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Paid for by Donna Becker

VOTE

BOB MILLER

Monday, May 3

For Selectman

NOT AFRAID To ASK the Questions that affect ALL TAXPAYERS

Paid for by Robert J. Miller for Selectmen Committee

Does anyone still dance around a May Pole?

St. Joseph students study metamorphosis



Courtesy
St. Joseph School Pre-K four-year-old student Kelsey Cormier examines caterpillars for the classroom butterfly habitat.



St. Joseph School Pre-K four-year-old student Evan Walker examines chrysalides that attached to the undersides of the butterfly habitat lids.



St. Joseph School Pre-K four-year-old student Austin Runge examines a Painted Lady Butterfly that recently emerged from its chrysalis.

WEBSTER — On March 30, the four-year-old students in Ms. Robyn Dodge's Pre-K class at St. Joseph School received a special package from Insect Lore, a company that provides tools to give learners an insight into the world of insect metamorphosis. The box contained caterpillars that immediately spiked the children's curiosity. The containers holding the caterpillars were small, clear cups that made it easy for the students to see the tiny larvae crawling around and feasting on the food at the bottom.

Ms. Dodge immediately began her instruction.

"The larvae will con-

tinue to eat their food and grow before your eyes," she said as the students listened attentively. "They will shed their exoskeletons several times over the next seven to ten days."

As she predicted, ten days later, the larvae climbed to the top of the containers and attached themselves to the undersides of the lids. There, they hung in a "J" shape, shed their exoskeletons one last time, and hardened into chrysalides. Shortly after that, Ms. Dodge moved them into a butterfly habitat. This past week, the Painted Lady Butterflies emerged from their chrysalides. Their wings appeared

soft and crumpled at first, but the butterflies slowly stretched their wings and basked in the sun. They are currently enjoying a sunny spot in Ms. Dodge's classroom and will be released very soon.

This experience allowed the Pre-K students to develop a greater understanding of the fantastic metamorphosis of butterflies through the completion of journal entries illustrating the stages they witnessed. Ms. Dodge also incorporated the butterflies into her art activities by having the students create watercolor butterflies and butterfly crowns. Another fun butterfly

Turn To **STUDENTS** page **A9**

Dudley selectmen respond to alleged open meeting law violations

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY - A complaint concerning a potential open meeting law violation drew the ire of Dudley's selectmen during a meeting on April 20. The complaint alleges that selectmen violated the law by failing to record a meeting earlier in the month.

Selectmen were joined by Attorney Michelle Randazzo, the town's counsel with KP Law, who presented them with the complaint filed by citizen David Durgin and dated April 7 concerning the April 5 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. That

meeting, which was the town's return to in-person meetings after shifting over to livestream and dual-platform meetings during the pandemic, was not steamed on YouTube, Facebook or the town's cable network due to technical issues. Prior to the meeting, the town had posted on Facebook that a technical error occurred and that a livestream of the meeting would not take place but that citizens were welcomed to attend in person. In addition, the technical issues prevented the meeting from being recorded. This turn of event left Durgin frustrated that the meeting was able to continue

without the public accessing it away from the town hall.

However, Attorney Randazzo called the case "simple," "straightforward," and "easily addressed," and made it clear right from the start of the discussion that the town was not in the wrong, and that livestreaming meetings, despite this becoming the norm during the pandemic, is merely a courtesy not required by state or federal law.

"Mr. Durgin alleges that at the Board's April 5 meeting it failed to record the meeting and it failed

Turn To **DUDLEY** page **A9**

Oxford voters face 22-item warrant

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD - Selectmen unanimously approved the 22-article warrant for the May 5 Annual Town Meeting on April 20.

As usual, the biggest item is the \$40.8 million town budget (Article 16), which will require \$25 million in taxes, \$13.2 million in state aid (including about \$500,000 for roads), and \$2.89 million in various local receipts. The

schools represent \$18.8 million of the spending, employee benefits, \$7.7 million, retirement costs \$2.5 million, DPW, \$3.75 million, Public Safety, \$4 million, and General Government, \$2.6 million. Various smaller amounts are being proposed to fund cultural services, stabilization and OPEB contributions, and \$500,000 for roads on top of state aid.

Additionally, the fol-

lowing article calls for \$1.7 million in capital spending. That lengthy list of projects includes a North Fire Station roof, Leicester Street (Rt 56) bridge work, police technology upgrades, ADA upgrades at Town Hall, replacing the middle school boiler, repairing Chafee and Barton school foundations, and various vehicles.

Many of the articles are

Turn To **OXFORD** page **A4**

State to conduct review of Dudley-Charlton School District

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — During the week of April 26, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Office of Public School Monitoring (PSM) will conduct a Tiered Focused Monitoring Review of The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District.

The Office of Public School Monitoring visits each district and charter school every three years to monitor compliance with federal and state special education and civil rights regulations. Areas of review related to special education include student assessments, determination of eligibility, the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team process, and IEP development and implementation. Areas of review related to civil rights include bullying, student discipline, physical restraint, and equal access to school programs for all students.

In addition to the onsite visit, parent outreach is an important part of the review process. The review chairperson from the Office of Public School Monitoring will send all parents of students with disabilities an online survey that focuses on key areas of their child's special education program. Survey results will contribute to the development of a report. During the onsite review, the Office of Public School Monitoring will interview the chairperson(s) of the district's Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC). Other onsite activities may include interviews of district staff and administrators, reviews of student records, and onsite observations.

Parents and other individuals may call Doryce Smith, Public School Monitoring Chairperson, at (781) 338-3718 to request a telephone interview. If an individual requires an accommodation, such as translation, to participate in an interview, the Department will make the necessary arrangements.

Within approximately 60 business days after the onsite visit, the review chairperson will provide the (district or charter school) with a report with information about areas in which the (district or charter school) meets or exceeds regulatory requirements and areas in which the (district or charter school) requires assistance to correct or improve practices. The public will be able to access the report at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/tfm/reports/>.



Courtesy

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See the corresponding Crossword Puzzle in this issue.

OF THE SPRING SEASON

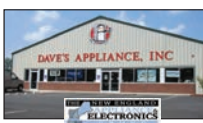
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Baker administration opens vaccinations to general public

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – People age 16 and older who live, work, or study in Massachusetts can now sign up to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

After months of prioritizing various groups within the state, officials opened vaccinations to the general public last week. Residents can **preregister online to receive their vaccines at one of the state’s mass vaccination sites, or they can sign up to schedule appointments at a regional collaborative location.**

Also last week, the Baker-Polito Administration announced the expansion of preregistration services to include more regional collaborative sites. The state’s preregistration portal also features new tools meant to streamline the booking process.

“The Amherst-Northampton and Marshfield regional collaboratives will be the first to come online, and more regional collaboratives are working with the Command Center and tech teams to ensure they meet the opera-

tional and technological requirements to be added to the preregistration system,” read a statement released by Gov. Charlie Baker.

Next week, residents seeking to book appointments will have the opportunity to select their vaccination location before proceeding to select from available appointments. This will help cut down on travel times and enable residents to be vaccinated where they feel most comfortable, officials said.

To date, around 1.5 million people have preregistered for vaccinations using the state’s system, with more than 800,000 having been contacted with the opportunity to book appointments.

State leaders are proud of the many improvements that have been made to the system since the chaotic launch of vaccinations this past winter. Back in January and February, long lines and frequent website issues deterred residents from signing up, but with each week the state continues to improve its efficiency and organization in the registration process.

Looking ahead, Baker’s team has pledged to keep finding ways to improve

the system now that far more residents are able to register for their vaccinations.

“We will continue to make improvements to the system in the weeks ahead, which will make the process even easier as more people become eligible,” Baker said.

State leaders remind residents that limited weekly vaccine allocations from federal officials may cause extended delays between registration and a person’s actual scheduled vaccination. Several residents have had to wait multiple weeks after scheduling their vaccines online.

For the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, residents typically need to wait approximately two to three weeks between receiving the first and second doses of the vaccine. If you are vaccinated at a mass vaccine clinic, you will be scheduled for your second vaccine immediately after receiving the first dose.

To learn more about the registration and vaccination processes, visit www.mass.gov.



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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 POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests from April 11-24.

A 42-year-old male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 13 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon.

Avriana Lisette Torres, age 26, of Webster was arrested on April 13 in connection with a warrant.

A 36-year-old male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 15 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Assault & Battery, Strangulation or Suffocation, Threatening to Commit a Crime, and Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon.

Jamie Fowler, age 36, of Leicester was arrested on April 16 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Juan Fontanez, age 46, of Webster was arrested on April 17 in connection with a warrant.

A 25-year-old female from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 17 for Assault. Sylvia Carrier, age 40, also of Webster, was arrested during the same incident for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Rafael Rivera Hernandez, age 39, of Webster was arrested on April 18 in connection with a warrant.

Raseco N. Riley, age 24, of Worcester was arrested on April 20 in connection with multiple warrants.

A 28-year-old male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 22 for Vandalization of Property, Felony Nighttime Breaking & Entering into a Building, Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official, Stalking, Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, Assault on a Family or Household Member, and in connection with a warrant.

A 30-year-old male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 22 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

A 30-year-old male from Webster was issued a summons on April 22 for multiple counts of Violation of an Abuse Protection Order.

A 36-year-old female from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 22 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

A 40-year-old male from Leicester whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 22 for Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon and Assault with a Dangerous Weapon.

Jamison A. Bugbee, age 20, of Charlton was arrested on April 23 for Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Possession of an Open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle, and Speeding at a Rate of Speed Exceeding the Posted Limit.


Thomas J. Ellis, age 22, of Oxford was arrested on April 24 for Disorderly Conduct and Disturbing the Peace.

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of April 14-23.

A 32-year-old male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 15 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Possession of a Class B Drug, and Possession of a Class C Drug.

A 38-year-old female whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 18 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.



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Do-It-Yourself Painting Pointers

This season, with everything fresh and new, inspiration ranks high for revamping the home. Since nothing transforms a space quicker or cheaper than paint, it's a natural choice for a mini makeover. Whether you're painting an entire room or a piece of furniture, the following ideas and techniques can help ensure paint perfection!



