.”

“The first time, the town manager told me I was crazy and threw me out of his office,” he said. A week later, the town called him back and gave him the job.

Years later, he’d climbed the fire ladder to the top. Michael Daniels talked about the fact many people told him of Purcell’s response at a lumberyard fire. There, a facade collapsed, so Purcell had hoses redirect their water so he could go in and “dig out some of your firefighters.”

“You have molded the

lives of many people,” Daniels said.

For Purcell, that was “the most fulfilling thing” about serving – getting others involved.

“I must have had impact. I hope I did, or they wanted to do better than I did, which is fine,” Purcell said.

“You epitomize the Jeremy Bentham concept of doing the greatest good for the greatest number,” Fire Chief Laurent McDonald said.

Callahan later said she had recently interviewed to fill Purcell’s Health Director job, and was then negotiating with her preferred choice.

In other business, Wilson noted the senior center’s food program was up and running well over the past few months, after being in limbo for some time, thanks largely to Debra Bayer. Although it was doing both eat-in and take-out, it became entirely take-out Christmas week due to Covid.

Selectmen also set the 2021 Annual Town Meeting for Wednesday, May 5 at the high school, although its exact location (gym, auditorium or outdoors) will be determined later. They opened the warrant, which will close March 30.

Covid was also the major subject of Callahan’s manager’s report. She noted the first nine months of the pandemic saw 198 total cases, but it had dropped to zero active by early November. In the five weeks before their Dec. 22 meeting, though, there were more than 420 cases, with 86 active in the last two weeks.

The spike was “somewhat anticipated” and driven largely by the fact “whole families are getting infected and coming down with it almost simultaneously,” she

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Microenterprise grant available to Dudley businesses

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Grants are still being offered to small businesses in Dudley effected by the COVID-19 pandemic through a Community Development Block Grant initiative hosted by host town Leicester.

Called the Community Development Block Grant COVID-19 Microenterprise Assistance Program, the grant is administered by the Central Massachusetts Regional

Planning Commission on behalf of six communities including host town Leicester, Brookfield, Dudley, Millbury, North Brookfield, and Brookfield. Funds for the grant were appropriated through the CARES Act in 2020 with applications opening in October and, as of the first weekend in January, remaining available to qualified businesses. The grant program is specifically designated to assist microenterprises in participating towns which are businesses with five

or less employees including the owner of the enterprise as of the date of application.

Participating businesses must meet specific qualifications in order to apply. These including being a for-profit entity, provide goods and services to multiple clients and customers, must have been established and operating prior to January of 2019, must be current on all taxes due as of March of 2020 and must meet US Department

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Webster’s Michele Stone receives promotion in rank



Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis presenting newly promoted Captain Michele Stone of Webster with rank insignia gold bars signifying her promotion to the rank of Captain.

WEST BOYLSTON – Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis announced he has promoted Lt. Michele Stone to the rank of Webster to the rank of Captain.

“The Worcester

County Sheriff’s Office is pleased to announce the promotion of Lieutenant Michele Stone to the rank of Captain. Captain Stone will immediately begin serving in this important role

and leadership position at our correctional facility. All promotions at the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office are based on merit, work ethic and a dedication to service.

Turn To **STONE** page **A14**

Ruda reflects on challenges of 2020

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – The year 2020 will go down in infamy as one of the most trying years the world has seen in quite some time. As states and nations shut down to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic, communities across the nation were forced to evolve and adapt with the times balancing budgets, ever changing safety protocols and public forums. Officials in Dudley, like many towns, found themselves in a position of trying to juggle state mandates while still providing the expected services to members of the community. If you ask Town Administrator Jonathan

Ruda, Dudley passed the test with flying colors. Ruda said Dudley’s leadership responded with a “light touch” to enforcement during the pandemic and its authority to take a “hardline approach” to managing the situation. With no defined blueprint or mitigation plan and state officials suspending rules for open meetings and elections and implementing new mandates near weekly the town had to formulate its own response plan to effectively adapt to state requirements but also provide the services expected to the citizens of Dudley. “In Dudley, facing these challenges required increased public health

staffing and funding, increased legal expenses to interpret what the ever-changing and often conflicting orders, guidance and laws that were being handed down and an urgent need to purchase, implement and train to the technology that would be required to keep local government open, often remotely to continue to serve residents. To describe what it is like is difficult to say the least, but I can say that it absolutely required collaboration with neighboring towns and constant internal communication, debate and discussion to work,” Ruda said of 2020. “The Town responded with common sense, with

strong and educated decisions and with a single goal of making the best decisions that it could for the community knowing that as difficult as it may have been or may continue to be to ‘evolve’ with the pandemic, there were members of the community and business owners that were far worse off and facing far more difficult circumstances. The town recognized that, for better or worse, local government is the face of government for many members of the community and our goal was to serve them, not oppose or appear to be victimizing them, and the evidence suggests that the community responded, in the vast majority very well to

this approach.” The pandemic certainly included a learning curve for both state and local officials. Ruda admitted that early on it was evidence to him that the federal and state governments weren’t reacting quickly enough to the events unfolding and that local governments were not prepared or equipped for what was to come. This required numerous work-around and changes in approach which eventually included hiring a Dudley-specific public health nurse and, late in the year, closing the town hall twice and implementing a drive-through service for citizens as the second wave of the virus worsened with the holidays approaching. Ruda said the town has done well to adapt but they also discovered just how unprepared they were for a worst-case scenario which officials plan to make a priority to address in 2021. “Municipal buildings were closed, but local governments were still required to deliver services to both the internal departmental customer and external citizen customer. From the perspective of staffing, technology, infrastructure and modernization, Dudley’s Town Government is behind the eight ball. That was identified and known going prior to the pandemic and was being addressed but the vulnerabilities were brought into a specific light over the course of the past year,” said Ruda. “In 2021, the town should prepare for a very tight budget, with priority spending being directed toward improved service delivery models, such as online permitting and licensing, employee train-

ing and recruitment and a further, critical evaluation of staffing needs and technology that support those models.” Ruda gave credit to the entire citizenship of Dudley who he says came together during the pandemic to check on neighbors, shop for the elderly, and work together to keep the town moving forward even in a time where the idea was to remain still and wait for the pandemic to finally end. “The town has excelled in coming together (albeit while following the social distancing guidance) internally to get the job done and proven how much better we function collaboratively. The same lesson can be applied to neighboring towns and the relationship that the district towns have maintained with the schools’ leadership teams. We would never have gotten this far, with such a measure of success, and never would have realized how detrimental the some of the past practices of operating independently and in a silo can be on an organization or a community. Quite the irony when the rule of the day is to stay away,” said Ruda. Going into 2021 Dudley is hoping for the best, but citizens can expect more of the same in terms of town hall availability at least for the first month or two. With the anticipation that COVID-19 cases will only continue to rise in the early part of the month, Dudley officials will continue to serve citizens in a socially distanced manner, but Ruda says he is hopefully and optimistic that normalcy will arrive sooner rather than later in 2021.

Dudley police close 2020 with multiple arrests

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – Dudley police were busy in late 2020 with traffic stops resulting in three arrests in the last 11 days of the year. A pre-holiday motor vehicle stop led to the arrest of a Southbridge man on drunk driving and drug related charges. Dudley Police released details on a motor vehicle stop conducted on Sunday, Dec. 20 at around 12:21 a.m. where officers questioned 19-year-old operator Leonardo Hernandez who admitted to having been drinking while driving the vehicle. Police noted that both open and unopened bottled of alcohol were observed by officers on scene. Further investigation found that Hernandez was also driving with drug parapher-

nal in his car with marijuana, around 50 plastic baggies, a digital scale, \$369 in cash and other items all found during an inspection of the vehicle. Hernandez also has a Texas Buyer plate on his vehicle which was unregistered. Hernandez was charged with possession of less than an ounce of marijuana, possession with intent to distribute a class D substance, marked lane violations, open alcohol container violations, possessing liquor under the age of 21, driving and uninsured vehicle and failure to attach plates. He was released on a \$240 cash bail before his arraignment on Dudley District Court at a later date. A day later Dudley Police reported yet another arrest for driving under the influence. On Monday, Dec. 21 at around 10:48 p.m. Dudley

officers observed a vehicle crossing the yellow lane at high speed to pass another vehicle on West Main Street. Officers performed a vehicle stop and discovered the operator was 28-year-old Texas resident Edwin Santiago who was unlicensed in both Texas and Massachusetts. Santiago was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, unlicensed operation, speeding, and failure to obey marked lanes. He was released on a \$290 cash bail and is to be arraigned in Dudley District Court. Finally, the third arrest took place closer to New Year’s Day on Dec. 27 and did not involve driving under the influence. At around 12:44 p.m. Dudley officers were conducting a routine registration query when they discovered that a Nissan Sentra

being driven on Airport Road had an inactive registration. Furthermore, the plates on the Nissan were registered to a different vehicle and the registered owner had a suspended license. Police conducted a motor vehicle stop and confirmed the operator was the registered owner Derek Cournoyer whose license was under suspension and had several outstanding warrants for his arrest. Cournoyer was placed into custody on charges of operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating and uninsured motor vehicle, operating under a suspended license which was a subsequent offense, failure to attach plates, and for the two outstanding out of agency warrants. All three arrests occurred without incident and all suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty.



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OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 8:30AM-4:30PM

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
(508) 909-4101
frank@stonebridgepress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
(603) 677-9082
ryan@salmonpress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
(508) 909-4105
production@stonebridgepress.news

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
(508) 909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

ADVERTISING STAFF

LOCAL ADVERTISING STAFF
PATRICIA OWENS,
ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE
(508)909-4135
patricia@stonebridgepress.news

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St. Joseph students make music in spite of COVID



Members of Sr. Jeanne Marie Akalski's Fourth Grade Class at St. Joseph School use American Sign Language to perform the song, "Season of Hope."

WEBSTER — Despite being unable to sing during music classes due to COVID-19 restrictions, the proceeds from this past spring's Festival, Food, Family, and Fund fundraiser still benefitted St. Joseph School students. These funds were earmarked for the St. Joseph School Music Program, and helped provide music instruction for all Grades Pre-k through Grade 8.

This year's music program is designed to meet COVID-19 guidelines. During his weekly lessons, Instructor Andrew Pariseau spends more time teaching music fundamentals, such as counting and rhythm reading, teaching the different music genres, and music from around the world. He also focuses on developing a greater understanding of the impact music has on society. This year, an additional goal was to create a Christmas presentation to replace the Annual Christmas Pageant, which was canceled due to the pandemic. Therefore, Mr. Pariseau designed a Christmas show that incorporates movements based on American Sign Language because all students are required to wear masks and maintain a safe distance during their performance. Songs include: Pre-K 3-Year-Old Program – "Snowflakes are Falling," Pre-K 4-Year-Old Program – "Reindeer Pokey," Kindergarten – S-A-N-T-A, Grade One – "Mary Had a Baby," Grade Two – "Rocks for Christmas," Grade Three – "Makin' Cookies," Grade Four – "Season of Hope," Grade Five – "Christmas at the Hop," Grade 6 – "Christmas Line Dance," Grade 7 – "The 12 Days of Christmas," and Grade 8 – "Hallelujah Chorus" and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Courtesy

WEBSTER TIMES

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

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WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (943-3875)	
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REAL ESTATE

Dudley

\$253,000, 71 Mason Rd, Oliveri, Nicholas, and Oliveri, Stefanie, to Willard, Fred A.

\$110,000, Progress Ave #3, Dupont William Est, and Dupont, Richard, to Fournier, Paul J, and Fournier, Patricia A.

\$110,000, Progress Ave #4, Dupont William Est, and Dupont, Richard, to Fournier, Paul J, and Fournier, Patricia A.

\$110,000, Progress Ave #6, Dupont William Est, and Dupont, Richard, to Fournier, Paul J, and Fournier, Patricia A.

\$110,000, Progress Ave #7, Dupont William Est, and Dupont, Richard, to Fournier, Paul J, and Fournier, Patricia A.

\$110,000, Progress Ave #8, Dupont William Est, and Dupont, Richard, to Fournier, Paul J, and Fournier, Patricia A.

\$26,900, Southbridge Rd, Nieski, Martin L, to 7 West Dudley Road LLC.

\$325,000, 39 Lyons Rd, Dziembowski, John F, to Thomas, Katharine E, and Thomas, Edward L.

\$74,900, 71-C Dudley Hill Rd, Phillips, Dianne V, to Manzano, Nicholas A, and Manzano, Heather M.

\$68,000, 71-B Dudley Hill Rd, Phillips, Dianne V, to Kurpiel, John, and Kurpiel, Maria.

Oxford

\$312,000, 3 Wild Rose St, Wilson, Dianne, to Hurley, Erin I.

\$310,000, 427 Main St, Murray, Wesley J, and Murray, Earlyne M, to Danforth, Michael J, and Dicicco, Pamela.