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

Paint is one the easiest, cost effective ways to alter and enhance the spaces you live in. The golden rule to painting walls is that dark colors absorb light, making a room appear smaller, and whites and pastels reflect the light, creating a spacious feel. To expand a small room, paint the walls a color from the cool end of the color wheel. In fact, paint company Sherwin-Williams recommends choosing blue, green or violet hues to make walls appear to recede.

Paint can also be used to visually correct architectural flaws. To widen a long narrow room, use a slightly darker color on the shorter walls and a lighter color on the longer walls. To make a low ceiling appear higher, be sure the ceiling is a lighter color than the walls. A long hallway can be shortened by painting the wall at the end a dark color to bring it closer. And rectangular rooms can instantly appear more symmetric by painting the two short end walls a darker shade.

The proper paint finish can be used to camouflage imperfect walls. For example, Paints that have no sheen, also known as “flat” or “matte” finishes absorb the light. These porous finishes are ideal for hiding flaws in ceilings and walls and are especially appreciated when working with old, plaster surfaces. The downfall is they cannot withstand cleaning and scrubbing so they are not practical for kitchens, bathrooms, children’s rooms or other high traffic areas.

Eggshell finish has a slight sheen, similar to that of an eggshell, so it is still somewhat effective at hiding flaws. Its velvety look makes it a popular choice and eggshell finish is a bit more reflective than flat paint so it doesn’t show every scuff and can tolerate light cleaning. Satin finish paint is more durable than matte or egg-

shell finishes. It has a light sheen, and resists moisture, which makes it a popular option for kitchens and bathrooms. Semi-gloss finishes reflect light and offer a bright, glossy finish which can really add to a room’s appeal. Surfaces are easily cleaned, however the shiny finish shows surface imperfections, making it impractical for many applications. Newer trims and moldings are ideal candidates for semi-gloss paint.

A glossy finish provides a high gloss shine, is very durable and easy to clean. The brilliant shine is typically used for small accent areas, as the finish is very reflective and too distracting for most area applications.

Not sure how much paint to buy? Most major paint companies and home centers offer easy to use paint calculators on their websites for precise measuring. Or, to estimate the amount of paint you need in order to cover the walls of a room, multiply the perimeter of the room by the ceiling height to get square feet. Subtract 20 square feet for each door and 15 square feet for each average-sized window in the room. The figure you end up with is a pretty close estimate of the actual wall area. Keep in mind, you can expect one gallon of paint to cover approximately 350 square feet.

Want to know the most efficient order of painting a room? Experts advise painting ceiling, walls, trim, cabinets, and doors.

Quick Tips

For a quick patch job on walls, simply use items on hand: Mix equal parts of starch and salt, with just enough water to make a thick paste. Apply and smooth over cracks or small holes.

When mixing up commercial plaster, you’ll reduce lumps if you add the powdered plaster to the water instead of adding water to the plaster.

Sanding is a tedious chore. To reduce sanding on plastered walls, simply go over freshly applied joint compound with a wet paint brush for a smooth finish.

Ensure a smooth surface: Before painting over an old bureau or other piece of furniture, you can easily

clean the finish by wiping it down with a lintfree cloth dampened with straight turpentine. This method picks up any stray dust and helps smooth out the surface to prepare it for painting.

When painting new plaster, or other porous surface, paint on a solution of water mixed with PVA glue first. This seals the surface and stops the paint from soaking into the plaster, giving a better finish and making the paint go further!

When painting with a brush, always keep a wet edge as you paint, and work away from that wet edge. If you paint over a dry edge, you will get overlap marks.

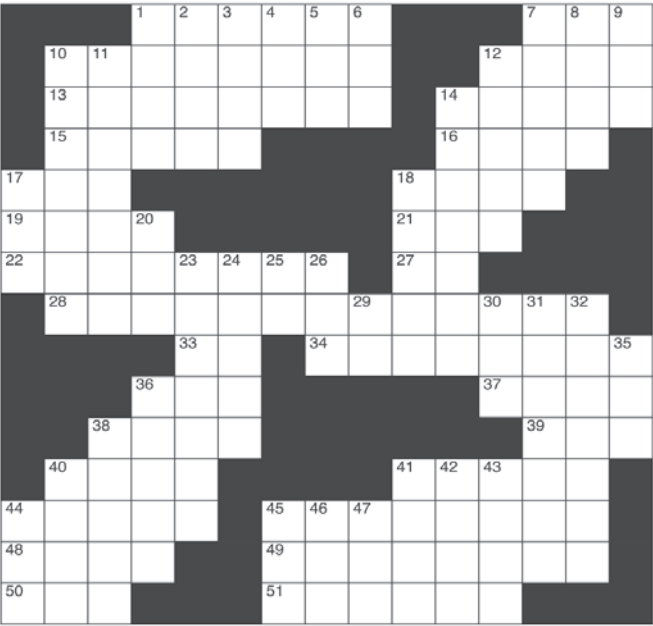
Aerosol paint is a popular choice for revamping furniture and small accessories, but it can be frustrating when the paint does not dispel evenly. Here’s a trick to ensure a finer and more even coat of paint: Simply place the can in warm water several minutes prior to spraying. The higher temperature helps the paint to flow out more easily, and smoothly.

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!

Please note the contest had been suspended due to COVID restrictions. It is expected to start up again in June. All entries have been collected and will be entered into an upcoming drawing.

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.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Switches

7. Legal financial term (abbr.)

10. Sweeties

12. Competition

13. Measures electrical resistance

14. Psychotherapy researcher

15. Causes injury to

16. Open

17. Polish peninsula

18. Hebrew calendar month

19. Whale ship captain

21. Children's accessory

22. Unknown point

27. Exists

28. Extremely confident
33. Expression of disgust

34. The government has many

36. Small constellation

37. Northern Indian city

38. The best pitchers

39. Naturally occurring solid

40. Apple computers

41. Portuguese city

44. Ancient Greek war dance

45. More reliable

48. Sailboat

49. Newspapers

50. Frequently flooded area

51. They dig for coal

CLUES DOWN

1. Partial

2. "Mad Men" leading man

3. The __ of March

4. Healthy

5. Where golfers begin

6. Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)

7. Of the cheek

8. Injury reminder

9. Statesman Franklin

10. For an unknown reason

11. Brain parts

12. Islamic calendar month

14. Avenue where ad men work

17. Possesses

18. Accept

20. Stake

23. Former British PM May
24. US battleships circa 1939

25. Greek alphabet letter

26. When you hope to get there

29. Top lawyer

30. Fiddler crabs

31. Intolerant

32. Persons that cause extreme fear

35. Car mechanics group

36. Capital of Ghana

38. Famed ballplayer Hank

40. Emphasizes insignificance

41. Light-colored

42. Distinctive smell

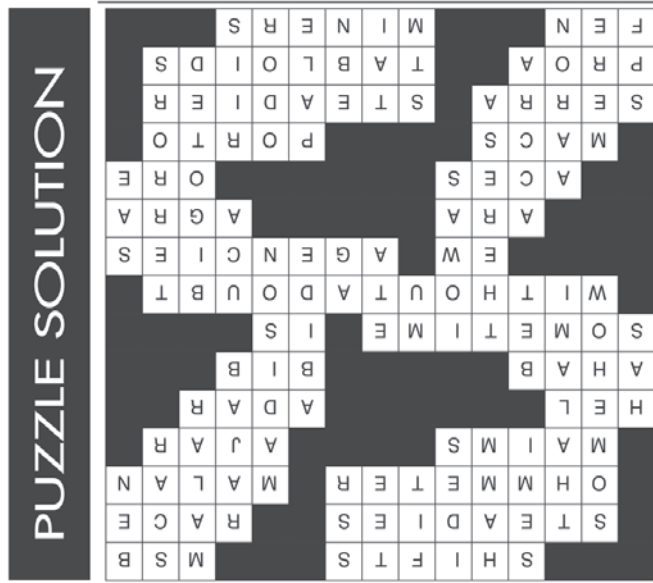
43. Muckraking journalist Jacob

44. Sunscreen rating

45. Short-term memory

46. Japanese delicacy

47. One point north of due east



OXFORD

continued from page A1

planning or zoning related items. One consolidates two bylaw chapters into one new one to address stormwater management issues, update the rules to meet new state and federal requirements for water resource protection, and defines the Planning Board or Conservation Commission as the town’s “Stormwater Authority” with the DPW as their agent. Within the bylaw are requirements for projects as small at 10,000 square feet to get land disturbance permits under certain circumstances, violation fines of up to \$300 per day, and a long list of exemptions. The board(s) may require permanent escrow funds to cover long-term maintenance of a stormwater system and annual reports, among other things.

A second item calls for replacing the existing cluster zoning bylaw with a new one. Although various details have changed, the bylaw still aims to allow for single-family subdivisions to have homes built on smaller lots (half the size normally used) so as to protect more open space “for recreation, conservation or agriculture” in and around such subdivisions. Among other things, it sets the minimum size at four acres (total, not per lot) and requires lot size and shape “to be in harmony with the natural terrain.” It also defines an option called the “local initiative” to allow for creation of “affordable” unit.

Two smaller items, if approved, will allow legal on-street parking to count toward the parking requirements for non-residential uses, and will add hotels, motels and country inns to the allowed uses in the industrial district. A final item calls for prohibiting gas and diesel boats from using Carbuncle Pond, in a way similar to what Town Meeting approved for Robinson Pond last year.

Beyond those, there are several fairly routine items covering transfers, past-year’s bills (if any), revolving accounts and various other items. The warrant’s full text is available on the Town Clerk’s page, while the full budget message is on the Town Manager’s page, both at oxford.ma.us.

In other business, the selectmen delayed acting on the Town Manager’s annual review to give time for absent Selectman John Saad to weigh in, but noted that they’d push it to no later than the first meeting in July. They also opened a hearing into an earth removal permit request on Oxbow Road, but postponed that to June on the applicant’s request because the law requires a four fifths vote, but Saad is out and Michael Daniels had to recuse himself as an abutter.

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

ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

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Fridays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Evening appointments if needed.

Note: Office hours are for selectmen's secretary

and town administrator. S

electmen do not hold office hours.

Town Clerk (949-8004)

Monday-Thursday8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday nights 5 to 7 p.m.

Fridays9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DUDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-4411)

Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week

DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040)

Monday-Sunday6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OXFORD

OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027

Board of Selectmen

Monday-Friday9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Town Clerk (987-6032)

Monday-Friday9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156)

For emergencies, call 911

OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)

Monday-Friday8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WEBSTER

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Monday8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday-Thursday8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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OBITUARIES

Beverly A. Ford, 83



OXFORD – Beverly A. (Laganelli) Ford, 83, of Burbank Street, died Friday, April 16, 2021, at UMass Memorial Medical Center – Memorial Campus in Worcester. She was predeceased by her husband, Russell G. Ford Sr. who died in 1988. She is survived by three children, James R. Ford and his wife Susan of Dudley, Shirley L. Ford and her companion Danny Quill of Webster, and Elaine Coulter and her husband Ray of Vineland, NJ; two brothers, Anthony Laganelli of Pennsylvania and Ronald Fitzback of Worcester; eight grandchildren, Jenn Ciuchta, James Ford Jr., Joshua Ford, Tim Quill, Zachary Ford, Stefani Ford, Alysia Ford, and Michael Ford Jr.; twelve great-grandchildren; and many nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by two sons, Russel G. Ford Jr. who died in 2011, and Michael A. Ford who died in 2017; two brothers, Angelo Laganelli and Lawrence Laganelli; and two sisters, Frances

Mahoney and Michelena Ethier. She was born in Worcester, daughter of the late Antonio Laganelli and Jennie (Rossetti) Fitzback Laganelli, and lived in Worcester before moving to Oxford over 50 years ago. Mrs. Ford cared for her home and family throughout her life. She was a member of St. Ann’s Church in North Oxford, and enjoyed playing bingo. Her greatest joy was spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. The family would like to thank her aide Angie Fountain, for the exceptional care given to Beverly over the last few years. They would also like to thank the doctors and nurses in the ICU at Memorial Hospital for keeping her comfortable over the past week. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, at North Cemetery in Oxford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33rd Street, New York, NY 10016. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

Joanne M. Klebart, 84



OXFORD – Joanne M. (Pierre) Klebart, 84, passed away on Tuesday April 20, 2021 while at the Life Care Center of Auburn. Joanne was born in Dudley, MA on April 10, 1937, daughter of the late Joseph and Helen (Johnson) Pierre. Joanne worked for the Ethan Allen Company for many years prior to her retirement, and was a longtime and faithful member of the United Church of Christ in Webster. Being predeceased by her husband David W. Klebart, her stepfather Stanley Chalupka, and her brother William Pierre, and her sister Jan,

Joanne will be deeply missed by her loving daughters: Ellen Klebart of Fitchburg, Darleen Klebart and her companion Miguel of Webster; Lee Robert and her husband Frank of Charlton, and Margaret Holmes and her husband Bruce of Webster; she also leaves nine grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. A graveside service was held at 10:00 am on Tuesday April 27, 2021 at Mount Zion Cemetery in Webster. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences, share fond memories, or light a candle in remembrance of Joanne.

Muriel M. Raymond



WEBSTER – Muriel M. (Shurick) Raymond passed away peacefully on November 9th, 2020 after a very short illness. Her heart was already broken after the passing of the love of her life, husband Gene in 2017. Muriel was the loving mother of three devoted children, Jean and her late husband Gary, Kathleen and her husband Allan and David and his wife Sally. She was the proudest grandmother of Kimberly, Kelley and her husband Brad, Tara and her husband Derek, Jesse and his wife Stacy and Nicholas. Her great-grandchildren meant the world to her: Troy, Briana, Haley, Tony, Garret, Kylee, Mady, Draven, and Lucan. She was so close to meeting her first great-great grandchild, Eliana Rose. She adored many nieces and nephews as well. She worked tirelessly at local mills

alongside her husband for years. Her latest job was at Filene’s Basement, where she loved sharing her discount with her family! She camped her whole life, and in the later years, Hidden Acres was her home away from home. Bingo was her most favorite pastime and when she didn’t go with one of her daughters, her bingo buddy Betty was at her side. She didn’t care if she won a dollar or a hundred: a win was a win. In addition to her loving husband, she was predeceased by her siblings Donald, Carlos, Dorothy, Charles, and Raymond. Her funeral will be held on Friday, May 14, at 10:00 AM Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street (please meet at the church). Burial will be in Mount Zion Cemetery. Current guidelines will be in place and everyone must wear a mask. Arrangements are under the direction of Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street. www.scanlonfs.com

Ruby C. Vitkus, 92



DUDLEY – Ruby C. (Clarke) Vitkus, 92, of Dresser Hill Road, died Monday, April 19, 2021, in her home after a period of declining health. She was predeceased by her husband of 73 years, John Vitkus of Dudley who died in 2019. She is survived by two children, Allan Vitkus and his wife Sandra of Charlton, and Susan L. Gulkin of Dudley; three grandchildren, Eric Gulkin and his wife Pattie of Dudley, David Vitkus and his wife Aimee of Dudley, and Julie Neri and her husband Scot of Charlton; seven great-grandchildren, Emma and Nathan Gulkin, Owen West, Daniel, Jonathan, and Benjamin Vitkus, and Gianna Neri; and several nephews and nieces. She was predeceased by five brothers, Harry, George, Theodore, Charles, and Walter Clark; four sisters, Grace Mongeon, Mae Langlois, Anna Wolfenden, and Dorothy Downs; and her son-in-law, Ted Gulkin. She was born in Charlton, daughter of the late Harry W. and Minnie (Beckwith) Clarke, and lived in Oxford, Charlton,

and Florida, before moving to Dudley in 2009. She graduated from Charlton High School. Mrs. Vitkus was a representative for Avon for 40 years, retiring in 2000. She was a Girl Scout leader and involved with the P.T.A. when her children were young. She hosted weekend gatherings and annual summer family reunions at her home on the lake. She enjoyed gardening, was devoted to her family, and would always do for others. The family would like to thank Overlook Hospice and the Visiting Angels, for the exceptional care given to their mother. A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 23, 2021, at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. Burial will follow at West Ridge Cemetery in Charlton. A calling hour will be held on Friday from 9-10 a.m. prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 3 Speen St., Suite 250, Framingham, MA 01701, or to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1942.

Edmond John “Popi-Guy” Johnston Sr., 77



Franklin, VA - Edmond John “Popi-Guy” Johnston Sr., 77, of Franklin, VA, passed away at home surrounded by his loving family on April 25, 2021. Ed was born on Nov 18, 1943 in Stamford, CT to Edmond C. and Mabel Smith Johnston. He received his GED while in the Navy and was ordained as a minister after attending the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Ed is survived by his six children, Nena Winslow and husband Wayne of Sturbridge, MA; Kerri Peterson and husband Michael of Dudley, MA; Scharri Loader and husband Jamie of Woodstock, CT; Nikki Kustak of Webster, MA; Erin Johnston and husband Christopher Miffitt of Arthurdale, WV; and Edmond “JR” Johnston Jr. and wife Alicia of Franklin, VA. He is also survived by his nine grandchildren, Nya Winslow, Colin Johnston, Jamie Loader, Brett Loader, Kyle Kustak, Christopher Kustak, Noah Miffitt, Timothy Johnston and Sophie

Johnston; and brother, Robert Johnston and wife Theresa of Greensboro, NC. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Donna Gayle Johnston. Ed had many interests. He had an eclectic taste for cars, turning trash into treasures, writing stories and in his final months he found comfort in drawing. He was also a spiritual man and attended many churches over the years; he found great joy in studying and sharing his beliefs and the word of God. He touched many lives by opening his heart and home. His outspoken and teasing nature will be remembered by all. Ed will be laid to rest next to his loving wife of over 33 years in Woodstock, CT. Although flowers are appreciated, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to Hospice of Virginia, 2235 Staples Mill Rd Suite 100, Richmond, VA 23230. www.wrightfuneralhome.org



Yarno Nesta, 100



OXFORD- Yarno Nesta, 100, passed away April 21, 2021 peacefully in his home with his family at his side. He leaves his son, John Nesta and his wife Elaine of Calgary, Canada and 2 grandsons, James and Andrew. Yarno was born in Oxford March 9, 1921 son of the late Angelo and Thespina (Prifty) Nesta and has lived in Oxford all his life. His wife of 65 years, Sophie ‘Connie’ (Constantine) Nesta predeceased him as well as a brother, John and sisters, Sophie, Mary and Claire. He was a successful business man in Oxford for many years, and was a member of the Oxford Lodge of Masons and Shriners, a member of Oxford Rotary Club and was past chairman of the Building Committee at Bay Path Regional Vocational High School. Yarno served his country during WWII as a pilot in the U.S. Navy and was honorably discharged as a Jr. LT. in the Pacific.

He and Connie also resided in Popano Beach, Florida for many years. The Town of Oxford recently celebrated his 100th birthday with a drive by his home with over 50 cars of residents, friends and veterans, which he enjoyed. There are no calling hours. A Graveside Service was held on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 1pm in North Cemetery, Oxford with Military Honors provided by the Oxford Memorial Honor Guard. Social distancing and masks will be required. In lieu of flowers, Memorial contributions may be made to: Shriners Hospitals; either 51 Blossom St., Boston, MA. 02114 or Springfield, MA.515 Carew St. 01104. The ROBERT J. MILLER FUNERAL HOME, 366 School St., Webster is honored to be assisting Yarno’s family with arrangements. To leave an on-line condolence, please visit: RJMillerfunerals.net



Friday’s Child

Shane
Age 15

Hi! My name is Shane and I love sports and animals!