\$304,900, 247 Main St, Robert J Miller Inc, to Waterfront& Inv LT, and Hawker, Mark F.

\$285,000, 6 Prospect St, Farrell, Joshua E, to Williams, Brian, and Williams, Kristin.

\$272,500, 83 Dana Rd, Moran A Gary Est, and Scanlon, Patrick J, to StPeter, Joshua E.

\$100,000, Fort Hill Rd, French Riv Enterprises, to Fort Hill FT, and Pare, Michael M.

\$345,000, 69 McIntyre Rd, Lepore, Naida, to Hughes, Joseph W, and Hotte, Michaela E.

\$325,000, 27 Tanner Rd, Pratt,

Kelly, to Brennan, Peter J, and Brennan, Erin M.

\$320,000, 5 Wayne Ave, Arnold, Amber M, and Comptois, Eric R, to Gomez-Rodriguez, Steven, and Rodriguez, Lisbeth.

\$140,000, 256 Old Webster Rd, Mccart, Jacob, and Mccart, Kelsey, to Robinson, Clifford J.

Paxton

\$555,000, 12 Arrowhead Dr, Macarchuk, Neal J, to Amador, Kimairys A, and Delgado, Ricardo.

\$327,000, 71 Pleasant St, Benson, Monica J, and Benson, Kyle D, to Strazzere, Shawna M, and Desousa, Cassandra L.

Webster

\$319,900, 132 N Main St, 73 Willard Road LLC, to Kappa, David D, and Darwulo, Kulubo B.

\$291,000, 198 Lower Gore Rd, Pimental, Michael A, to Garcia, Tavaughn A.

\$207,000, 31 Overlook Ave, Ketcham, Luann V, to Thibeault, James, and Riley, Dayna.

\$160,000, 18 Greystone Ave, Romanek Elizabeth G Est, and Casavant, Laurie J, to Casavant, Laurie J.

\$395,000, 52 Whitcomb St, Czarnecki, Anthony, to JMIN LLC.

\$310,000, 115 Minebrook Rd, Papadopoulos, Demetre, and Papadopoulos, Konstantinos, to Quang, Ryan.

\$290,000, 408 Beacon Park #408, Rockledge Properties LLC, to Stockhaus, Richard K, and Stockhaus, Hope E.

\$280,000, 604 Beacon Park #604, Patenaude, Joel, and Hoffstein, Judy, to Grandy, Gail M.

\$244,000, 84 Lake St, Lavin, John C, to Lavin, Katrina, and Holmes, Edward F.

\$240,000, 111 E Main St, JJC Of Webster LLC, to Sahill LLC.

\$224,900, 21 3rd St #B, Foint, Aaron J, and Mercier-Foint, Julieanne, to Perez-Manrique, Ana.

\$190,000, 34 Eastern Ave #O, Sujdak, Matthew, to Missert, Claudia, and Missert, Robert P.

\$175,000, 222 Gore Rd, Guilbeault, James M, and Guilbeault, Brenda L, to Nguyen, Huong T.

\$158,000, 6 Beach St, Rose, Kristen A, to Radivonyk, Bonnie.

LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests from Dec. 18-31.

Leonardo Rojas Hernandez, age 19, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 20 for Possession of Marijuana (in an amount less than one ounce), Possession of a Class D Drug with Intent to Distribute, a Marked Lanes Violation, Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle, Possession of Alcohol by a Person Under 21, operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle, and a Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID.

Edwin Omar Santiago Santiago, age 28, of Port Arthur, Texas was arrested on Dec. 21 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Speeding at a Rate of Speed Exceeding the Posted Limit, and Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Kelsi Anne Burns, age 28, of Southbridge was arrested on Dec. 23 for a Motor Vehicle Lights Violation and in connection with an out of agency warrant.

Derek R. Cournoyer, age 36, of Spencer was arrested on Dec. 27 for operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License (subsequent offense), a Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID, and in connection with multiple out of agency warrants.

Friday's Child



Photo by by Mike Ritter

Nyla
Age 10

Hi! My name is Nyla and dancing and singing make me happy!

Nyla is a very friendly girl of Hispanic descent. Her nationality is Dominican and Puerto Rican. She can be cute and sassy! Her favorite color is blue, and she likes cats and dogs. Her favorite hairstyles are half up and half down and space buns. For coping strategies, Nyla uses an oatmeal bath when upset. She states that it makes her feel good, clean, and relaxed. Nyla's favorite food is lasagna and her favorite games are Sorry, Skip-bo, and Mancala. She also likes to create fidgets. She loves to be around others and is very social. A few of Nyla's talents are dancing, swimming, drawing, and making jewelry. Nyla also likes music and enjoys singing along to it. She is very artistic.

Nyla is very intelligent, motivated to learn, and especially enjoys reading and math. She is very bright and excels in and loves school. There are no concerns about Nyla's behaviors in school. She states that she'd like to be a cosmetologist when she is older. Her clinician describes her as hilarious and explains that spending time with her always includes a lots of laughter.

Legally freed for adoption, Nyla will thrive in most any family constellation with older children or no other children in the home. Families interested in starting a relationship with Nyla as a visiting resource with weekly visits will certainly be consider and encouraged. Nyla resides in Eastern MA. Her new family should be willing to help her visit with her biological siblings on a regular basis and possibly her maternal grandmother who lives in Western Massachusetts. There is an open adoption agreement in place for three visits per year with her birth mother.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit www.mareinc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

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SHEPHERD HILL REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

DUDLEY — Principal William F. Chaplin, Jr., has announced the Honor Roll for the First Quarter of the 2020-2021 school year at Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

Class of 2024 – Grade 9

First Honors
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Lanpher, Caleb Leoncio, Payton Leone, Abigail Linde, Devin Lugo, Rowan Magee, Cayleigh Mayen, Sophia McClay, Lucas Miglionico, Emma Moodley, Blake Norcross, Mario Perkins, Rachel Reynolds, Peyton Sanborn, Ashton Sirimongkhoun, Ava Sousa, Kylie St. Laurent, Lea Vanskike, Gianna Verdolino

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Recognition
Yarellys Acosta-Bernazar, Katherine Alicea, Teddie Amaral, Lily Bateman, Madison Beckman, Brooklyn Bonczyk, Jaidyn Brosnihan, Nathaniel Chute, Angelina Demce, Michaela Ebbeling, Kaylee Fox, Shannon Germain, Emma Girasuolo, Gavin Grenier, Lillian Henry, Charles Karp, Bryce Langlais, Maxton McPhee, Grace Nixon, Brady O’Neill, Pancham Patel, Nikolai Quezada, Madison Stewart, Brayden Thompson, Karlee White

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Second Honors
Kody Bartkus, Julia Butler, Alexandria Christenson, Zachary Christenson, Ethan Chumsantivut, Joshua Cook, Abigail Cooper, Opal Cronin-Loggie, Samantha D’Arcangelo, Stephen Ekstrom, Henry Fredette, Taylor Gavaletz, Alyson Gering, Jordan Goulas, Madeline Grenier, Amelie Jarvis, Logan Jones, Andrew Kania, Taylor Kochinskas, George Koronis, Margaret Landry, Hannah Langevin, Jack Levesque, Safwan Macharia, Evelyn Magee, Kylie Mansfield, Joshua Martin, Jason Mayotte, Jessica Milewski, Erin Moran, Olivia Mountain, Jordan Ouellette, Meghna Patel, Sebastian Podgorny, Patrysia Rivera Kwiatkowska, Piotr Skoczylas, Reis Smith, Natalie Szabo, Alexandra Tetlow, Jillian Tucker

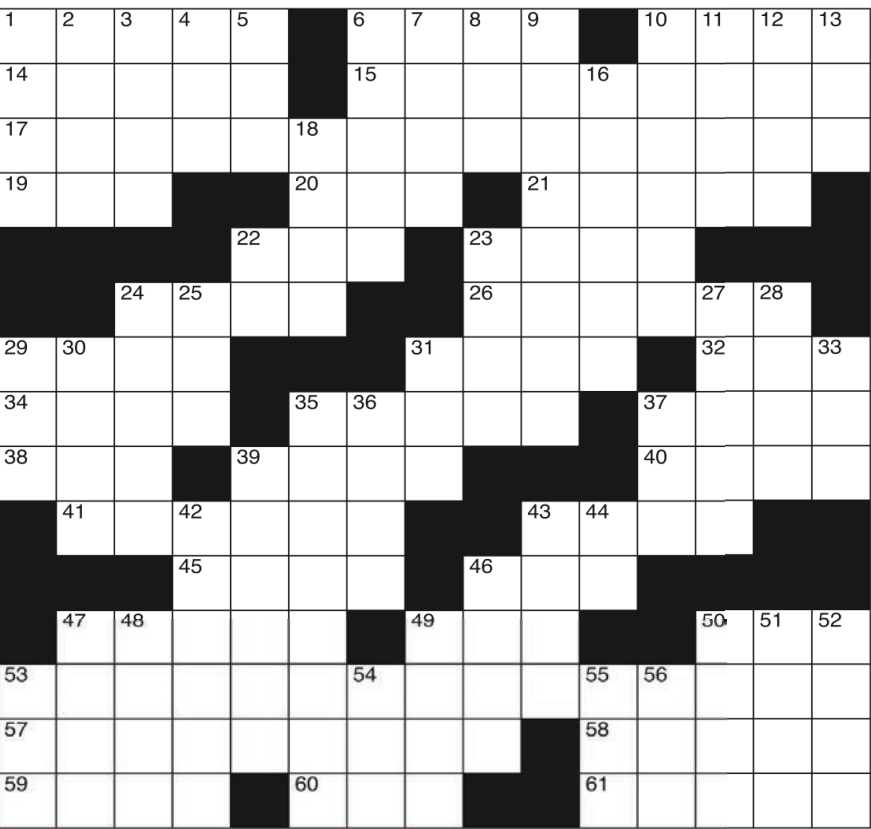
Recognition
Yanellie Andino, Michalyn Annese, Mina Boktor, Emily Brill, Nathaniel Brown, Cy Ducharme, Olivia Evans, Nicole Faulkner, McKayla Flanders, Adrian Golemo, Kiley Hanlan, Cal Hopkins, Zakary Janusz, Braedon Jarvis, Keiran Kay, Patrick Lamarine, Nathaniel Lamoureux, Annaka Lindstrom, Grace MacGinnis, Brayden Michaelson, Isabella O’Brien, Jacob Roberts, Heryanna Rodriguez-Baez, Kalli Rojas, Kaylie Santos, Cole Smith, Ella Springer, Hannah Stegenga, Hayley Stegenga, Kaden Taparausky, Sofia Vangel, Jayvon Zajkowski-Gonzalez

Class of 2021 – Grade 12

First Honors
David Acquaaah-Mensah, Michael Alicea, Alex Anuszkiewicz Anthony Awad, Owen Ayotte, Samuel Bailen, Samantha Balko, Jared Barrows, Cutter Beck, Aleah Begg, Dylan Berk, Timothy Berthiaume, Kara Bilis, Claudia Bonaventura, Erin Bouffard, Natalie Boutiette, Ricky Bowden, Sophie Briggs, Molly Brodeur, Daniel Brooks, Abigail Bullard, Rahni Bussiere, Michael Caramiello, Audrey Carragher, Kody Chamberlain, Chase Chandler, Maeve Clements, Alissa Cloutier, Olivia Cloutier, Michaela Cluett, Haley Coggans, Danielle Como, Courtney Cristo, Kylee Croteau, Hannah Cushing, Jacob Damelio, Kiara Dean, Timothy Dinsdale, Colin Drake, Helena Duke, Faythe Eisnor, Sakara Fancy, Ashley Figueroa, Christian Figueroa, Louisa Foisy, Ashley Foley, Juliana Fox, Maegan Fredette, Calvin Fullerton, Grace Gamelli, Matthew Gard, Emily Gelardi, Christina Gunsalus, Elizabeth Gunsalus, Camden Hackett, Joshua Hickey, Brady Hobson, Colin Humphries, Kirolos Ibrahim, Aaron Iwanski, Lukas Janusz, Jenna Johnson, Benjamin Kallgren, Samantha Katz, Anthony Kopas, Caroline Lamarine, Emma Lanpher, Maryn LaPlante, Alexander Laws, Kyle LeBlanc, John Lehmann, Ethan Lilley, Flora Marderosian, Riley Marengo, Anthony Marsi, Grace Mattson, Virginia Mayville, Jenna Miller, Hannah Morill, Abigail Mulry, Anna Murray, Katerina Nemer, Matthew Nguyen, Eric O’Loughlin, Elise Palfreman, Mackenzie Parrettie, Jordyn Poirier, Sarah Popsuj, Eliza Quinn, Aml Rachid, John Reynolds, Ariana Rizzo, William Ross, Isabella Rubio, Aimon Shaw, Abigail Shields, Alan Standring, Emily Stelmach, Kaitlyn Stevens, Gavin Tarnowski, Adam Taylor, Demetria Teguis, Karyssa Thompson, Aubrey Traverso, Emma Tyler, William Tyrrell, Serena Veilleux, Panayiota Veronis, Henry Weiland, Nicolas White, Samantha Zannotti, Matvey Zhuk