Shane is a cheerful, sweet and playful young man of Caucasian descent. He is very observant, and likes to feel included and a part of everything. Shane is active and enjoys being outdoors, exploring and going on new adventures. He is very gentle and loves being with and caring for animals. He especially likes dogs who will run and play with him. Shane likes to play football and is always eager to participate in any group sports activity. He also enjoys building with Legos.

Shane looks forward to going to school each day and does well in class. Legally freed for adoption, Shane will do best in a two-parent family with either no children in the home or with children older than he is. An ideal family will be patient, and be able to provide him with reassurance, consistency and support.

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.

*Send all obituary notices to
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Southbridge, MA 01550, or by e-mail
to obits@stonebridgepress.news*

“The Organic Approach”

DONOVAN TALKS GARDENING WITHOUT TOXINS

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

REGION — “Organic gardening is just what my grandparents knew as gardening,” observed Kathleen Donovan as she began the fifth and final session in a five-library-sponsored series on backyard growing.

As that line suggests, her talk was specifically about “The Organic Approach” – gardening without toxic chemicals, fertilizers and other additives, which she described as “a philosophy of gardening that supports the health of the whole ecosystem.”

“The most important thing you can do is take care of your soil ... before you have issues with it,” she said. “... Wonderful soil doesn’t need strong fertilizers,” and when it’s healthy “so much more goes on underground than above it.”

That’s because real soil is much more than just “dirt.” It’s a complex community of microbes, worms, insects, fungi and more that naturally cycles nutrients and water through whatever plants are growing there and the animals that depend on them. That requires variety in terms of species and root lengths; from an ecological point of view, the traditional suburban lawn is little more than green-

ish pavement.

By contrast, good soil is airy (allowing roots to penetrate it) with a significant amount of humus (compost and other organic material). It has last year’s leaves decaying into it, returning the nutrients the trees took up then, but Donovan noted to keep it healthy, you should remove infested and diseased plants in the fall.

Composting is a key to maintaining nutrient balance, and she said good compost is “one part green to two parts brown.” the former come from materials that are high in nitrogen – things like manure, coffee grounds, grass, hay, vegetable scraps and eggshells (which are also high in calcium). The latter are generally moist and high in carbon – wood ash, leaves, newsprint, cardboard, peanut shells, corn stalks or straw.

Some of those things also affect soil pH levels, which can affect what plants can grow there. Higher pH (alkaline) soils favor plants like artichokes, broccoli and rhubarb, and can be created by adding limestone or hardwood ash. Lower pH (acidic) soils favor plants like blueberry, parsley and potato, and can be created by adding compost and peat moss.

“The better the quality of your soil, the more tolerant your plants will be

to [changes in] pH level,” because they have the nutrients to be healthy, Donovan noted.

When it comes to nutrients, the basic three are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, but many plants also need tiny quantities of less common elements. Nitrogen “makes your plants grow green and grow big,” she said. Phosphorus “increases your rooting,” while potassium “is good for flowering and fruiting.”

High-nitrogen sources include manure, blood meal (she noted “your animals feed your plants, and your plants feed your animals”), fish emulsion (her favorite), and meal from crab, feathers, alfalfa or soy. Phosphorus is common in soft-rock phosphate, bat guano (which is why the US once held an empire of many tiny Pacific islands nobody’s ever lived on), and bone or fishbone meal. Potassium often comes from greensand, banana peels or hardwood ash.

Donovan noted one key to fertilizing right is to put it around the plant, not in the hole you plant it in; the latter might burn the plant (that’s particularly a risk with un-composted chicken manure).

If it becomes necessary to kill troublesome insects, weeds or fungi, there are various organic

ways to do it, often using things we might even eat. For example, she gave an insecticide recipe calling for one clove garlic and one onion, both soaked in a quart of water. Wait an hour, then add a teaspoon cayenne pepper and a tablespoon liquid organic soap and spray it on the affected plants; it’ll last a week in the fridge. Another calls for two handfuls of dried hot peppers ground to powder plus a cup of diatomaceous earth added to two liters water. Let it sit overnight, then shake well before spraying.

Many recipes include liquid soap for two reasons – the saponins in it kill the insects, and the soap itself makes plants slippery and harder for insects to attack. Donovan, however, noted everyone has two built-in “organic insect killers” – our hands.

It helps to clearly identify what the insect is, and which plants they’re actually harming. Donovan recalled she once had an infestation of Colorado potato beetles. The tiny black and yellow striped beetles “lived on them and hosted there, but didn’t kill the potatoes,” she said. “They went to [the potatoes]’ cousins, the tomatillos and ground cherries, and feasted there.”

That experience itself points to an alternative – planting what’s called

a “trap crop” somewhere else on your property to draw troublesome insects (and sometimes hungry animals) away from the crops you want to protect. One attendee later noted she’d done that by accident. She found her resident groundhog liked the clover in her lawn so much, he ignored the fenced garden crops. Sometimes, pungent plants interspersed with your crops will drive insects away; marigolds often work well, for example.

It’s a little easier to make organic fungicides. Again, liquid soap without bleach or degreasers is often a key ingredient, and she cited a simple recipe using 1 heaping tablespoon (or 4 teaspoons) of baking soda per gallon of water mixed with the soap.

More complicated are organic herbicides, because they’re non-specific.

“They’ll kill the plant you’re trying to grow, so you have to be careful,” Donovan said.

She gave a recipe that will “kill pretty much anything” – two cups table salt and eight drops liquid soap in a gallon of 5 percent acidity vinegar – but noted there are several organic herbicides on the market.

Often, though, the best weed removal practice is simply removing them physically. Uproot them

by hand or with a couple useful tools – trowel, hori hori knife and a scuffle hoe – but the key is to dig down far enough to get the whole root, since some go quite deep. Preventing them can be equally simple, using good mulch of straw or ground leaves (not grass, and not the colored decorative mulches) or companion planting with low-growing vines that have large leaves (pumpkins, for example).

Donovan also addressed “critter prevention.” The most basic way is fencing, but that doesn’t work well against some animals. Some will be scared off with predator urine, including fox, dog, coyote and humans; others by motion-activated sprinklers or wind-moved whirligigs or even aluminum pie plates. For some tunnelling species, solar-powered vibrating stakes work well.

There’s always a catch, of course: “If an animal is starving, he’s probably going to breach whatever you put up,” she noted.

In all of these cases, she added, “Know what you’re treating before you try to treat it. ... Do a little research before you try to solve your problem.”

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

REAL ESTATE

Dudley

\$252,500, 7 Pine St, Lindstrom, Candy, to Proulx, Aaron M.
\$231,500, 2 School Ct, Hartley, Keely A, to Mcintire, Bruce.
\$90,000, 13 Cottage Rd, Scheffler, David J, and Scheffler, Janet, to Zablocki, Debora.

Oxford

\$500,000, 3 Jasmine Rd, Martucci, Vincent A, and Martucci, Karen E, to Morello, Robert G, and Morello, Danielle N.
\$325,000, 709 Main St, Arsenault, Jacob D, and Arsenault, Carlina R, to Hoyland, Alec.
\$261,000, 68 Pleasant St #28, Simulynas, Kelly, to Conti, Emily J.
\$235,000, 31 Oxbow Rd, Babineau, John V, and Babineau, Linda, to Babineau, Casie L.
\$214,500, 624 Main St #B, Crescent Builders Inc, to Olivera, Albert B.
\$20,000, Leicester St, Franchi William B Est, and Wiles, Lynn B, to Isufi, Mirash.

Webster

\$940,000, 29 Slater St, Modliszewski, Richard M, and Modliszewski, Alexandra J, to Bouchard, Dylan, and Hu, Huiwen.
\$380,000, 69 Minebrook Rd, Lanman, Mary A, to Masse, Peter T, and Face, Kailey E.
\$365,000, 53 Rawson Rd, Mikhael, Ferial, and Mikhael, Abdo, to Runyon, Justin, and Nwaka, Esther.
\$345,000, 19 Concord Ct, Flat Rock Dev Co Inc, to Post, Laurel A.
\$335,000, 9 Granite St, Comeau, Alicia, and Comeau, Anthony, to Richard, Jacqu Cecilia J.
\$321,500, 44 1st St, Gaska, Krzysztof, and Gaska, Iwona, to Bonin, Paul J.
\$305,000, 69 Myrtle Ave, M W Jr & A N Healy FT, and Safee, Ann M, to Limark, Realty, and Kozaczka, Sophie.
\$295,000, 21 Cutler St, Rheault, Ronald C, and Rheault, Karen L, to Mcilvaine, Meagan, and Mcilvaine, Keith.
\$275,000, 1 Maynard Ave #1, Top Realty LLC, to Williams, Jonathan.
\$272,000, 45 Elm St, P D & Nancy J Zurawka IRT, and Naventi, Mary E, to Mhuaimin, Muhammad A.
\$249,900, 1 Eddy St #A, Batterson, Robert J, and Batterson, Deborah A, to Mpere-Pwe, Mviamabe S, and Budimbu-Matoko, Jean.



The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy UNICEF Club held a can/bottle drive, a “green,” environmentally conscious and friendly way to fundraise for UNICEF USA.

Bay Path UNICEF Club organizes can/bottle drive fundraiser

CHARLTON — The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy UNICEF Club held a can/bottle drive, a “green,” environmentally conscious and friendly way to fundraise for UNICEF USA. The can/bottle drive was simple and helped the earth while cleaning up the local landscape and taught the UNICEF Club a bit more about responsibility.

According to UNICEF Officer Isabela Boateng of Manchester, Conn., “UNICEF keeps increasing its efforts to reach the most remote villages and communities all over the world, to ensure that all children have adequate education in the pandemic.”

The UNICEF Club members are thrilled and enthusiastic to be a part of projects such as the distribution of solar-powered radios in conflict-affected areas to vulnerable households and listening groups. Boateng adds that the solar-powered radios “deliver an educational support for those who might otherwise be cut off from traditional classroom due to conflict and the COVID Pandemic.”

UNICEF club member Brianna Laforest of Webster said that a tremendous amount of gratitude goes to UNICEF club advisor, Professor Cheryl Cahill, “for her creative fundraising ideas during this pandemic.”

According to Laforest, “Professor Cahill made it easy for us to help UNICEF although the many barriers we faced with social distancing, and not being able to fundraise like we normally would.”

To date, the UNICEF Club has raised more than \$500. The can/bottle drive naturally injects a community service element into fundraising efforts, and they perfectly complement the UNICEF Club’s focus on community and global living, leadership, and building awareness.

ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ StonebridgePress.com



Charlton officials push for “realistic” increase in school budget

**BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT**

CHARLTON – Budget season is in full swing in Charlton, with the Finance Committee making it clear they have a specific mark in mind for the regional school district when it comes to the education spending plan.

During an April 14 meeting of the Finance Committee, Town Administrator Andrew Golas said he had been in talks with officials from the Dudley Charlton Regional School District, asking them to meet a very specific number in terms of potential increase to their spend-

ing plan. With so many unknowns on the state level and taxpayers likely unwilling to accept large increases due to the economic impact of COVID-19, among other things, Golas made it clear they want to bring a realistic number to the voters for consideration in May and the education number is

a big part of that. “We’ve been in ongoing talks with them over the assessment. Their first run at the budget was close to a 9 percent increase for our assessments. They’ve done some tweaking and countering and right now they’re budget is at a proposed 5.2 percent

increase. We really need to try to get them down to right around a 3 percent to make the budget right where we need it to go,” Golas said.

That same night the School Committee also held their own meeting where Director of Finance and Operations Richard Mathieu acknowledged that there were still plenty of changes to be made and variables to work out. After conversations with both Dudley and Charlton Mathieu acknowledged that all three parties are working through a difficult budget year.

“It’s clear all three entities (the school district and towns) our needs outweigh available resources to fund at the level that we would like. We have to find an equilibrium which provides sufficient needs to all parties. We

don’t want to harm their operations, and nor do we want to harm ours and I think they’re in the same boat as well,” Mathieu said.

As of the April 14 meetings, the school district was proposing a \$16.8 million budget. Golas said realistically, the number needs to be around \$16.5 million; otherwise he doesn’t foresee taxpayers supporting the proposal.

“If you can’t get to the number, there’s other considerations, but I don’t think you’re going to get either town to pass a budget that’s supports that position,” said Golas.

The school committee and town finance officials were to meet before the end of April in order to have a spending plan for Charlton prepared for the Annual Town Meeting set for May 17.

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

WEBSTER — St. Joseph School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.

Grade 8
High Honors: Alexandra Bergeron, Justin Dooner, Nicholas Janeczek, Maya Podskarbi, Dominik Gielarowiec, Dale Boudreau, Samantha Keller
Honors: Krystian Kowalczyk, Lauren Gingo
Credit: Elizabeth Mahlert, Dominik Duby, Zane Ferri

Grade 7
High Honors: Maeve Sullivan, Adam Podgorny, Aleksandra Parafinowicz, Matthew Obrycki, Giana DiCola-Keddy, Philopateer Basha, Rocco Rudnicki, Andrew Bergeron, Paul Mankarios, Treyton Dery
Honors: Bradley McCarthy, Connor Czechowski, Aleksandra Kurowski, Hannah Watson, Matthew Zdrok, Juliana Rudnicki
Credit: Brady McNair, Gloria Bromberg

Grade 6
High Honors: Leah Boudreau, Aiden Muchiru, Marcus Muchiru, Gabriela Pianka, Natalie Smith, Kaelyn Lechiara, Bella Calnan, Vanessa Zeglen, Marissa Grieco, Gianna Rosario, Brett McCarthy
Honors: George Khalif, Bobbi Enman, Jacob Perry
Credit: Ike Rudnicki

Grade 5
High Honors: Claire Calnan, Molly Hachigian, Alisson (AJ) Perron, Colton Haase, Laura Ibrahim, Ella Parslow, Alvin Montreaul, Emily Macko
Honors: Max Podgorny, Jack Keller, Violet Johnson, Alan Kulpa, Ryan Grupposo, Gabriel Gallant
Credit: Kaiden Plocher, Logan Spina

Grade 4
High Honors: RoseMary Basha, Sophia Berthiune, Maya Kaminska, Lisa Kippax, Simon Kowalczyk, Kyle Muchiru, Jacob Parafinowicz, Gianna Pigeon, Antoni Powaza, Ayla Reed, Alan Rubin, Adam Wozniak, Alec Jachimczyk, Luke Sorwaniec, Robi Akindele, Faith Muga, Maria Sandrowski, Ryan Amaral, Gabriel Rudnicki, Liana Worth, Jake Martin, Ethan Ryan



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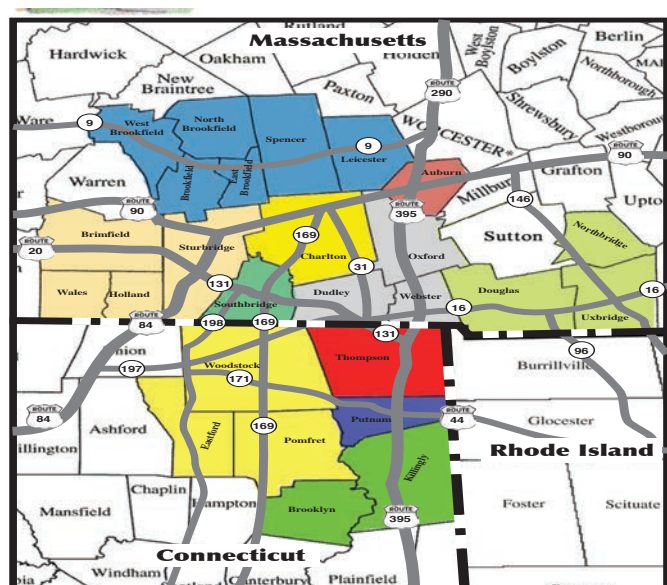
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Dress up the landscape with spring flowering shrubs

Add a burst of color to the start of the garden season with spring flowering shrubs. Small or large, these beauties add color, support pollinators, and help attract birds to the landscape.

Make room in mixed borders and gardens for these spring bloomers. Use varieties with slightly different bloom times to create continuous color throughout the spring. Complement these with spring flowering perennials and bulbs. Once the shrubs finish flowering, they add some nice greenery to the border.

Plant a few compact varieties in containers for added color on patios and decks. Add seasonal color with annuals, pansies or other cool weather tolerant flowers for spring and fall. Replace these with petunias, lantana, or other suitable heat tolerant flowers for summer.

Forsythia and lilacs are traditional spring favorites. Forsythia's bright yellow flowers signal spring for many. The

showy flowers have a slight fragrance, and the plants are basically pest free. Select varieties whose flower buds will survive cold winter temperatures, so there will be blossoms from the tip of the stem to ground level.

Lilacs fragrant flowers may generate wonderful childhood memories. Select the preferred white, pink, or purple color and varieties that will fit the growing location when mature. These will brighten any spot later in the spring.

Look for other easy-care, spring-blooming shrubs to include in the landscape. The spring blooms of viburnum are sure to provide plenty of enjoyment not to mention its attractive foliage, fall color, and fruit that attracts birds. Use them to create an attractive screen, hedge, or mixed border. Several viburnum varieties, like Korean Spice and doublefile, make great specimens or impressive small groupings in the landscape.



GARDEN MOMENTS
• • • • •
MELINDA MYERS

Brighten those shady spots with azaleas. These spring bloomers thrive with afternoon or dappled shade. Grow them in moist, rich, acidic soil in a sheltered location for best results. Make sure there is a good view to enjoy the blossoms and hummingbirds they attract.

Light up the spring garden with Garden Glow dogwood. The bright chartreuse foliage turns a burgundy red in fall. The white flowers give way to blue fruit and the red stems are a welcome sight in winter.

Other dogwoods, like red twig and gray dogwoods, are native shrubs with flowers that support pollinators and fruit that feeds the birds.

Fothergilla's fragrant white spring flowers

are a favorite of hummingbirds. This beauty ends its season with a colorful mix of yellow, orange, and scarlet fall color often on the same leaf.

Add an evergreen backdrop of boxwood, arbovitae, and junipers to showcase these spring beauties. The spring blossoms, fall color, and winter interest will shine when positioned in front of greenery.

Take a walk through the landscape now to identify places that would benefit from some spring color. Select the right plants that are suited to the growing conditions and complement the garden design. Then plant and enjoy these colorful additions for years to come.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including The Midwest Gardener's Handbook and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the



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This Show Off® forsythia signals early spring for many with its showy, bright yellow flowers and slight fragrance.

nationally-syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Her Web site is www.melindamyers.com.

School District launches revamped COVID dashboard

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – In an effort to increase transparency and communication with parents and citizens, the Dudley Charlton Regional School District has launched a new dashboard for COVID-19 information and statistics that has been made available on the districts' homepage.

During an April 14 meeting, the regional school committee hosted a presentation by Anne Marie DeMorris, the districts' COVID

Coordinator, who showcased the features on the new dashboard. By clicking a link, anyone is able to access a wide range of resources including numbers specific to the district and resources for COVID awareness and vaccine accessibility.

"It's more important now than ever to remain diligent in our efforts to keep COVID out of the schools. It's our hope that providing this hub with the website where our families can access all of our district protocols and updates information that it will help with the collective effort," DeMorris

said of the dashboard.

The dashboard includes up to date district COVID data, general facts about both COVID and the vaccines, and details about the pooled testing initiative ongoing in the district. A COVID data tracker, response reporting information and district COVID communications are also available. There's also a document disclosing how the district makes decisions when it comes to a recorded COVID positive case or potential outbreak.

"It's a very extensive document that goes

through different scenarios, very detailed, and decision trees on every different scenario that can happen related to COVID in the school. There's a quick reference COVID sheet that also gives you scenarios but it's a very condensed and easier to read version," DeMorris explained. "We also have information to try to determine whether your symptoms might be allergy related or COVID related but really what we're asking is if anybody is symptomatic, they should contact the school nurse to they should stay home."