Second Honors
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Carissa Allard, Allison Anger, Gemini Arnberg, Julian Baracz, Yetzabeth Beltre-Colon, Andrew Bitar, Madison Bosowski, Justin Brady, Gavin Briggs, Dylan Brown, Alyssa Clemence, Camden Cooper, Kathryn Davison, Caleb Drinkwater, Evan Healy, Aurora Hughes, Hannah Hutchinson, John Jakubowski, Connor Johnston, George Karamanakis, Kevin Lotter, Joshua McCarty, Ryan McKendry, Jordan Moodley, Sarah Morin, Julia Morse, Brett Pfeiffer, Avrek Pietrzak, Gracie Rayess, Christopher Rogalski, Kyra Sanborn, Candilize Santa, Abigail Shaw, Ethan Stallings, Kylie Sullivan, Nicholas Whitley



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Partner to “oohed”
- 6. Relaxing places
- 10. Humorous monologue
- 14. Simple elegance
- 15. Bearable
- 17. Disobedience
- 19. Express delight
- 20. Gov’t attorneys
- 21. Wake up
- 22. A type of band
- 23. Remain as is
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Battle-ax
- 29. Volcanic crater
- 31. The mother of Jesus
- 32. One’s life history
- 34. “Rule, Britannia” composer
- 35. Doubles
- 37. Jacob __, American journalist

- 38. House pet
- 39. S. African river
- 40. Broad sashes
- 41. Establish as a foundation
- 43. KGB double agent Aldrich __
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
- 49. Train group (abbr.)
- 50. Frames per second
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal from a federation
- 58. Guitarist sounds
- 59. Greek war god
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Helps escape

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Currency exchange charge
- 2. River in Tuscany
- 3. Breakfast dish
- 4. Defunct European currency
- 5. Upper class young woman
- 6. Part of a purse
- 7. Self-contained units
- 8. Boxing’s GOAT
- 9. Legislators
- 10. Flightless birds
- 11. U. of Miami’s mascot is one
- 12. Floating ice
- 13. Low, marshy land
- 16. Seldom
- 18. Lyric poems
- 22. Law enforcement agency (abbr.)
- 23. Full extent of something
- 24. __ Claus
- 25. Naturally occurring solid material
- 27. Acquired brain injury behavior science (abbr.)
- 28. Thirteen

- 29. Partner to cheese
- 30. Member of a Semitic people
- 31. One thousandth of an inch
- 33. Former CIA
- 35. Most lemony
- 36. Engage in
- 37. Small Eurasian deer
- 39. Provisions
- 42. All humans have them
- 43. Swiss river
- 44. Storage term (abbr.)
- 46. Famed Broadway lyricist Sammy
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Egyptian sun god
- 50. Flute
- 51. Flew off!
- 52. Scottish tax
- 53. Young women’s association
- 54. Populous Brazilian city
- 55. Malaysian Isthmus
- 56. Pointed end of a pen





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MANY PEOPLE SET THESE TYPES OF GOALS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

ANSWER: RESOLUTIONS

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-6.
The numbers in each row add up to the totals to the right.
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

0			2
			10
		6	8
6	3	11	

9	0	2
5	1	4
0	2	0

Solution

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

T G E R O A G I N D Z E

Answer: Get Organized

THIS DAY IN...

HISTORY

- 1610: GALILEO GALILEI MAKES HIS FIRST OBSERVATION OF THE FOUR GALILEAN MOONS.
- 1928: THE RIVER THAMES FLOODS IN LONDON AND CAUSES EXTENSIVE DAMAGE.
- 1955: MARIAN ANDERSON BECOMES THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO PERFORM WITH THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN OPERA.

New Word

TIDY

arranged neatly

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Neat

SPANISH: Aseado

ITALIAN: Ordinato

FRENCH: Bien rangé

GERMAN: Ordentlich

Did you know?

CHILDREN CAN EMBRACE BECOMING MORE ORGANIZED BY STARTING SMALL. THEY CAN SORT THROUGH A BACKPACK OR WORK ON ORGANIZING THEIR BEDROOM CLOSETS.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: STORAGE BASKETS

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to games & puzzles.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 19 = E)

A. 4 17 5 19
Clue: Form of play

B. 24 7 21 21 3 19
Clue: Designed to test ingenuity

C. 19 6 18 19 22 18 17 15 6
Clue: Amuse or keep busy

D. 16 18 22 17 18 19 4 13
Clue: Plan of action

Answers: A. game B. puzzle C. entertain D. strategy

SUDOKU

	8				3			
1						2	6	
		9	6		7	1		
	7	3						
				3	4			5
			9		1	2	6	
			8					
				4			7	
		2				5		1

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	5	4	1	6	9	7	2	3	8
6	1	5	3	4	2	8	7	9	
7	9	4	8	1	5	6	3	2	
5	4	4	8	6	9	7	1	2	3
8	7	8	5	3	4	7	1	9	6
2	7	3	5	6	8	1	9	4	4
3	2	9	6	5	7	4	1	8	
1	5	7	4	8	3	9	2	6	
4	8	6	1	2	9	3	5	7	

ANSWER:

School District to maintain hybrid learning model

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – The Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee took no action on a recommendation sent to school officials requesting a post-holiday two-week remote learning period to help offset any threat COVID-19 might have to students and staff.

In a letter dated Dec. 23, the Boards of Health of both Dudley and Charlton sent a recommendation to the Dudley Charlton Regional School District that all schools in both towns move to full remote learning until Jan. 19 to prevent the potential for a COVID-19 outbreak as numbers continued to rise in both communities and beyond leading up to the holiday season. On Dec. 29 the school committee met with representatives of both boards to discuss the proposal eventually deciding not to move on the request at all, effectively keeping the hybrid format intact for stu-

dents’ return following the holiday break.

Leader of both Boards of Health took time to justify the recommendation which was made following a joint meeting of both boards on Dec. 22. Jennifer Cournoyer, the Chair of Dudley’s Board of Health, said that while both health boards appreciate the significance of classroom learning the decision was made in consideration of the second wave of the pandemic which was expected to become even more impactful following holiday gatherings.

“As a board, we definitely feel that the children need to be in school. It is very important. This was not an easy decision to make. We were just asking for two weeks to be remote and going back on the 19th. We understand it’s going to be difficult. You can’t prove in-school transmissions one way or the other. There’s a lot of gray areas, it is extremely difficult. It’s not just about proving in-school transmissions as the reason why

we felt it was necessary going to additional weeks remote. It’s the number of staffs and students that have been quarantined over the time where you have multiple teachers out, classes being handled by different people. That’s a lot of disruptions for the students as well. We understand it’s a pandemic, it can’t be helped. Those are things that if you had the two weeks of remote it would help to stop the spread,” Cournoyer said.

Charlton Board of Health Chair Kathleen Walker also stated that the decision was not an easy one, but the recommendation was what they felt was best for the safety of the students, staff and the community as a preemptive measure against a potential local outbreak.

“We had a long talk. Everybody expressed their point of view. We’re all volunteers except for the two Health Directors. We all wear different hats, but the one hat that we all have in common is the Board of Health

hat and when everybody got a chance to express where they were coming from, and there were eight different points of view, we all came to the same conclusion that we needed to do a two-week reset. We didn’t think that was onerous or too hard,” Walker said. “We’re very concerned. We’ve been in the red, both towns, for many weeks now and we feel very strongly that given this two weeks, especially after the holidays, will give everybody a chance to either recover or not bring the virus into the schools.”

The request received mixed responses from both school committee members and the public with some feeling the two week remote learning wasn’t a bad idea while others felt the data showed that in school learning was not only safe, but beneficial to the emotional and mental wellbeing of the students. Committee member Stephanie Reed was one who was against moving forward with the recom-

mendation.

“Our own superintendent has stated in his emails that it is not being spread in our schools. Children are allowed to go to friend’s houses and also are allowed to play in sports tournaments in other states and not wear masks. The data shows that following the protocols works and in schools they need to wear masks, they need to do their hands, they need to clean their surfaces, but they always need to wear their masks,” Reed said. “The letter from the Boards of Health is a recommendation, not a mandate. For the social and emotional health of the students in our district it’s best to stick to the hybrid we are doing and instead of moving backwards that we should start looking at how to get students in our schools for full days of learning.”

Committee member Jordan Willow Evans acknowledged that mental and emotional health is also one of her priorities for the students, but said she saw value

in the recommendation put forth by the health officials.

“The two-week reset makes a lot of sense because it’s not that we’re concerned about what’s in our schools, it’s what’s been happening outside of our schools and being brought into them. That two-week reset can make a lot of sense in that what’s being going on outside of schools, we have no control over that and that guarantees us that safety net,” Evans said.

Opinions remained mixed among committee members with most admitting there were plenty of “gray areas” that made the decision more complicated than it seemed on the surface. In the end, no motion was made effectively leaving the recommendation on the floor and allowing the district to proceed with return to school as planned for the second half of the school year.



Angela Gorky

bankHometown promotes Gorky to Assistant Branch Manager

OXFORD — bankHometown recently promoted Angela N. Gorky to assistant branch manager of the bank’s Sturbridge office.

Gorky, a resident of Webster, joined bankHometown in 2017 as a teller and was most recently the teller supervisor in the Oxford office. She earned an associate degree from Quinsigamond Community College and received a certificate in the Fundamentals of

Banking from the New England College of Business.

About bankHometown
Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts, and has \$1.2 billion in assets and 16 branches located throughout central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, bankHometown and the Hometown

Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2019, the bank and foundation donated more than \$328,000 to nearly 270 organizations. Over the last four years, the program has donated more than \$1.1 million. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.

Dudley Woman’s Club meets Jan. 14

DUDLEY — The Dudley Woman’s Club is holding its January 2021 meeting at the French River Taproom (a.k.a. Kretschmann Brewery), 9 Frederick St. in Webster, on Thursday, Jan. 14. Social hour starts at 6:30 p.m., with our meeting at 7 p.m.

This month’s program is ‘Yoga with Bonnie’ from “JOYasanAH,” stressing how to develop and stick to a healthy lifestyle, DWC’s typical emphasis in every new year. Our giving project is new, unused socks (the most frequently requested item) for

local shelters. For more info and details, please visit us on Facebook at “Dudley Woman’s Club” or at www.dudleywomansclub.org! Let’s start the new year off with a healthy focus!

Julia Ryan named to Dean’s List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — Julia Ryan of Dudley has been named to the Plymouth State University Dean’s List for the Fall 2020 semester. To be named to the Dean’s List, a student must achieve a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.69 during the Fall 2020 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester. Ryan is a Marketing major at

Plymouth State. About Plymouth State University
Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances

knowledge and enhances professional development. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

Webster resident establishes little free library

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEBSTER – A local woman is celebrating the new year by sharing the joy of reading with her community.

Elizabeth Brothers recently completed her goal of setting up a Little Free Library. Located at the end of the public library, the free community resource features books for both children and adults.

With many local libraries currently closed or limited due to COVID-19, Brothers hopes the Little Free Library can greatly benefit residents who are searching for ways to entertain themselves during a long, lonely winter.

“My family are mostly readers, themselves, so we have used the libraries often. Covid changed all that,” Brothers said. “We are fortunate to have a lot of books at our disposal, so we thought this would be a great way to fill a need.”

The Little Free Library model encourages residents to take a book and replace it with another one. There is no return policy and no mandate to find a replacement. If

residents wish, they can simply take a book and it will be replaced by volunteers.

“It’s always open and we replace books as soon as we see extra space available,” Brothers said.

The Little Free Library has been open for over a month. Due to COVID-19, all books are sanitized before they are offered to residents.

For Brothers, it means a lot to assist her community during a challenging time and share her love of reading. She hopes residents will take full advantage of the library this winter. The service will be great for seniors seeking an adventure to faraway lands, as well as students looking to keep their literacy skills sharp during remote learning.

“Being able to do something, even this small, to help at this point in time is my favorite part,” Brothers said. “Libraries are reducing hours, kids are home a lot, and this is just a small way to help. My family, kids, and grandkids love books, and they are a really important part of our lives. It’s nice to pay it forward.”

Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that promotes community book exchanges. Nationwide, nearly 100,000 public bookcases and boxes are registered as Little Free Libraries. They have allowed for millions of books to be shared throughout communities, not only expanding opportunities for entertainment but also literacy.