During the presentation, it was noticed that unlike in past iterations of the dashboard the district data had been consolidated, showing district-wide numbers instead of splitting the data up between the different schools. DeMorris noted this was not an attempt to hide and data from users but rather more in line with privacy policies in place on the local and state level to protect the identities of those who may have contracted the virus.

"What it boils down to is as a district we have a moral and legal obliga-

tion to protect the privacy of all the individuals in our schools. By grouping the schools together by grade levels, it just adds an additional layer of protection especially in a case where there's only potentially one positive person so that's why we chose to do it that way," DeMorris said.

The Dudley Charlton Regional School District's COVID resources can be accessed by visiting www.dcrsd.org and clicking on the "COVID Dashboard" square on the left side of the screen.

DUDLEY
continued from page A1

to provide, either via live broadcast or broadcast after the fact, any recording of the meeting. There is no requirement under the open meeting law that an in-person meeting of any board or committee be recorded by the town. There's no requirement that the town make available either through local cable access or Facebook Live or any other medium a recording of that meeting. That the town may have done so pre-pandemic was certainly above and beyond what the open meeting law requires," Attorney Randazzo said.

She added that any citizen can record a meeting themselves as long as that recording does not act as an obstruction or distraction. During the pandemic, rules were changed by an order from the governor to allow for completely virtual meetings to conform to social

distancing without relinquishing the public from participating or accessing meetings, however this was a temporary fix during the pandemic and not a change to the open meeting laws. Attorney Randazzo said that since the agenda for the April 5 meeting stated clearly that the meeting would be in person, the town did not do anything wrong.

"In the days leading up to the April 5 meeting, the town hall had reopened, albeit on a partial schedule. That was advertised pretty extensively. During the day on April 5, which was your first completely in-person meeting since the pandemic started, when staff discovered that the recording equipment was not going to allow for a real time broadcast or recording there was a notice placed on the town's Facebook page that alerted folks to the fact but reminded folks that the meeting was in-person and that people were encouraged to attend. Mr.

Durgin, the complainant, was well aware of that because he commented on that Facebook thread," Attorney Randazzo said.

As of this writing, upon examining the Facebook post on the Town of Dudley's page marked at 4:31 p.m. on April 5, there is a comment from Mr. Durgin timestamped at 6:01 p.m. asking if any public hearings would be on the agenda. On April 16, Durgin posted a follow-up inquiry asking where the recordings of the April 5 and April 12 meetings were on the town's YouTube channel. Durgin did also post a comment the night of the April 5 meeting responding to another comment saying the town should bring the Facebook Live meetings back to complement the in-person meetings, and that it was a nice reminder for Facebook users to tune in.

According to Randazzo, Durgin has issued a second complaint concerning the April 12 meeting of the Board of Selectmen,

which was also not televised, although the discussion on April 20 was purely regarding the April 5 meeting. She also stated that Durgin was unable to attend the April 20 meeting due to late notice and a lack of an invite. The attorney further clarified, however, that the discussion was not open to public input and was merely an informative notice to selectmen that they need to issue a response to the complaint.

As the discussion progressed, it became clear that selectmen were frustrated with this turn of events, several voicing their opinions on the matter clearly and aggressively calling it a waste of town resources and an attack on a board that has worked hard to be transparent to the best of their abilities. Selectman John Marsi provided possi-

bly the most passionate response of the evening.

"One of the things I always say to people who ask me questions is 'assume positive intent,' and that people who run for these offices and get elected are doing it for the right reasons. I stand by my record, this board's record, and I am proud to serve with every one of these gentlemen and everyone I've served with in the past. It seems if I'm a taxpayer and I've seen a lot of this stuff come by our desk over the last couple of years, I'd want to ask questions. How much money have we spent on this, how much time have we spent when we could have been doing something else and we're in the middle of a pandemic where we've been working on transparency to try to make sure the residents had the COVID stats published weekly,"

Marsi said. "To me, this type of stuff seems very self-serving. It's political, and I don't like this at all. I didn't get involved to have to deal with this, and have people throw rocks at me and this board and this town."

Randazzo presented a written response for consideration of the board including much of the information discussed and confirmed during the April 20 meeting. After over an hour of discussion and deliberation selectmen unanimously approved the response to be sent to the Attorney General's Office in Boston. David Durgin is listed with selectmen as a carbon copy recipient of the response, which has been made available for public viewing on the town of Dudley's Web site and Facebook page.

STUDENTS
continued from page A1

activity included the students naming the butterflies. Some names they selected were Rocco, Beep, Twinkle, and Cupcake. However, the butterfly metamorphosis is also the foundation of a unique Religion lesson that Ms. Dodge looks forward to teaching each year.

St. Joseph School utilizes the Loyola Press Religion Program, "God Made the World," and within the Pre-K curriculum, there is a unit titled "God Made Butterflies." The focus of this unit is the scripture, "God has

made a home for us in Heaven," an adaptation of 2 Corinthians 5:1. Ms. Dodge chooses to teach this lesson during the Easter Season because it also gives her students a better understanding of the resurrection of Christ. I explain to my students, "Jesus is like a caterpillar here on earth and then dies and goes into the tomb, which is like a butterfly's chrysalis. Then, He rose from the dead just like the hatching of the butterflies. Now, Jesus has gone to Heaven! He has prepared a special place for us," which is a fundamental concept for Pre-K children to understand. Ms. Dodge noted that her students tend to be sad

when they learn about Jesus' death. However, she explains that Jesus died to take on all the hurtful things we have done. That moment is always special when the students begin to comprehend Jesus' love for us.

The St. Joseph School Pre-school and Pre-K programs provide a loving environment that gives children the opportunity to learn and grow emotionally, spiritually, intellectually, physically, and socially. Instructors emphasize that we are created to be unique, and the educational goal is to foster students' talents and love of learning.


POETIC TERMS WORD SEARCH

P	E	P	N	N	H	C	V	A	A	S	R	H	R	G	N	C	K	M	C
A	H	E	O	L	D	C	L	C	S	I	C	O	T	R	V	A	B	I	A
E	A	M	N	T	O	E	L	M	Y	G	N	A	E	C	V	A	A	B	S
N	A	M	P	G	E	L	N	C	B	L	E	D	C	T	M	A	I	L	Y
C	A	P	B	G	I	L	T	A	E	P	T	I	C	M	A	L	D	D	A
B	C	D	O	S	A	L	C	C	U	A	S	N	E	B	I	L	C	M	K
U	V	R	M	B	V	O	C	O	M	A	S	R	E	I	I	N	C	R	Y
H	Y	V	L	A	P	D	C	A	O	T	P	Y	T	T	U	I	L	O	B
S	O	E	O	H	A	P	R	N	U	A	U	E	S	E	M	I	L	A	E
I	S	A	O	R	C	D	A	A	R	R	R	O	K	R	Y	H	L	V	S
S	G	N	I	U	A	N	L	U	A	A	R	S	C	K	Y	L	S	A	R
E	Y	A	C	O	C	H	S	L	T	C	E	R	U	S	A	E	M	O	E
U	N	L	A	E	O	E	L	I	A	M	S	S	D	D	T	T	R	R	V
S	L	I	M	R	A	U	O	U	R	S	D	S	Y	E	G	D	D	G	K
A	T	T	G	C	S	N	C	I	C	O	N	S	O	N	A	N	C	E	N
L	E	O	B	I	R	Y	D	U	Y	M	D	H	G	M	T	R	V	A	
C	N	E	O	P	L	I	S	Y	H	B	U	M	Y	P	O	V	S	U	L
A	N	N	P	U	C	A	N	A	C	H	R	O	N	I	S	M	O	L	B
I	O	T	C	V	E	O	B	R	S	Y	L	L	A	B	I	C	D	R	U
C	S	N	Y	S	D	P	O	U	V	E	R	S	E	P	T	S	P	C	O

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

POETIC TERMS WORD SEARCH

ABECEDARIAN, ACCENTUAL, ACMEISM, ACROSTIC, ALCAIC, ALLEGORY, ALLITERATION, ALLUSION, ANACHRONISM, BALLAD, BLANK VERSE, CACOPHONY, CAESURA, CANON, CONSONANCE, COUPLET, DISSONANCE, DRAMATIC, IAMBIC, MEASURE, SONNET, SYLLABIC, SYLLABLES, VERSE



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Fighting pandemic fatigue

While more and more people are getting vaccinated, and hospitalizations and deaths are down, the numbers of COVID cases, especially in some rural areas, are climbing. This pandemic is not over, as much as we all want it to be. Life seems to be slowly getting back to normal, however many restrictions, including travel bans and masking are still in place leaving some of us a bit deflated a year later. The number of individuals choosing to vaccinate is hope that there is a light at the end of the tunnel, yet COVID fatigue is still affecting many.

One thing to remember is that we're all in this together, and will all make it through together. Many of us have learned quite a bit about ourselves having been faced with this once in a lifetime scenario. We now know just how extroverted or introverted we all are. Perhaps changes have come by way of new or different opportunities.

Silver linings are still a part of the chatter about town. This is a good sign; however, for those who are gripped by pandemic fatigue, we have a few tips to share. We've all felt it at one point or another over the past year, you are not alone.

Last year, everyone was isolated as businesses and schools closed. We all stayed home for months as the virus took hold of the world. During that difficult time, we all found ways to cope, together. The summer months brought some reprieve, with outdoor events being dubbed 'OK' as long as safety protocols were adhered to. During the winter months we saw another surge that made us all feel as though it would never end.

It's important to talk about and acknowledge just how tough things have been for each and every one of us. The unexpected changes the pandemic delivered were a doozy. Over the past year, we have all worried about loved ones and the burden that comes along with potential changes in finances. Isolation is never easy either. Despite these challenges we are all here, in this together and accolades should be given to everyone who did what they could to help stop the spread, encourage friends and family and for keeping yourselves upbeat as much as possible.

Remember to check in with yourself and take note if you feel impatient, angry, depressed or irritable. Those feelings are normal and make sense given the circumstances, but experts say it's important to be aware.

Breathing exercises are always suggested as they are the fastest and easiest way to reduce stress. Relax your shoulders and slow your breathing. The physiological response centers on the nervous system.

Limit your screen time. We say this often. Some call it 'doom-scrolling.' Think of the good old days before social media when it was your choice about what you read. Seeing too much negativity can increase that feeling of dread and uncertainty. If you need some good news, simply Google "good news"; we promise, it's out there. If you're trying to unwind, listen to music or watch shows that remind you of simpler times. Some of our favorites include The Beach Boys, Led Zeppelin and The Doors. For a good reset, nothing beats watching re-runs of Three's Company, one the best sit-coms to come out of the 1970's.

In the words of Bernard Beckett, "Human spirit is the ability to face the uncertainty of the future with curiosity and optimism. It is the belief that problems can be solved, differences resolved. It is a type of confidence. And it is fragile."

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

Recovery from trauma

My daughter Panayiota recently recommended to me an extremely difficult book to read, a New York Times bestseller entitled "Spilled Milk" which gives the reader a glimpse into the world of child and physical abuse. This must-read book offers an awareness of what happens to victims, as well as what happens to the entire family, the perpetrator and the larger community around such a traumatic experience. The protagonist of the book was sexually abused and raped from a very young age by her father, while her siblings were physically abused, and even though the protagonist thought she was protecting her siblings by not speaking up about her own abuse, she later learned that even her siblings endured sexual abuse as well. The mother was oblivious to the horrible ordeal her four children suffered as she focused only on her own world of pain and addiction. Even the outside world surrounding these suffering children - from school teachers and administrators, to the kids' peers and their parents, and even relatives - all seemed blind or chose to remain unaware of the environment of suffering and distress afflicting these children.

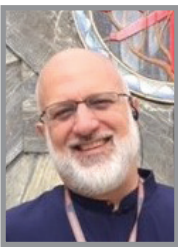
Eventually, the young girl found strength when she was 16 years old to reveal her harrowing reality, despite extreme feelings of shame and guilt, and despite feeling more like the perpetrator than the victim herself. After coming forward, she had to deal with our country's dysfunctional legal system which prolonged the trial of her father for two years, forcing this young teen to repeatedly describe her harrowing experiences to complete strangers and law officials whom she feared, each time making her want to backtrack her revelation. After two years of the judicial system, the jury ends up exonerating her father, and only after an appeal and a second trial was he convicted. She finally felt safe.

I highly recommend this book, "Spilled Milk," simply to make us all more aware of the suffering of people all around us! One of the many lessons I took away from this book was that despite all this young child endured, she was able to hide from many her disturbing reality by being an honor roll student, a cheerleader and someone who others thought had her life all together. She was the overachiever in her family and society couldn't see her deep wounds. Thank God, she eventually found certain adults whom she deeply trusted and who gradually encouraged her to reveal her dark secrets. Through intense counseling, through continuous support and encouragement, and through unconditional love she found a path of healing that was slow, painful, difficult.

Her siblings and her mother, however, didn't accept the arduous path of healing and chose instead, whether consciously or unconsciously, to continue in paths of self-destruction and self-hatred through their addictions, violent behavior, and dysfunctional relationships. Too often, society then judges such people who are deeply wounded and hurting in traumatic ways, simply condemning their self-destructive behavior instead of trying to understand the roots of their brokenness and instead of offering paths of healing.

Reading this book then reading an article entitled "Depth Psychology and the Courage of St. Mary of Egypt" by Dr. Pia Sophia Chaudhari made me reflect on the life of this well known saint in the Orthodox Church. Saint Mary of Egypt lived in the 6th century and at the young age of only 12, entered a life of utter depravity with her sexual desires, not simply as a prostitute but more so as a sex addict who delighted in freely engaging in sexual exploits with any men whom she could ensnare in her immorality.

This life of utter decadence continued for 17 years until one day when she saw a crowd of people traveling from the city of Alexandria on pilgrimage to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross. She paid passage to travel with the crowd by offering her body



BEYOND THE PEWS

• • • • •

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

to whomever wanted it. When she finally arrived in the Holy Lands and tried to enter the church of the Holy Sepulcher, an invisible force keeps her out of the church. In despair, she sat outside the church deeply mourning her sinful life. After she was pierced with sincere repentance and promised to change her life, she entered the church and venerated the Holy Cross. This unusual experience led her to flee into the desert where she spent the next 47 years, tormented by "many desires and passions," until she overcame her temptations and discovered peace with God.

Dr. Chadhari noted "what is often lifted up in commentaries on this story... is the willing 'wantonness' of St Mary's sin, the stunning and absolute nature of her repentance, and then her courageous ascetic struggle in the wilderness... But I also wonder about what led her into her original state.

What occurred in Mary's childhood to bring her to a place of leaving home at age 12 to move to a big city by herself? Was she a social outcast? Was she abused? Did she have family? What sense of worth lived within her? What was she looking for in her promiscuous behavior? Was her physical desire knotted up in a distorted search for a love and intimacy she had never known?"

Instead of seeing Saint Mary as a sinful woman who deeply repented, these questions challenge us to reflect on the life of this saint and realize that she may have experienced trauma in her past. This guides me to think of others who have suffered from past trauma and take care not to simply reject these broken individuals as sinful and beyond hope.

When we see people in the midst of self-destructive behavior that both pulls down themselves and others, can we see beyond their outward sinfulness and focus not on their inner broken relationships, their insecurities, their shame and self-hatred, but instead on their God-given beauty hidden deep within their soul. Just as Mary of Egypt revealed a moment of grace when she wanted to encounter God, so too do these other individuals, no matter how prodigal and broken their life may appear. Everyone can discover moments of grace where we want to encounter a God who offers hope and healing, where we discover a loving God who desires to offer new life.

Dr. Chadhari goes on to explain, "If we emphasize only purity and impurity, we may miss the actual breath-taking beauty of what can and actually does happen when our own small realities encounter the greater Reality... Such an encounter with truth is the beginning of *hope*—not because a sinner can be saved in a moralistic trope, but because an inner space opens up in the person that can change their whole existence, their whole experience of the world. It is the beginning of *freedom*, inextricably bound up in the experience of love..."

Once a different way has been glimpsed and even more, fully experienced, an all out revolution begins. [This] makes Saint Mary's story all the more moving, not just as an icon of repentance in the way we often hear that word, but of love breaking through deeply patterned behavior [of trauma] and holding open the door to a different way, one Saint Mary would have to fight body and soul, tooth and nail, to hold on to. Her experiences of God must have been very, very strong to effect such a radical *change* and then sustain her for the ensuing battle with all the demons and complexes which would still be there in her psyche."

Saint Mary's life presents a relevant message for many people today. Yes, it teaches us about sin and redemption but much more it offers "a moving story, a miraculous story, an utterly harrowing story about deep healing of despair and isolation, an encounter with true love, and the lifelong struggle that such an initiatory encounter may set off in each of us as we strive to become who we were born to be—creatures of desire made for communion with God and with each other."

Keep safety in mind when holding a yard sale



CHIEF'S CORNER

STEVE WOJNAR

With spring here and summer around the corner, there will be many yard sales taking place in town. I was asked recently about the permit process, and what people should consider when planning one of these events. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind people of what to do in these instances.

Permits for yard sales are generally given at the Selectmen's office during normal business hours. When the Selectmen's office is closed, these can be granted through the Police Department. There is no fee associated with these permits at this time. Public safety is a main concern with the location of these yard sales. In areas where there is high traffic volume, accidents or injuries can take place when numerous vehicles are parked along the road and people are crossing streets or walking along the roadside. Vehicles parked in an unsafe manner can also hamper the vision of drivers traveling through these areas.

Any sales or events taking place on public property require permission of the Selectmen. Article eight section 2 of the Town By-Laws states, "No person shall use any sidewalk, street, or property of the Town for display of merchandise or other articles of personal property without first obtaining written permission to do so from the Selectmen."

Remember to keep in mind the safety aspect when hosting these sales. They are great opportunities to rid your home of excess property or make room for new things. Be sure to plan with safety in mind when organizing these events. Pay particular attention to the location where you choose to have them. Avoid corners or view obstructed locations and allow ample room for parking. Anyone with questions or concerns can contact our office for further information at 508-943-4411.

As the pandemic continues, we ask everyone to stay safe and continue to take the necessary precautions to protect yourselves. Vaccination information can be found at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling 508-949-8036. Hopefully, the end of this pandemic is in sight. We, at the Dudley Police Department, greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

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

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who are white supremacists?

To the Editor:
Ever since I heard President Biden mention "extremism, white supremacy, domestic terrorism" during his inaugural address, I wondered, who are they? Then I read Jeffrey Folks' article "When Everybody is a White Supremacist" in the April 3 edition of American Thinker. Paraphrasing his article with questions of my own follow:

Are they those who support Voter ID, which represents 76 percent of all Americans according to a 2018 Pew Research Center Report or those who defend Georgia's voting reforms designed to prevent voter fraud and thus deny Democrats permanent power? Was that the President's point during his inaugural address? Are they "conspiracy theorists" who mention Hunter Biden and John Kerry's stepson's past dealings as enumerated in Peter Schweizer's book "Secret Empires?" The New Republic, in 2017, suggested Trump's economic agenda of returning manufacturing jobs

to America was White Supremacism. Is Conservatism in general white supremacism, since Candace Owens, a black conservative, has been labeled one as well? Or are they those who take pride in America as it was founded — "Of the People, For the People, By the People?" Maybe they are those who support Michael Coffman, PhD, Environmentalist's writings on climate change. Certainly, it must be those who question the three founders' agenda and the funding of BLM or those who support the 1776 Project in school curriculum.

Quoting Mr. Folks, "Using rhetoric is a classic tactic of expanding the definition of something odious until it covers everything outside one's way of thinking. Repeat it often enough and it comes to be seen as true." That is the tactic of mainstream media. Network after network repeats the exact talking points each day.