“We are facing a growing literacy crisis. Today in the United States, more than 30 million adults cannot read or write above a third-grade level,” read a statement issued by the Little Free Library organization. “Studies have repeatedly shown that books in the hands of children have a meaningful impact on improving literacy. The more books in or near the home, the more likely a child will learn and love to read.”

Little Free Library boxes offer 24/7 access to books.

Looking ahead, Brothers plans to install a bench near the Little Free Library in the spring so guests can sit, relax, and enjoy their books.

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY KNIGHTS OF THE MONTH

WEBSTER — All Saints Academy congratulates the following students on being named Knights of the Month.
Preschool - 3: Sophia Vivlamore
Preschool - 4: Louisa Brooks and Josephine Brooks
Kindergarten: Navya Lee Ruiz
Grade 1: Avan Cady

Grade 2: Julianne Valby and Caleb Coddington
Grade 3: Sienna Vitale
Grade 4: Xavier Matthews
Grade 5: James Ferguson
Grade 6: Nathan Coddington
Grade 7: Hunter Coombs
Grade 8: Logan Mueller



Courtesy

NIFTY NEEDLEWORK

St. Joseph School students would like to thank the members of the Dudley Senior Needlework Group. The group gifted beautiful hand-made hats, mittens, and scarves to our students. The gifts came at the perfect time! Thank you, Dudley Senior Needle Work Group! Your generosity is much appreciated.

WEBSTER TIMES

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25 ELM STREET, SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550
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www.StonebridgePress.com

FRANK G. CHILINSKI

STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE

EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Cheers to
2021

The past year has been challenging, and the months ahead only look slightly different as far as the pandemic is concerned. The rollout of the vaccines does, however, offer some promise in getting our lives back to normal.

It's been discouraging; however, to see people behave so unkindly towards one another. Not so much on the local level — here, we are fortunate. But nationally, the temperature has been turned up for far too long. When did it become 'cool' or 'macho' to behave with such hate towards another person, simply because you disagree? Why are so many individuals filled with so much hate that they take it out on complete strangers? We remind everyone, that when it comes to national politics, listen to several news sources, and not a passing meme on social media. Too many uninformed people are acting out, when if they truly were aware of how things work, beyond just a talking point, they may see things a bit more clearly. Again, we have faith that in the months ahead, the climate will become one of which we can all be proud. It's ok and actually a good thing to question and even disagree with others if it's how you feel. It is not OK when decency, lack of respect and kindness falls by the wayside. It is possible to disagree and yet still be kind and helpful to each other. The constant chest puffing on social media and on national news is just, well, sad. You get more bees with honey.

On another note, as we sit and reflect about how much time has been spent apart as a society, we do need to give a nod to solitude. Extroverts across the globe, just want their social lives to be in full swing again. Heck, even introverts do as well. Being social is an important part of our existence. As things move in that direction, we want to remind everyone that there is a benefit to having some much needed alone time. Something we all don't get very often.

Life in normal times can move very swiftly. We're always looking ahead at what needs to be done next, planning, over thinking and stressing about the future. Studies show that when you stop and enjoy some alone time, your brain will rest. Overstimulation can have adverse effects on our well-being. Take time to detach from the internet, television even music.

When we're alone, our parasympathetic nervous system, that relaxes us, is triggered. Alone time relaxes your muscles, lowers your blood pressure and slows your heart rate. Time alone is a great way to prevent burn out. Burnout can cause us to go about our days in an inefficient manner.

Another check mark in the 'pro' column of solitude is that we become more creative. Our minds are free from distractions. Spending time solo can reduce the chance you'll suffer from vital exhaustion which can lead to increased anger and heart trouble.

One analogy that makes sense regarding solitude, is that it gives you time to get a bird's eye view of your life — the bigger picture, instead of feeling stuck in the day to day sometimes mundane activities.

In the New Year ahead, we wish you all health and happiness. As always, take care of each other.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:
Gary W. Moore's insipid shallowness has annoyed me for a while, but never so much as in his column published Friday, Dec. 18.

Amid his half-baked bloviations on political polarization, secession and expanded suffrage, he finally bears down on the issue of mail-in voting, misquoting former President Jimmy Carter as saying "mail-in ballots are wrought with the opportunity for fraud" Had he abandoned his usual Pollyanna acceptance of everything that supports his presumptions and researched what was clearly a suspect claim, he would have discovered that Carter had said just the opposite.

The idea that Carter was critical of mail-in voting stemmed from an op-ed piece in the Wall Street Journal, which cherry-picked just the beginning of a statement actually supporting mail-in voting. It was issued in 2005 by a commission on federal election reform chaired by Carter and former secretary of state James A. Baker III. The statement said mail-in voting created increased potential for voter fraud — and here's the qualifier omitted by the writer and Mr. Moore — only if safeguards were lacking when candidates or political party activists are allowed to handle mail-in ballots. And then the next sentence — also excluded by the WSJ and Mr. Moore: the commission found that when safeguards for ballot integrity are in place, as in the state of Oregon, where the entire state has voted by mail since 1998, there was little evidence of fraud. After the WSJ piece appeared, Carter himself issued a statement correcting the record saying "I approve of absentee balloting and have been using them for more than 5 years."

Even if the Carter quote had been accurate, using that alone to launch a serious discussion of the presumed

dangers of expanded suffrage while ignoring the myriad statements to the contrary, smacks of Mr. Moore's lack of intellectual depth and professionalism. Had he not heard that President Trump's own appointee in charge of election security had stated that the 2020 election was virtually free from any significant voter fraud (a statement for which he was summarily fired)? Or Trump's own Attorney General Bill Barr (a person infamous for supporting most of the Presidents outlandish fantasies), who said virtually the same thing? Or the dozens of state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, who found no credible evidence of fraud despite the unsupported claims of Trump sycophants? Or finally the fact that the states of Colorado, Hawaii, Utah and Washington, as well as Oregon, have used mail-in voting exclusively for all their elections for years without any significant voter fraud.

I'm using this issue simply to illustrate how consistently superficial are Mr. Moore's judgements — not to mention his facts and more importantly, how irresponsible it is for this newspaper to publish his empty views without editorially challenging them or at least balancing them with an alternative.

Optimism is wonderful. But glazing over serious problems or consistently offering half-baked analyses is simply dishonest. I understand that the Webster Times and its sister publications are just local newspapers who see their mission as noting the humdrum happenings of the communities they serve. But when you publish a column that goes beyond that basic mission, I think you also have an obligation to offer your readers a more robust quality of journalism.

FRANK MAGIERA
DUDLEY

In response to Gary Moore

To the Editor:
The result of the 2020 presidential election has been certified by the electoral college and the over 50 lawsuits brought by Donald Trump have been dismissed by all the state courts as well as the Supreme Court. It is therefore hard to understand why Gary Moore would ask "are we still a beacon of democracy?" in his column published in the Webster Times on Dec. 18. What is the purpose of asking such a question except to shed false doubt on a certified election—a doubt that actually dims the beacon of democracy.

The polls he quotes and the fact that so many people distrust the results of this election are the direct result of the false accusations and unproven cheating spread by social media and some news outlets. How sad that these Americans don't even believe the United States Supreme Court.

The mail-in vote is an extension of the absentee vote which has been in effect for many years. Mail-in voting was needed this year because of the pandemic and was a safe alternative to in-person voting. Why does anyone think mail-in voting is any less safe than absentee voting? All ballots regardless of whether they are absentee, mail-in or in-person must be verified and it was proven that they were. So when Mr. Moore makes the statement "the loose-

ness of rules, methods, techniques and monitoring of the last election places our democracy at risk" he is putting our democracy at risk just by making this untrue statement.

Yes, our union is at risk, but it's not from mail-in voting or election fraud. It's from the spreading of false information, from the refusal of our president to concede a certified election and his scheming to overturn the election. It's from the hateful and dangerous rhetoric coming from him and others—people of power who should know better.

The polarization of red and blue states and the talks of secession are not fueled by an unfair voting system. They are fueled by a thirst for power, a refusal to listen to another opinion and a disregard for fellow Americans. The voting system doesn't need to be fixed. The sullen and selfish attitudes do. In order to preserve our union, we need to care about each other and work together as a country of the people, by the people and for the people.

Let's move forward in unity to bring hope and promise to our great nation. May the new year bring us out of the darkness and may the beacon of democracy shine brightly once again to illuminate our great country and the world.

DUDLEY DEMOCRATIC TOWN
COMMITTEE

Grateful to our emergency responders

To the Editor:
I would like everyone a Happy 2021! Also, a shout out to the Webster EMT's, firefighters and police who helped my family out during the holiday season.

On Christmas Eve morning around 2:30 a.m., my mom slid off the bed, and between my dad and I, we tried to help her up, but to no avail. Fortunately, after calling the emergency number (911), we were able to get the first

responders to help her up and able. She was sore and stiff for a day or two, but she is doing better now.

I am thankful during this pandemic now nine months in the making for being there when we need it the most. I greatly appreciate them. That's it for now!

JUSTIN BERNARD
WEBSTER

Appreciative this holiday season

To the Editor:
This is written in appreciation of the many local residents who supported our Webster-Dudley Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign this Holiday season. I am happy to share we raised a record breaking \$11,650 this Holiday season!

A special thanks to our local Webster Price Chopper for allowing us to use their location to ring the bell for the entire Holiday season. We would like to thank Park n Shop, Thompson Liquor stores, Tobacco Shop, Flynn's Fine Wines & Spirits and Marti's Liquor Store for allowing our table top kettles to sit on their counters. A very special thanks to the extremely dedicated volunteers who often logged many hours in some cold, windy, rainy conditions.

The Webster-Dudley Salvation Army Unit collected enough gifts, toys and gift cards to take care of eight families and approximately 132 children. The remaining donations were dropped off at local shelters. Thank you to the overwhelming support from the members of

the Sturbridge BNI group who provide a level of thoughtful giving that truly embraces the Holiday season!

Our local Bank Hometown Branch on Gore Road counted the kettles daily. This takes up a significant amount of their time and we truly appreciate the kindness and support throughout.

Last year, The Salvation Army in Massachusetts provided over 2.2 million meals to the hungry, over 195,000 nights of shelter, 100,000 warm coats and articles of clothing for those in need.

It was a windy, cold season that was endured because of the kindness of the community through generous kettle contributions and the occasional hot coffee or hot chocolate provided to the volunteer bell ringers.

On behalf of those most in need locally, thank you so much for your continued support.

TONY YEULENSKI
SALVATION ARMY UNIT COORDINATOR
WEBSTER-DUDLEY

'Tis the
season
for snow
removal



CHIEF'S
CORNER

STEVE
WOJNAR

The snow season often brings questions about snow removal. Clearing of sidewalks is always a lively topic of discussion. Fortunately, our Christmas rainstorm assisted everyone in this department, although we know more snow and ice is on the

way. I was asked to remind people about this important topic.

Our Town By-Laws, Article Eight Section Four, is the rule covering this situation. This law requires every owner, tenant, or occupant of a building abutting a finished sidewalk, to keep the area free from many substances, including snow and ice. These areas should be cleared during the period when the snowplows have completed the major removal of snow during a storm and before the slush/snow can freeze and become ice. Generally, sometime within twenty-four hours after a storm's end is the prime opportunity to perform this task. Penalties for a failure to clear sidewalks can be twenty dollars per day.

To assist with pedestrian safety, we are reminding people to keep the sidewalks in front of your property clear of snow and ice this winter season. This is extremely important to limit the number of pedestrians on the travel portion of the roads. We wish to avoid fines and penalties for property owners and thank everyone in advance for their cooperation and assistance. There are many people who are physically unable to perform the task of shoveling their sidewalk. As a community service, students from the Shepherd Hill High National Honor Society have volunteered to clear the sidewalks of the elderly or disabled individuals free of charge within 48 hours of a storm. I thank them once again for this service which not only assists the property owner but also the public who uses the sidewalks every day. If you are in this category, need assistance, and wish to take advantage of this service, please contact Henry at 774-239-0464, or School Resource Officer Phil Megas at 508-943-6700.

It is always important to remember the challenges of driving and walking on the streets during this time of the year. Drivers may not see pedestrians as easily due to darkness, extreme sun, or severe weather. Pedestrians must be aware of the difficulties and dangers when on the road. This does not mean to ignore the basic safety rules of looking both ways and always paying attention to the possibility of cars. Many side streets, dead ends, or other lightly traveled locations allow for a more relaxed approach by some people. Do not let this happen. Vehicles may come from anywhere, so it is always important to treat these locations with the proper amount of caution. Sharing the road and respecting each other's use of it will limit accidents and injuries.

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.

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stonebridgepress.news



Avoid tapping Into 401(k) early

If you’ve been contributing for many years to your 401(k) or similar retirement plan, it may be your largest pool of money. So, if you are facing a financial need, you may think about tapping into your account. After all, it’s your money – why not use it?

But touching your 401(k) before you retire may not be a good idea, as it can lead to some unwanted consequences.


First, taking funds out of your 401(k) now could increase the risk of running out of money during retirement, which could last for decades.

Also, withdrawals taken from your 401(k) before age 59 and a half may be taxed as ordinary

income and are generally subject to a 10 percent penalty for early withdrawal, although there are some exceptions. And a sizable taxable withdrawal from your 401(k) could bump you into a higher tax bracket.

Therefore, if you are facing a financial crunch, you may want to explore some options before tapping into your 401(k). For starters, see if you can cut your expenses where possible and explore financial assistance programs that service providers, such as utility companies, might offer.

Also, if you have an emergency fund, now



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

DENNIS
ANTONOPOULOS

may be the time to use it. For most folks, it’s a good idea to keep three to six months’ worth of living expenses in such a fund, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. But even smaller amounts can help in a financial crunch.

You might also find another source of cash in your taxable investment accounts. Any uninvested cash in these accounts

is an easy place to start. You might also look at selling investments to free up some cash. However, before making this decision, you may want to consult with a financial professional to discuss the pros and cons.

Another cash-generating option is a 401(k) loan, assuming your plan permits such loans. Unlike a direct withdrawal, a 401(k) loan is not taxable if it’s repaid on time. (If it isn’t, you could also incur penalties.) And, although the loan may have some fees, the interest on it will be paid to your account, rather than to a bank. However, you won’t earn invest-

ment returns on the loan balance, because you can’t use this money to invest. And if you leave your job before you’ve fully repaid the loan, you’ll likely have to come up with the remaining balance quickly.

You could also consider using your credit cards to generate cash, but these types of loans or advances can be quite costly. Instead, you may want to look at other possibilities, such as a home equity loan, the cash value of a life insurance policy, the “margin” on your investment accounts or a personal loan. Again, you should talk to a financial professional to discuss the tradeoffs of taking out these loans and to devel-

op a payoff strategy, if you decide to use any of them.

Your 401(k) is a long-term investment designed to meet a long-term goal: your retirement. So, if you think you might require these funds before retirement, explore all alternatives first to find the right decision for your needs.

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@edwardjones.com.

Time to get back on the ice

The cold weather is her to stay. Hopefully! Checking your ice fishing gear should be done by now. Checking your line and hooks are very important. Ice fishing tilts or tip ups, as the new generation calls them, are becoming very expensive. This writer prefers the older ice tilts that work very well, and are easy to repair. Because of the rain that was predicted this past Friday, ice conditions have deteriorated, and very few ponds are safe for ice fishing locally.

Anglers wanting to do some ice fishing, may need to travel North and West of the valley area, or even consider Maine and New Hampshire. Ice conditions were a lot better last week, as the temperatures dropped to - 10 degrees in those states. First ice is extremely dangerous and should be navigated with extreme caution. Checking the ice with a hand chisel and striking it into the ice as you navigate across a frozen pond, is extremely important. Remind youngsters about the dangers of unsafe, ice and tell them to stay off of the ice without parental supervision.

This writer has been fishing on ice for most of my life, and has found jig fishing as being the most fun and most productive. A simple jig stick equipped with a small reel loaded with 10-pound test braided line and four feet of six-pound test monofilament as leader, equipped with a Swedish pimple jig, and baited with a perch eye, is deadly for bottom feeding fish. Back during my younger years, I used a hand chisel to cut my holes for jigging, sometimes cutting as many as 100 or more a day’ when the ice was six inches or less thick. The method was called spudding! The hole was only a couple of inches around, enough to accommodate the lure, or a small perch. We had no reel on the jig stick, which was called dead sticking.

When a large fish was hooked, we often had to call a buddy to chop the hole larger, while the

fish was held just under the ice. A small hand gaff was used to hold the fish, until the hole was large enough to pull the big fish through. Most often I fished for yellow perch and calico bass, but we often encountered a largemouth bass. While fishing for perch, catching as many as 10 or more from one hole was not uncommon, and catching 100 or more in a day, was also not uncommon. The best eating size was 8-to-10-inch fish, although numerous perch well exceeded the 12-inch size. Pan fried in a mixture of ground cornmeal & flower in a pan of oil and a quarter pound of butter can provide some great eating.

When ice fishing on the Cape in the town of Carver, we found a pond that was loaded with pickerel, back a number of years ago. While fishing with the late Dick Blanchard of Uxbridge we caught a couple of limits of the extremely boney fish. Dick convinced this writer to retain a few, as he was going to find a receipt for pickling the fish. A few weeks later he dropped of a jar of pickled pickerel for me to try. It was great. Every year after, Dick always made a few jars of the tasty fish which consisted of pickling salt, raw onion rings, pickling spices in a combination of two thirds white vinegar, and a third water. The pickling process softened the bones of the pickerel, making for a great appetizer on our future fishing expeditions.

Deer hunters were happy to see the snow of two weeks ago, resulting in some great tracking conditions. Numerous deer were harvested in the last two weeks of the Black Powder season, some of the bucks carrying only one antler. Every year the bucks shed their antlers and grow new ones for the following year.

Duck & goose hunting opened



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH
TRUE

on Dec. 14, and provided some great shooting opportunity’s after the recent snow and cold weather. The freeze and snow drove the birds into major rivers and unfrozen ponds. A lot more mallards and a few wood ducks that lagged behind from their annual migration, provided some great shooting. The final season ends on January 4, 2021 in the Central District. Sea duck hunting in Massachusetts ends on Jan. 25.

Now that I have compiled more information on the dissolved Sea Scouts organization, the following information from my memory, and from Elvin Winchell of Grafton is as follows: Back in the ‘50s up until the ‘70s or so, the Sea Scouts had a clubhouse on the shores of Meadow Pond in Whitinsville. Tom Frieswick, Mr. Cahill were scoutmaster for many years getting the young generation ready for the draft. The scouts also had a large Dory, 20 feet plus, and the scouts were often observed rowing the Dory across the Meadow Pond a few times a week. Pete Oppenwall, Jack Cunningham, the Baldwin brothers, Jim Bouley are only a few of the original Sea Scouts. Elvin Winchell was a bit younger than the scouts, but still hung around with the group, later joining the Sea Scouts.

After their rowing work out, they cruised into the boat wharf at Joe Tops bar and Grill. All of the rowers held there oars up in a vertical position, as the helmsman navigated the boat alongside the wharf. There was also a candy shop on the side of the bar, that sold them soda and potato chips before they headed back out. Harding’s Boat House and Bait Shop was also a stopping off spot to get fresh bait for fishing.

The clubhouse burned down



Courtesy

This week’s picture shows Dan Southwick with a 9.15-pound largemouth bass.

around the ‘80’s, but the Sea scout’s organization continued to meet weekly. They also spent many days fishing, which was one of the top activities back in the day. You could say that the Meadow Pond was a popular playground for many residents of the Village in Whitinsville years ago. My generation sure lived in the best years, although our parents had little money, and worked hard to raise us.

It was a time that people went to their local Fish & Game Club to play cards and bingo, and enjoy a dinner of Raccoon and Ham, beans, & potato. Tickets were a mere \$2 each, which was a lot of money back then. Raffle’s and other entertainment were

enjoyed on weekends ,and then they got ready to return to work on Monday, with most residents in the valley working at the former Whitin Machine Works.

The incredible Dan Southwick landed another whopper a couple of weeks ago, as this week’s picture shows. The largemouth bass weighed in at 9 .15 lbs. and was caught in a neighboring state. Nice fish!

Happy New Year! Hoping everyone had a very Merry Christmas and good health!

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Easy Indoor Plant Project for the Kids

With COVID restrictions keeping people close to home, and students learning remotely, it can be a challenge to find new (and fun) projects for the kiddos. So how about getting a jump start on the gardening season, by recycling foods in your refrigerator? All it takes is a little soil, sunlight, and some common produce to grow a wonderful windowsill garden. Best of all, planting with kitchen castoffs is great fun for all ages. The next time you need a lesson on the fly, just open up the refrigerator or kitchen cupboard and make these plantings a family project. To personalize the project and encourage responsibility for young children, allow each child to choose their own fruit or vegetable, and allow them to “tend” to their plant on their bedroom window-sill. Chances are the gardens may not serve as anything more than a houseplant for the indoor duration, but by the time they die out or are ready to be replanted, spring will be around the corner!

* * * * *

New England boiled din-



TAKE
THE
HINT
.....
KAREN
TRAINOR

ners are comforting fare for winter weekends. The next time you are preparing parsnips to drop into the bubbling pot, save one or two to “plant.” Parsnip is a good first choice because it grows quickly, allowing impatient children to witness the fruits of their labor in almost no time! How to do: First, choose a deep planter. You can recycle a child’s summer sand pail, or even use an old plastic container embellished with felt tip marker designs. Scrub parsnips thoroughly under water and dry. Cut of a piece of the parsnip and place it cut side down into your container filled with a standard potting soil mix. Leave about an inch of the parsnip visible above the soil. Water lightly and place in sunlight. After leaves sprout, a spiked flower will appear. Keep soil moist,

but not soggy. After a week or two feed every couple of weeks or so with a stick fertilizer (cut it in thirds and work up to half, then a full stick).

* * * * *

Make a lush hanging plant from . . . soybeans! Believe it or not, the soybean plant boasts purple or white self-pollinating flowers that are as pretty as any mainstream houseplant. To do: Soak soybeans overnight. Then place wet beans into a wide mouthed mason or mayonnaise jar (beans will expand as they sprout). Cover jar with cheesecloth and secure with an elastic band. The next day, drain off any water and lay the jar on its side in a warm, dark location. Keep adding water a couple of times a day, shake jar to rinse the seeds, and drain. Place jar back on its side. Beans should not sit in water too long or be allowed to dry out. Germination will occur in about four days. When they sprout to about 4 inches, plant in a hanging pot with standard potting soil and place in the sun. Feed with a commercial plant food and soon you’ll have

a beautiful houseplant!

* * * * *

If you are really ready to take on a challenge, why not try your hand at growing a peanut plant? Because peanuts are great fun to watch grow, choose an old Mason jar or mayonnaise jar so the kids can view the miraculous growing process. To do: Start with unprocessed peanuts in a shell (no salt). Shell three or four peanuts and place them on their side in a four-inch container filled with potting soil. Cover the peanuts with a thin layer of soil and keep them in a warm location. Water lightly. The peanut will germinate in about a week, forming a sprout. Soon after leaves will form. Keep moist and transplant when plant is about 8 inches tall. If you are patient, yellow flowers will develop above the soil. When peanuts begin to set, the plant will die back. You can either dig up the peanuts and eat them, or leave them in the soil where they will sprout again.

* * * * *

Here are some other plants you can grow with pantry groceries:

* Radish plants are easy to grow and the salad fixings are quickly harvested, even in a windowsill garden. Kids love the almost-instant results they see before too long! Choose a firm radish and wash under running water, pat dry. Place root side down into standard potting mixture. Like parsnip, you should leave an inch of the radish above the soil. Place in good light and water when needed. Don’t over-water or the plant will rot. Radish leaves will grow in about 6” of soil, so you can really use your imagination when selecting a suitable growing container.

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 renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I’m in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I’m counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

Antiques, collectibles, and auctions in 2021

2020 was a difficult year for everyone, and antique collectors and dealers were no exception. I am a member of several auctioneer and estate liquidator groups and have the chance to hear from other business owners across the country. Some members have lost family to COVID, most have struggled financially, and all have had to adapt to working in this new environment. Locally, it has also been a challenge for auctioneers, antique dealers and estate sale companies with regulations constantly in flux throughout the year. With the recent approval of vaccines, there is optimism that 2021 will be a much better year for those buying and selling antiques and collectibles.

As the New Year begins, some auction houses running live auctions are



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

extending preview hours and offering previews on multiple days to ensure there won't be a large number of bidders gathering together at once. Some auctioneers are allowing only a small number of bidders to attend the auction in person. Other bidders are required to leave absentee bids or bid by phone.

When the warm weather returns this spring, I expect we will see auctioneers return to outdoors sales, like some did during the summer and fall of 2020. Many other auction houses (like ours) have switched to all online auctions. When the situation improves, auctioneers will have to determine whether they want to switch back to live auctions this coming year or to continue running auctions online.

Some estate sale companies continue to run live

estate sales by limiting the number of people who can enter the estate, requiring masks, social distancing and offering hand sanitizer. Many other estate sale companies have switched to online auctions instead of traditional estate (tag) sales. Others are offering items from estates online with fixed prices. You can purchase items outright and then make arrangements to pick up your items(s). Some estate sale companies may also reevaluate how they've done business in the past and determine how to move forward in 2021.

How things will change in 2021 is partially dependent on the distribution of the COVID vaccine. The Massachusetts timeline for COVID vaccinations shows that Phase One is taking place now through February, Phase Two from February to April, and Phase Three from April to June. Connecticut plans to offer vaccinations for members of the general public early in the summer.

This timeline gives



us hope that we may be able to walk the fields of Brimfield in September, possibly even by July. In what may be another promising sign for us, the Malvern Flea Market recently opened in England. It is scheduled to run on weekends throughout 2021. The distribution of the new vaccine and the good news from our friends across the pond should provide optimism to antique fans

throughout New England. Thank you for reading my column in 2020. Happy New Year to all as we look forward to a better 2021!

The first session of a huge toy collection, all from one estate, is taking place online now. We are currently selling the diecast cars. Most are unopened and in their original boxes. Vintage and antique toys will be sold in later sessions. We will be offering the equestrian and other paintings

from artist Fay Moore's estate in another online auction soon. Keep watching www.centralmassauctions.com for details.

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.

How will you make this new year different from the last?

If you are to only read one of my columns this year and take it to heart ... make it this one.

A new year is upon us and I couldn't be happier. I don't think that in my lifetime I've been more relieved to see a year end and a new year begin.

With that said, there is nothing magical about turning the page on a calendar. If magic is to happen, it happens in our heads and hearts by creating an optimistic view of what is to come and taking positive actions that make our optimism real.

I'm optimistic that 2021 will be a better year. This isn't wishful thinking. We have two new vaccines that are now approved and being administered. I'm hearing that a third and maybe a fourth could be approved early this year. The news is promising, and 2021 will be a positive year of turnaround and renewal.

So, we're upon a new year. Now what?

My dad used to always say, "If you always do what you always did, you'll always get what you always got." That's true for everything we do, including how we approach this new year. Our happiness and success can be determined by an optimistic approach to 2021. In other words, you have the power to be the change you wish for your life. And why not?

The difference with last year was that there was so much out of our control. A pandemic of the size and scope of Covid-19 changes everything. Losses of life, jobs and personal freedoms are beyond our ability to control, so 2021 can lead to a new and better season.

I believe that almost



POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
GARY W.
MOORE

every successful person will begin this year with the idea that "This year will be a better year than last, and I have the power to make it so."

I already know that a large group of Americans have decided to have a bad year. Pessimism with some about as they find it difficult to see the brightness ahead. That is a choice they make based on opinion and not fact, and it will drive and guide the results of their new year.

For me, and hopefully you, the voice of truth tells us a different story and that truth is that 2021 will be a year of tremendous positive turnaround. Again, the vaccines alone are a game changer. As the vaccines continue to be administered, I believe our economy will begin

opening and our personal freedoms restored. Could the news be more positive?

So, we have a choice to make. We can wallow in the past pain of 2020 or rejoice and celebrate the brighter days ahead in 2021. Optimism is a choice for happiness and success, while pessimism is a choice for misery and failure. Which will you choose?

I already hear a response of "Yeah, but ..."

But what? The choice could not be clearer and there really are only two choices. Some may say "wait and see" which is also a choice, but I believe that is a choice for pessimism. The wait and see crowd always get what's left over as the optimists act quickly and seize the day. What if we instead said, "yeah, and..."

In other words, we can grieve and lament 2020,

and we can be hopeful and optimistic for 2021.

"Yeah, and."

Optimism takes no more energy than pessimism and studies show that optimists are both happier and achieve more in life. How can someone purposely choose pessimism?

I've said it over and over ... and will say it again. Your belief system creates a mind/heart conspiracy to make what you believe will happen, come true.

Napoleon Hill said, "What the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve." I don't believe truer words have ever been spoken, yet so many purposely avoid optimism. Please ... don't let this be you. Choose a better year for you and your family.

I'm out of space for now but will continue next week. Please consider the

power of your belief system in creating a better year. Optimism is a choice to be happier, healthier, and more successful. Why would you choose otherwise?

Until next week, consider this ancient wisdom from Marcus Aurelius. "You have power over your mind, not events. Realize this and you will find strength."

You hold the key to your own magic. It's a new year. I'm choosing to optimistically make 2021 my best year, ever. You can too.

Will you join me?

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.

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO20P1974EA
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE
BY A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Estate of:
Martha Belle Canterbury
Date of Death: 05/19/2020
To all interested persons:
A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by:
Mont R Canterbury of Webster MA requesting that court authorize the Personal Representative to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/19/2021.**
This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 23, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
January 8, 2021
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO20P3273EA
Estate of:
John Manthos

Date Of Death: September 19, 2004
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Leslie Manthos of Dudley, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
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 petitioners.
January 8, 2021
NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 8 Oak Drive, North Oxford (Oxford), MA 01537
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Raymond P. Wentworth to Fleet National Bank, and now held by **U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the CertificateHolders of the Banc of America Funding Corporation, 2008-FT1 Trust, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2008-FT1**, said mortgage dated February 24, 2003 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 30655, Page 344, said mortgage was assigned from Bank of America, National Association, successor by merger to Fleet National Bank to U.S.

Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the CertificateHolders of the BANC of America Funding Corporation 2008-FT1 Trust, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2008-FT1 by assignment dated April 21, 2014 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 52260, Page 354; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on January 20, 2021, at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
THE LAND SITUATED ON THE WESTERLY SIDE OF OAK DRIVE, SO CALLED, IN SAID OXFORD, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWESTERLY CORNER THEREOF AT AN IRON PIN ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF WILFRED BOUTILETTE, SAID IRON PIN BEING AT THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF GENO CAMOSSE, WHICH IS ALSO THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LOT #4 AS SHOWN ON PLAN RECORDED IN WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS, PLAN BOOK 163, PLAN 40; THENCE NORTH 74° 21' EAST, BY LAND OF SAID CAMOSSE, FOR A DISTANCE OF TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT AND 8/10 (278.8) FEET TO A STAKE ON THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID OAK DRIVE; THENCE SOUTH 13° 15' EAST BY THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID OAK DRIVE FOR A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED (100) FEET TO A STAKE AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF JOHN J. WHITE; THENCE SOUTH 76° 09' WEST BY LAND OF SAID WHITE FOR A DISTANCE OF THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE AND 8/10 (325.8) FEET TO A STAKE ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF LAND OF SAID WILFRED BOUTILETTE; THENCE NORTH 13° 55' EAST BY LAND OF

SAID BOUTILETTE FOR A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED (100) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING THAT CERTAIN PIECE OF PARCEL OF LAND, AND THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, KNOWN AS 8 OAK DRIVE IN THE TOWN OF N OXFORD COUNTY OF WORCESTER AND STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN A DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 5106 PAGE 148.
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated March 4, 1971 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 5106, Page 148.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.
FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.
Other terms to be announced at the sale.
Brock & Scott, PLLC
1080 Main Street, Suite 200
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Attorney for U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the CertificateHolders of the Banc of America Funding Corporation, 2008-FT1 Trust, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2008-FT1
Present Holder of the Mortgage
401-217-8701
December 25, 2020
January 1, 2021
January 8, 2021

OBITUARIES

Christopher M. Halley, 47

WEBSTER – Christopher M. Halley, 47, of Hartley Street, died Monday, December 21, 2020, at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. He is survived by his mother, Deborah A. (Scanlon) Halley of Webster; his father, Michael L. Halley of Flint, MI; his paternal grandmother, JoAnn Frechette of Tampa, FL; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was born in Springfield and lived most of his life in Webster. He graduated from Bartlett High School in 1992.

Christopher will be remembered as a kind man with a generous heart. He dedicated the last several years of his

life caring for his mother. He was a Monty Python fan and always quoted the Life of Brian to “always look on the bright side of life.”

Services will be private. Chris always remembered what his Poppa told him as a little boy, and instilled in him the need to help the Salvation Army anytime you could. In Chris’ memory, please donate to your local Salvation Army if you can.

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

Leonard P. Jacques, 94



DUDLEY– Leonard P. “Lenny” Jacques, 94, died Friday, December 25, 2020 in Saint Francis Home, Worcester after an illness. His beloved wife of 69 years, Rita E. R. (Ethier) Jacques died October 27.

He leaves a daughter, Dianne E. Smith of Dudley; a son, Norman L. Jacques and his companion Judith Vokes of Southbridge; 2 grandchildren, Philip A. Jacques of Florida and Michael L. Jacques of Southbridge; 2 sisters-in-law, Lorraine Rich and her husband Read of Brunswick, ME, and Joanne Maguire of Andover; his former son-in-law, Mark E. Smith of Sutton; and nephews and nieces.

He was born in Webster on June 11, 1926, the son of Philip and Louise (Plasse) Jacques and lived in Webster most of his life before moving to Joshua Place in Dudley. He graduated from Bartlett High School in 1944.

At age 17, he joined the United States Navy and served as a ship’s cook on the USS Gratia during World War II. He was a member of the Webster-Dudley American Legion Post #184.

Mr. Jacques was a compositor at the Webster Times and then at Chase

Paper Company in Westborough before retiring in 1988. In his retirement, he worked for Webster Subaru for several years until 2014.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church and a member and former president of its League of the Sacred Heart. He played in the church’s pitch league and worked at the church festivals for many years.

His funeral was held on-Saturday, January 2, 2021 from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 16 East Main Street, Webster. Burial was in Sacred Heart Cemetery with military honors provided by the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council. A time of visitation was held from 9:15 to 10:15 AM Saturday in the funeral home, prior to the Mass. Current health guidelines will be followed and everyone must wear a mask. Donations in his name may be made to Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 18 East Main Street, Webster, MA 01570.

www.websterfunerals.com



Eleanor B. Noga, 90



WEBSTER – Eleanor B. “Ellie” (Murzynowicz) Noga, 90, died Thursday, December 31, 2020 in Rose Monahan Hospice Residence with family at her side. Her husband of 59 years, retired Webster Police Sergeant Raymond S. “Ray” Noga, died in 2008.

She leaves a daughter, Sheryl A. “Sheri” Bergeron and her husband Rudy of Webster; 2 grandchildren, Megan R. Belanger and her husband Jon of Oxford, and Matthew R. Bergeron and his companion Katelyn Robinson of Webster; 2 great-grandchildren, J. T. Belanger and Maggie Rae Belanger; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her sister Elizabeth Romanek.

She was born on January 4, 1930 in Webster, the daughter of Alexander and Lucy (Ksiazkiewicz) Murzynowicz and lived here all her life. She attended Bartlett High School.

She first worked as an assembler at Sandlerette Shoe and then at Cranston Print Works Company. She was a teacher’s aide at Bartlett High School for many years before retiring.

Mrs. Noga was a communicant of

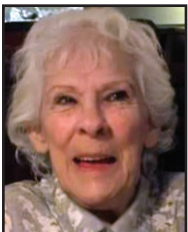
Saint Joseph Basilica and a member of its Holy Rosary Sodality, Sacred Heart Society, Saint Anne Society and the Saint Joseph Women’s Club. Very active in her parish, she once served on the parish council and volunteered at the parish festival for the Polish booth, the 50/50 raffle and the special gifts committee and also the weekly bingo. She loved to go shopping, to eat out and to spend quality time with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Ellie’s family would like to thank the staff at UMass/Memorial University Campus, especially 6 East, and the also the staff at Rose Monahan Hospice Residence for their care and compassion.

Her funeral was held Wednesday, January 6, 2021 from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 10:30 AM in Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street, Webster. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. Visitation was held from 5:00 to 7:00 PM Tuesday, January 5, in the funeral home. Current health guidelines will be followed and everyone is required to wear a mask. Donations in her name may be made to St. Joseph School Fund, 47 Whitcomb Street, Webster, MA 01570.

www.websterfunerals.com

Nancy E. Lambert, 85



WEBSTER – Nancy E. (Lowe) Lambert, 85, of First Street, died Friday, January 1, 2021, at Webster Manor Nursing Home in Webster. She is survived by her husband, Ronald W. Lambert of Webster; three children, George J. Daigle Jr. of Big Bear, CA, Judith L. Rivera and her husband John of Thompson, CT, and Karen L. Poplawski and her husband Dave “Joe” of Thompson, CT; a brother, Robert Lowe of Charlton; six grandchildren, Michael Rivera, Brandon Rivera, Joseph Poplawski, Jonathan Poplawski, Jordyn Poplawski, and Joe Brochu; five great-grandchildren, and many nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by her former husband, George Daigle who died in 2012; three brothers, Arthur Lowe, Leonard Lowe, and Richard Lowe; and three sisters, June Langlois, Carrie Bombard, and Ruth Martin. She was born in Oxford,

daughter of the late John and Ida (Furness) Lowe, and lived in Worcester and Oxford before moving to Webster in 2001. She graduated from Oxford High School.

Mrs. Lambert was a waitress at Naps Diner in Webster for many years. In addition, she worked at North Oxford Mills, Raschel’s Clothing Store in Westboro, and Commerce Insurance in Webster. She loved gardening, baking, Elvis music, trips to York Beach and Foxwoods, and taking care of her grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 7, 2021, at St. Roch’s Church, 332 Main St., Oxford. Please meet directly at the church. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Dudley. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, 309 Waverly Oaks Rd., Waltham, MA 02452. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

Wendy L. Hickey, 52



WEBSTER – Wendy L. (Zonia) Hickey, 52, died suddenly Thursday, December 24, 2020 in Harrington Memorial Hospital, Southbridge with her husband by her side.

She leaves her husband of 13 years, Webster Fire Chief Brian C. Hickey; 2 children, Chelsea M. Zonia and her husband Darren S. Rice of Plymouth and Michael J. Zonia and his companion Amber P. St. Marie of Webster; 2 children by marriage, Rachael A. Hickey and her companion Joshua T. Lamoureux and Brian T. Hickey and his fiancée Haley Farley all of Woodstock, CT; 4 grandchildren, Sophia G. Rice, Connor J. Rice, Bryan L. Hickey and Brysen T. Hickey; 3 sisters, Betty Zonia and her husband Arthur Javaras of Santa Clara, CA, Gloria J. Gould and her husband Robert W. Gould, Jr. of Webster, and Deborah J. Ford and her husband David Ford of Thompson, CT; her mother-in-law, Mary Anne Hickey of Webster; nieces and nephews; many friends and her beloved Gracie and Diesel. She was preceded in death by her 2 brothers, Dennis J. Zonia and John M. Zonia who both died in 2005.

Wendy was born and raised in Webster, a daughter of James D. and Yvonne G. (Johnson) Zonia. She graduated from Bartlett High School in 1986 and from Worcester Technical Institute in 1997 to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. She earned her Associate Degree in Health from Excelsior College in 2019. She worked as an LPN at Compassus Hospice in

Auburn until her death. Previously she was a CNA instructor for the Red Cross, former Clinical Nurse Liaison at Compassionate Care Hospice. She also worked at Care One Millbury, the Transitional Care Unit at Hubbard and the Webster Fire Department. She ran her own company for several years, Professional Reliable Nursing.

She was a member of Saint Anthony of Padua church in Dudley, a former parishioner and board member of Holy Trinity Church in Webster and a member of the Webster Fire Department Women’s Auxiliary.

Wendy was a force of nature, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister and cherished friend to many. She dabbled in crafts and was very creative. Her passion was working as a hospice nurse and an advocate for the elderly. Her greatest treasure was the time she spent with her family and friends. She was greatly loved and will be greatly missed.

Her funeral was held on Wednesday, December 30, with a Mass at 10:00 AM in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 16 East Main Street (please meet at church). Visiting hours were held Tuesday, December 29 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM in the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, MA. Current health restrictions will be in place and everyone is required to wear a mask. Her family requests that flowers be omitted and donations in her name be made to Pancreatic Cancer Research, Beth Israel Hospital, Shapiro 9 East Campus, 330 Brookline Ave., Boston, MA 02215.

www.websterfunerals.com



DUDLEY– Victor P. “Vic” Biadasz, 79, died Wednesday, December 23, 2020 at home after being stricken ill. His wife, Marilyn J. (Tomlinson) Porter-Biadasz, died in 2019.

He leaves a daughter, Karin Biadasz Whitten and her husband Robert Roy of Shrewsbury; a son, Jeffrey T. Biadasz; a step-son, Gary Gajewski of Lewis, Delaware; 3 grandchildren, Jarid Whitten, Michael Biadasz and Bridget Biadasz; 4 step-grandchildren, Corey and Megan Gajewski, Kelly Johnson-Scott and Keith Johnson; a sister, Mary D. Urban of Auburn; nephews and nieces, grand-nephews and grandnieces.

He was born on June 14, 1941 in Webster, the son of Frank P. “Barnum” Biadasz and Celia M. (Kozlowski) Biadasz. He graduated from St. Joseph

Elementary School and then from Bartlett High School in 1959. He completed studies at East Coast Aerotech.

A licensed aircraft mechanic and inspector, Mr. Biadasz worked as a maintenance mechanic at CPC Engineering, and later as a school custodian for the Town of Webster. He retired in 2006.

Mr. Biadasz was a member of Saint Joseph Basilica, the TSKK and the Kosciuszko Society. An accomplished saxophonist and clarinetist, he played for many years for local orchestras, including the Polka Dots, Chet K. and Ray Henry.

Services will be held privately. There are no calling hours. Donations in his name may be made to St. Joseph Elementary School Music Program, 47 Whitcomb Street, Webster, MA 01570. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster.

Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail
to obits@stonebridgepress.news

Winter care for houseplants



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

Holidays are filled with new plants and decorations that often find our houseplants relegated to any out of the way available space. Be sure to keep your houseplants looking their best with proper winter care.

Make sure houseplants receive sufficient light now and throughout the winter. The shorter, often gray days of winter mean less light reaches our plants. Start by moving plants to the sunniest available window. A south-facing window is usually best, but if it is obstructed by trees, awnings or shears it may

be no better than an unobstructed window facing another direction.

If brightly lit locations are limited in your home, try rotating plants between high and low light areas. Switching plants every few weeks usually keeps them growing healthy. Give the pots a turn every few weeks to ensure each side of the plant has time facing the light. This encourages even growth and discourages stems stretching toward the light.

Consider supplementing natural light with artificial light when light is limited. Newer styles that clip onto pots, are mounted on the wall, or tucked into furniture grade stands make them attractive and easier to

use. And now LED plant lights are more affordable, longer lasting and use less energy.

Humidity is the other winter stress. Many of our houseplants are tropical and require higher humidity than our homes provide. As we turn up the heat, the humidity declines.

Boost the humidity around your plants by displaying them together. As one plant loses moisture, the others will benefit. Add a gravel tray for additional humidity. Fill a tray or saucer with pebbles and water. Then set the plant on the pebbles elevated above the water. As the water evaporates, it increases humidity around the plant.

Adjust your watering schedule to fit the conditions in your home.

Always water thoroughly but only as needed. Use your finger to check the soil moisture below the soil surface. Water moisture-loving plants, like Moon Valley Pilea, when the top few inches are barely moist. Allow the top few inches of soil to dry for cacti and succulents. And always pour off excess water that collects in the saucer. Or use gravel trays to capture the excess water, eliminating this task.

Most houseplants do fine in the same temperatures we prefer. They do not tolerate drafts of hot air from heat vents or cold air from windows and doors. Move plants as needed to avoid drafty locations.

Never trap houseplants between the curtain or blinds and the window.

The temperature can be significantly colder, resulting in injury and even death of some plants. Place plants on a table near the window or windowsill extension, leaving room to close the window coverings at night.

Wait until spring to fertilize. Plants do not need as many nutrients when their growth is limited by less-than-ideal winter conditions. As the outdoor growing conditions improve with longer days and brighter light, so do those indoors.

You will be rewarded with healthier, more attractive plants when giving them the care they need this winter. And as you tend your indoor garden, you will help fight the winter blues.



Melinda Myers
Moon Valley Pilea is a moisture-loving plant that prefers high humidity but will tolerate average home humidity.

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

All Saints Academy students meet virtually with Lt. Governor

WEBSTER — Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito said it was “the highlight of her week.” She was referring to meeting with the 12 students from All Saints Academy whose ornament designs were chosen to decorate the Massachusetts Tree in Washington, D.C. through the America Celebrates – Ornaments Across America 2020 program.

The virtual meet was set up through the Lt. Governor's office and she met with the students from her office in the State House where she showed pictures of her children and spoke about her own Catholic education, commenting on how fortunate the students were to be learning in-person.

She went on to tell the students to savor this accomplishment and be proud of themselves. “These ornaments allow us to find joy in this beautiful season that we are celebrating and to be thankful for our home, school and community.”

The Lieutenant Governor spoke with each individual child as they held up their ornament and explained why or how they came up with the design. In attendance were Fr. Adam Reid, one of the pastors of the school, Superintendent Dr. David Perda, who

nominated the school for the program. Mrs. Beth Crowley, the art teacher, and Mrs. Joan Matys, Head of School.

The three students who were fortunate to travel to Washington to see their ornaments displayed outside in President's Park, and inside the White House, also had the opportunity to talk about their personal highlights of the trip. Malcolm Parmentier, a third grader, was impressed by the size of the Christmas tree in the White House and elbow bumping the First Lady. Lyla Meehan, another third grader, loved showing Mrs. Trump her ornament and receiving kind words on how beautiful it is. And fifth grader Kendyl Fales thought the all the decorations were amazing.

In the midst of the meeting, when the Lieutenant Governor spoke to eighth grader Logan Mueller, whose ornament was a representation of the Massachusetts State House, she took the opportunity to speak about our government. Students answered her questions about the three branches of government and then she explained the process by which the Ladybug came to be the state insect. The Lt. Governor later expanded on the teachable moment by stressing



the importance of listening to others' points of view, being able to problem solve and developing communication skills.

She ended by saying, “Thank you. I am proud of your hard work and you made the Commonwealth of Massachusetts very, very proud.”

Before the virtual meeting concluded, Mrs. Matys thanked Lt. Governor Polito on behalf of the entire school and

informed her that she would be receiving a complete set of the ornaments representing various historical people and landmarks across the state. The Lt. Governor appreciated the gesture and said she would send the school a picture of the All Saints Academy ornaments when they adorned the Christmas tree in Governor Baker's office at the State House. Everyone is looking forward to seeing that!





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ON DEPOSIT





ON DEPOSIT



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DOUGLAS – 102 SE Main St! Start Packing! Spacious 9 Rm Colonial! 2.23 Acres! Center Island Granite Kit w/Soft Close Cabs, SS Appliances! Slider to 24' Deck! Open Floor Plan! Hickory Wood Floors throughout the Kit, Din & Liv Rms, all w/Recessed Lighting! 1st Flr Office or Possible 4th Bdrm w/Oak Hrdwd Flr! Full Bath in the Hall! 2nd Flr w/Full Dble Vanity Bthrm & 3 Comfortable Bdrms, all w/Beautiful Wood Laminate Flrs! Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Skylight, Ceiling Fan, Bay Window overlooking the Back Yard and a Master Bath! Lower Level w/2 Finished Rms, Utility Rm w/Laundry and Half Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Recent C/Air, Heat & Roof! 2x26 2 Car Detached Garage! Huge Shed! Nearby Nature Trails & Waltham Lake Beach! **\$379,900.00**

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**

WEBSTER – 55 Hillside Ave! 7 Rm, 4 Bedroom, Cape! Great Highway Access! Walk to Memorial Beach! View July 4th Fireworks from Your Backyard! Liv Rm w/Hrdwds, Ceiling Fan & Pellet Stove! Eat-in Kit! Fam Rm! Full Bath! 1st Flr Master w/Hrdwds & Ceiling Fan! Oil Heat! Vinyl Sided! Younger Roof! Replacement Windows! Town Services! Fenced Yard! 1 Car Garage! **\$239,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 20 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Western Exposure w/Panoramic Lake Views! Beautiful Sunsets! 7 Rms, 3 Bdrms, 2.5 Baths! Recently Renovated from Top to Bottom! Move-in Ready! Professionally Landscaped! Exterior Stonework Front & Back! Open Floor Plan! 1st Level w/Huge Family Rm w/Lake View & Access out to Stone Patio, 1/2 Bath & Laundry, Travertine Tile Throughout! 2nd Level w/Custom Granite Kitchen w/Stainless Steel Appliances, Center Island w/Seating & Large Pantry! Spacious Living Rm w/Sliders to 14X34 Composite Deck! Dining Area w/Water Views, Hardwood Floors Throughout, Bath w/Tiled Shower, Guest Bedroom or use as Office! Lake Facing Master Bedroom w/Walk-in Closet & Private Deck! Bathroom w/Double Sinks, Tiled Shower & Separate Tub! Comfortable 3rd Bedroom w/Lots of Storage! Level Lot w/Room for Entertaining and Enjoying All The Lake has to Offer! **\$749,000.00**

CHARLTON – 74 Daniels Road! Completely Renovated 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Gambrel w/Attached In-Law Apt! Picturesque 3.39 Acres! Deeded Water Rights to South Charlton Reservoir! Extensive Updates! House w/New Roof, Siding, Kit, Bthrms, Windows, Int Doors, Electrical, Flooring, R60 Insulation in Attic, Water Heater, Well Pump & More! In-Law w/Open Flr Plan, Kit, Bdrm w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Laundry! Both Fully Applianced! 2 New Driveways, Irrigation, AG Pool! Shed! Security! Generator Hookup! **\$489,900.00**



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OXFORD - 12 WINTER STREET

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THOMPSON - 5+ ACRE WATERFRONT LAND - BECOLA ROAD



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N. ATTLEBORO - 523 KELLY BLVD.



SORRY, SOLD!

Farmhouse style home! Sun-drenched interior! Spacious floor plan! living room, eat-in kitchen, 6 rooms total, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths! Heated by gas / hot water baseboard! Outdoor kitchen, pool! Jacuzzi tub/shower. Located just minutes from Rt 95 & 495! assisted sale **\$408,500.**

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Estate LOCATION, LOCATION! Scenic Upper Gore Rd! Amazing View of Beautiful Webster Lake! Main level has 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Dining Rm, Common Bathrm, Master Bedroom & Master Bath - Fireplaced Living Room! Finished Lower Level, 1/2 Bath, Laundry, Large room w/Pellet Stove & Direct Garage Access! Tiered deck, w/Screened porch, leads directly to your "Salt water" Inground Pool! **\$319,900.**

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Oxford - 4 Leicester St. - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided **\$99,900**

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

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

Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **ON DEPOSIT! \$132,900**

Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000+/- Sq Ft Lot! Potential for a 2 Family! **SORRY SOLD! \$70,000.**

Dudley - Packard Dr. 2 Lots! Very Private! off Ridge Dr. Will not last! **SORRY SOLD! \$50,000**

OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE



SORRY, SOLD!

One level living with added 35 x 18 finished walk-out lower level. Cathedral ceilings, skylight dining, hard-wood flooring and central air. Stainless appliances w/large double oven. Over-sized 30 x 14 deck, quiet cul-de-sac! **New Price \$314,900.**

SOUTHBRIDGE - 14 SERVANT WAY



SORRY, SOLD!

Young ranch with heated 2 car garage, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Efficient Propane heat, central air! Open floor plan! gas fireplace! Master Suite w/bathroom, Master California Closet! assisted sale **\$279,900.**

OXFORD - 115 CHARLTON ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautiful home set back off road providing privacy and oversized yard. Kitchen w/granite counters & abundance of cabinets. Cathedral ceilings kitchen, dining and living room. Open floor plan! large deck with large backyard through sliders in dining room. Hardwood floors! Tile baths. Master bedroom/master bath! Finished walkout lower level w/bat! 2 car garage. Extras above ground pool! **\$369,900.**

WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY



SORRY, SOLD!

NEW TO THE MARKET! Custom Sprawling Split 2800+ SF! Central Air! Kitchen, Dining Room, Cathedral Ceiling Living Room, 3 Bedrooms! Granite Counters & New Flooring! New Boiler - Hot Water Tank - Oil Tank! FULL finished Lower Level w/ Full Bath & Laundry! THERE'S MORE! 2 Car Garage, renovated to include Hydro Heat, AC & 1/2 Bath! Great for Fitness Studio, Game Room or Home School! Over 1.4 Acres! **\$360,000.**

WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings! **\$499,900.**

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Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave

Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd



SORRY, SOLD!

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



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	December 2019	December 2020	Trend
AUBURN			
Median Price	\$280,000	\$344,000	▲
Market Volume	\$5,326,050	\$9,592,900	▲
# of Homes Sold	17	24	▲
Avg Days on Market	41	32	▼
DUDLEY			
Median Price	\$282,000	\$323,000	▲
Market Volume	\$2,302,400	\$3,167,400	▲
# of Homes Sold	8	10	▲
Avg Days on Market	32	30	▼


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Dudley: 8 Acres,
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Dudley resident named to Holy Cross Dean’s List

WORCESTER — Trevor Dow of Dudley has been named to the Dean’s List at The College of the Holy Cross for the fall semester of 2020. He is a junior majoring in Asian Studies.

Dow plans to study abroad at Sophia University in Tokyo in the fall of 2021.

EMPLOYEES

continued from page A1

said, noting health officials are “anticipating [it] to be a very, very difficult January.”

In response, the state has restored several group-activity and other restrictions that were alst in place in the spring. Among them are setting a maximum occupancy of 25 percent for many places, and maximum gathering sizes of 10 indoors and 25 outdoors. Callahan noted the Supreme Judicial Court recently ruled that the governor does have legal authority to issue such public health orders under the 1950s-era Civil Defense Act.

Locally, the town is seeking a Rapid Recovery Planning Assistance grant to provide technical aid to small businesses to help them deal with Covid problems through e-commerce and curbside services. Planner Tony Sousa said he hopes “there’ll be implementation dollars down the road.”

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

GRANT

continued from page A1

of Housing and Urban Development low-to-moderate income limits in the community where they live. Certain busines types have also been disqualified from the grant including real estate, businesses owned by people under 18-years-old, chain stores, weapon and firearms dealers, liquor stores, cannabis businesses, and lobbyists. Qualified businesses could receive a maximum grant award of \$10,000 which is meant to be earmarked for business costs such as rent, staffing, utilities, personal protective equipment (PPE) and other items clearly required to operate in compliance with pandemic-related public health requirements.

Businesses seeking to apply for the Microenterprise Assistance Program grant can visit cmprcregionalservices.org/microenterprise for more information or contact CMPRC at 508-459-3339.

STONE

continued from page A1

ication to duty. Congratulations to Captain Stone as she represents the best in the field of corrections today and will work hard to make us a better department,” said Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis.

Stone, a 14-year veteran of the department, started her career with the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office

in June of 2006, was promoted to Sergeant in April 2010, Lieutenant in 2014 and most recently to Captain.

Capt. Stone most recently served as Lieutenant of kitchen operations. She will continue to oversee that department in addition to prison ministries. Stone will also continue her role as a facilitator and team member of the WCSO Self-Defense Workshops for Women. As Captain, she will also be responsible for commanding and supervising lieutenants, sergeants,

correctional officers and staff under her charge as well as monitoring the care, custody and control of inmate activity ensuring the safety of both staff and inmates.

The Worcester County Jail & House of Correction located in West Boylston is responsible for both pre-trial detainees and inmates sentenced to two and a half years or less. The correctional facility houses up to 1,000 inmates and has a staff of more than 600.

OXFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

OXFORD — Oxford Middle School has released its revised honor roll for the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year. School officials apologize for the incomplete honor roll previously published.

Grade 5
High Honors: Andrew Collins, Laura Grenier, Olivia Hammond, Sophia Keefe, Brooke Nitti, Victoria Sullivan
Honors: Sabrina Adamiak, Khloe Anderson, Samantha Bouley, Jaelyn Bronzo, Ayva Coffey, Kaeli Cordova Del Cid, Zachary Dufresne, Liam Fahey, Michael Faust, Caroline Harty, Tatiangelys Hernandez Barreto, Chloe Hosley, Noel Jandrow, Colin Joyce, Ella Kasprzycki, Kaiden Labay, Isabella Latuga, Laycie Leverone, Evan Micciche, Kyleigh Minardi, Landon Nelson, Jacob Rondeau, Isabella Roszkowski, Grace Shoblom,

Adam Sliwoski, Krystiana Sobocinski, Torin Stone, Jackson Stuart, Keagan VanArsdalen, Abby Vignali, Christina Vitale, Larry Wade

Grade 6
High Honors: Shayla Boliver, William Brambilla, Ariana Byrnes, Catherine Cloutier, Lillian Demicco, Emily Dupuis, Kate Mayo, Colin McIlvaine, Nicholas Meneguzzo, Jayden Minardi, Benjamin Rucho, Shayne Ryder, Zachary Sirard, Kyle Twombly, Lilian Vaillancourt
Honors: Teegan Borowy, Emma Brindisi, Audri Chalifoux, Marie Cosentino, Grace Crouch, Abigail Davis, Cameron Davis, Eric Day, Ariana Dolan, Nathan Donnelly, Connor Dwyer, Dylan Filipkowski, Randi Flynn, Aria Fournier, Brandon Fresolo, Turner Goyette, Jordyn Grazulis, Keegan Grieco, Brooke H o d s d o n - B e u r m a n ,

Nathan Holmes, Finnian Keefe, Abbie Lambert, Darrian Lambert, Henry LaMountain, Evan Latuga, Ethan Lemire, Damon Libby, Daymyin Lopez, James Mack, Jared Magnusson, Colin McAuliffe, Leighya McDowell, Riley Moody, Kiley Paronto, Chase Paul, Lia Pavilionis, Ava Rennie, Philip Rouillard, Julian Ruiz, Cameron Shields, Bradon Stone, Alyssa Yanis

Grade 7
High Honors: Justine Anderson, Rachel Arndt, Logan Barriere, Sadie Bond, Cassidy Burke, Jaelynne Caracciolo, Andrew Cloutier, Keegan Comeau, Dylan Cordova Del Cid, Lorelie Curboy, Abigail DeJong, Nathan Dube, Christopher Dufresne, Mya Federico, Anastasia Ford, Ethan Ford, Chloe Gabis, Veronica Griffin, Gwen Gustafson, Jeffrey Guzman, Kolton Hemenway, Matthew

Hilman, Abigail Hoyt, Jack Johnson, Rosy Krantz, Kyra Krasinskas, Emily McDonald, Samuel Paradise, Jacob Pratt, Noah Proctor, Camden Stone, Ava Vincent, Vanessa Walker, Ethan White, Abigail Worster
Honors: Jonathan Ardon, Sarah Arndt, Tyler Blomquist, Delaney Burke, Elizabeth Byfield, Daniel Carlisle, Alyssa Carrier, Maddix Castle, Cameron DeAdder, Tyler Forgione, Lily Gosselin, Dominic Graika, Craig Grenier, Alexander Hamilton, Joshua Irons, Abigail Kimball, Madison Labay, Lucas Lyons, Addisen Monsen, Jesai Morales, Alexander Mundell, Brynn Nieber, Alexis Nolin, Daniel Palmer, Nolan Remington, Paige Reynolds, Amaya Roasario-Green, Benjamin St. Francis

Local students named to President’s List at Plymouth State University

PLYMOUTH, New Hampshire — 899 students have been named to the Plymouth State University President’s List for the Fall 2020 semester. To be named to the President’s List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.7 or better for the Fall 2020 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester.

Juliette Dubey of Dudley
Andrea Godin of Webster
About Plymouth State University
Established in 1871, Plymouth State University serves the

state of New Hampshire and the world beyond by transforming our students through advanced practices where engaged learning produces well-educated undergraduates and by providing graduate education that deepens and advances knowledge and enhances professional development. With distinction, we connect with community and business partners for economic development, technological advances, healthier living, and cultural enrichment with a special commitment of service to the North Country and Lakes Region of New Hampshire.

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TOY DRIVE

continued from page 1

the only things the Dudley Police gave out for the holidays. The department worked with Dudley Park N' Shop which provided a dozen frozen dinners that Sergeant Marek Karłowicz, Officer Keith Remillard and Officer Phil Megas delivered to families throughout Dudley on Dec. 23. Park N' Shop has long been

a supporter of the Police Departments community efforts and stepped up to help provide meals for families during one of the roughest years in recent memory. In a release, the Dudley Police Department thanked the community at large for its generosity and supporting a worthwhile cause that helped bring some normality to the 2020 holiday season.



Dudley Police Sergeant Marek Karłowicz, Park N' Shop Store Manager Joseph Doherty, and Officer Keith Remillard.



Dudley Little League Mascot Dinger and league officials present a check for \$870 to Dudley Police Chief Wojnar and Officer Chandler Boyd.

St. Joseph School celebrates new members

of Children

of Mary,

altar servers



WEBSTER — On Saturday, Dec. 19, the Children of Mary Sodality at St. Joseph School held its annual installations for new members. Membership is open to girls in grades three through eight who attend St. Joseph School.

New members are Third-Grade student Maria Mankarios and Fifth-Grade students Violet Johnson, Ella Parslow, and Alissa Perron. As members of the Children of Mary Sodality, the girls actively participate in various parish activities such as processions on important feast days and the Fatima processions on the 13th of the month from May through October. The girls also participate in First Friday adoration, where they pray the rosary in front of the Blessed Sacrament and join parishioners in singing the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. In addition, they take part in a variety of service activities, including organizing and preparing the parish Advent Angel Tree. The Children of Mary Sodality is advised by Sr. Mary Ann Papiez.

Following the installation of new members of Children of Mary, five St. Joseph School students were installed as altar servers at St. Joseph Basilica. For the past several weeks, these students participated in weekly training sessions with Pastor Rev. Grzegorz Chodkowski. Their hard work and dedication culminated when they received their cassocks, took their Pledge of Service, and were blessed by Fr. Gregory. New altar servers include Third-grade students Lukas Barbosa and Brooklyn McCarthy and Fourth Grade students Ethan Ryan, Luke Surowanec, and Adam Wozniak. Thank you for answering God's call to serve at His Holy Altar.

The evening culminated when members of Children of Mary, altar servers, school children, and parishioners gathered in front of the rectory for the annual Christmas tree lighting. The ceremony included a short prayer service, led by Fr. Gregory, and a reading of the poem, "What Christmas is All About," by Student Council President Samantha Keller. Student Council Vice President Dale Boudreau illuminated the tree after the blessing. All those in attendance were also treated to a visit from St. Nicholas.

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