MARCIA WAGNER
DUDLEY

Turkey season is upon us

The opening of Wild Turkey season this past Monday, April 26, had many hunters out hoping to bag a turkey on the first day. The birds were extremely vocal in some areas and less vocal in others. This year, many sportsmen are concerned about the few sightings they encountered in the last couple of weeks, while scouting there hunting area for opening day. I do agree that fewer sightings in fields and local woodlots were reported than in past years, but that does not mean that they are not there. I was reading an article by Andrew McKean on turkey hunting that was interesting! South Carolina New York and other states started noticing a downward turn in their Wild Turkey populations, which has biologist concerned. They still have not figured it out!

The introduction of Wild Turkeys into Massachusetts and other states was a huge success back 30 or 40 years ago. Their populations grew so fast in the last 10 years or so, they have become a nuisance in many areas of the Massachusetts. They sure are a bit wacky at times as they stroll through small towns chasing people down the street, often holding up traffic. Hunting Wild Turkeys looks easy until you try to outsmart one in



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS
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RALPH
TRUE

the wild during hunting season. There keen eye site can spot the slightest movement sending them hightailing it out of the area. Hunting them is a lot of fun, but you need to have a lot of patience if you want to bag a big tom bird.

Setting up early in the morning before daybreak can increase your chances of harvesting a turkey, but while you are waiting observing other wildlife can provide some exciting moments. Suddenly, a loud gobble a couple hundred feet from your setup of turkey decoys, breaks the crisp morning air. After a few more gobbles, the flapping of wings from a turkey as he leaves the roost has your heart pumping loudly. After making a few hen calls with your turkey call, you often hear a few loud gobbles from the bird. I have a preference to hunt from a ground blind , which allows me to stay comfortable, warm and dry away from ticks and other ground feeding bugs.

Poking the barrel of my Browning shotgun out the window of my

blind, I quickly spotted a couple of hens heading my way. Suddenly, a huge Tom turkey appears in full strut. My mouth becomes dry as the bird heads closer to my blind and setup of turkey decoys 20 or 30 yards away. It seems like a half hour has gone by, but it is only 10 to 12 minutes. Because I am using three-and-a-half-inch turkey loads, I am comfortable taking a shot of 30 to 40 yards from my blind. Carefully taking aim, I slowly squeeze the trigger until the discharged shotgun sets me back in my chair. The roar of the discharged shell echoes through the valley, and the smell of burned gunpowder fills the air. The big bird lays almost motionless in the grass filled field. Time to pick up my prize and head for home!

That is the story of a previous hunt a few years earlier. You can harvest two tom birds on the same day, and still have another permit to harvest a turkey in the fall. Some states like Ohio are reporting a substantial drop in their turkey populations, and they do not know why. They have already started to revise their permits for turkey hunters. Hopefully, they do not have a bird flu problem. Keeping our wildlife healthy falls in the hands of our wildlife biologist. At least for now,



deer and turkey populations in Massachusetts are thriving, and will hopefully stay that way.

Using the proper shotgun shells for turkey hunting will help insure a fatal blow to the head. Some shells cost close to \$10 each. After harvesting a wild turkey, you should cut the tail off. Saving the tail and drying it out on a piece of cardboard should be done as soon as you return home. Shaking some Twenty Mule Team borax on the meaty part of the tail, will help preserve the tail for your next hunt. Fan the tail out with a few pins to hold it in place. After the tail is dry, you can remove the tail from the cardboard and attach a small piece of wood and a 20-inch piece of quarter-inch

metal pipe to stake the tail in your decoys on your next hunt. It works great.

No complaints this year on trout stockings, at least for now. Most everyone agrees that the size and stocking numbers of trout are receiving high marks from the states fishing public. A 12-pound brown trout was caught last week, and there are reports of many trout in the three-to-four-pound class being caught. The West River in Uxbridge has been giving up some impressive trout, and Harrington's Pool is still being stocked with trout, even though the entrance road is still blocked. Access to the pool can be made from the dam area, but efforts to the pool by Quaker Street are still being

planned. Veterans and the disabled public will need to wait a bit longer for the new easy access.

The ocean waters are still a bit cool and a week of warm weather are needed to jump start the tautog bite. Tautog fishing in the Westport River had still not materialized as of last Saturday. The surface water temperature was still at 47 degrees. A water temperature of at least 50 degrees should start the bite. Hopefully, this week! Party boats are also making a long run to the haddock grounds to catch fish, but when they get there, the action is hot.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote for Becker!

To the Editor:

Once again, it is election time in Webster, the second one during the COVID epidemic. The last election for Selectman was uncontested. This one is not. It is time for us to consider what we want for our town and come out—masked and distanced—on Monday, May 3 to exercise our right to vote for our concept of the future.

Over the last four years, there has been continuous improvement and progress in Webster. People have answered the call and volunteered their time and talent on boards and commissions, helped plan a new and exciting Memorial Beach complex, and began to look again at preserving our history. We have a new water filtration system, work underway to replace water pipes, new fiscal systems, a community-based police department, and an ethical Board of Selectmen that works as a team—asking the hard questions, keeping up progress in economic development, and dealing with issues seriously and effectively as they emerge. Even through a year of COVID uncertainties, the town has not only functioned, but kept moving forward. Much of this is due to Town Administrator Doug Willardson and his fine staff. There are good vibes, and people have stepped forward to volunteer. (Keep it up. There is much to do and open positions on Boards and

Commissions. You can make a difference.)

You have a choice on Monday, May 3 of stepping back into the past by voting for Mr. Miller—or—promoting our continuous improvement by voting for Randy Becker. (I acknowledge that there is a third name on the ballot, but I could find absolutely no information on this person—a strange phenomenon in Webster.) Yes, Randy wanted to serve only two terms. And I believe that he deserves time to spend with his family because, as his sister-in-law, I am one of them. But now is not the time. The board which works smoothly and focuses on the interests of the town— not getting involved in day-to-day operations, not there for “the glory and the honor” but the work— should continue this focus. Randy’s election will ensure this. I have in the past talked about Randy’s character, his qualifications, his love and caring for this community. You do not need me to do that again. Just watch some of the YouTube Board of Selectmen’s meetings to see the issues he raises, the questions he asks in our interest, and the sound advice he gives. For comparison, you can watch Mr. Miller’s performance in previous Selectmen’s meetings on YouTube. Quite a difference. (My favorite is Nov. 7, 2016, when Mr. Miller did not support the candidacy of Mr. Willardson.)

Ultimately, it is your choice. I urge you to come out and vote for Randy Becker on Monday, May 3, and then, if you are concerned about term limits, ask the Bylaw Committee to look at them. If you want innovation and new ideas—holding a position for 15 or so years like Mr. Miller won’t give you that. So—all you talented volunteers

on committees—start thinking about running for office and bringing your positive, creative, constructive, new ideas to the table to enhance our future, but vote for Randy this time.

DR. ELAINE F. DAVIES
WEBSTER

Kelly Laskowski for Dudley Treasurer/Collector

To the Editor:

My name is Kelly Laskowski and I am running to be Dudley’s Treasurer/Collector in the town election to be held on Monday, June 14.

I believe I can bring a great deal to the Treasurer/Collector position. I understand that we, as residents, are looking for convenience and efficiency when it comes to conducting our day to day business. I know taxpayers want not only the ease of paying bills online, but to be able to access payment histories and receive reminders when bills are due. Like most residents, I want to be able to go into the Treasurer/Collector’s office with an issue or question and be treated in a positive, respectful manner. I want to be able to call the office and speak with someone, including the elected Treasurer/Collector, promptly. If elected, I will work with town leadership to bring updated software, user friendly bill pay services and small but important conveniences such as return envelopes to the taxpayers.

I would like to share with you a little about myself and my family. My husband Frank and I have lived in Dudley since 2007. We have two children in the Dudley/Charlton school system; Desmond is 13 and Olivia is nine. My family and I are parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua Church. We are an active Scouting family. I volunteered as Den Leader and Cub Master for Pack 274 and am currently a committee chair for

Boy Scout Troop 273. For the past four years, I have also been my daughter’s Girl Scout Troop leader. Earning my Bachelors of Science degree in Political Science laid the foundation for my work in local government.

My experience qualifies me for the position I am seeking. I am currently the Assistant Collector for the Town of Webster and have been with the Collector’s office for 14 years. I have enjoyed my time in Webster and have gained a great deal of experience in the Treasurer/Collector’s office. I will not only bring that knowledge and experience to the position, but I will also bring the upgrades and respect the office needs and deserves. If we have learned anything from this pandemic, we are all in this together. I will work with the people of this great town in every way I can, even when times get tough. I will work with every department, the Selectmen and the Town Administrator to perform the duties of the position to the best of my ability. I am ready to take the next step and work in and for the town I live in and care so much about.

I love Dudley - it is a wonderful community. I am grateful to be living in and raising my family in such a great town.

I humbly ask for, and would greatly appreciate your vote on Monday, June 14.

Sincerely,

KELLY LASKOWSKI
DUDLEY

It’s your right to vote! Get out the vote on May 3, Webster!

To the Editor:

As a U.S. citizen, our right to vote is guaranteed. When we don’t vote, we might as well tell everyone we don’t care how our town, state, or federal government is run. If you choose to make a difference, and voting surely does, then you will exercise your best and most absolute voice in the government, your government!

On May 3, Webster will have its Annual Town Election. Here are the ballot items for your review as you exercise your valued right to vote:

- One member of the Board of Selectmen. Choices are: Carol Anderson, Randall Becker, and Robert Miller.
- Two members for the School Committee: Nicholas Adamopoulos and Katherine Napierata.
- One member for Regional Vocational School Committee: Robert Tremblay.
- One member for Board of Health: Anne Violette.
- One member for Finance Committee: Write-in candidate only.
- Two members for a three-year term of Trustees of the Public Library: Jeanne Mikels and Evelyn Pappas.

- One member for a two-year term of Trustees of the Public Library: Donna Becker.
- One member for the Redevelopment Authority: Kenneth Pizzetti.
- One member for a five-year term of Housing Authority: William Herra.
- One member for a four-year term of Housing Authority: James Avery, Jr. and Peter Luchina.
- One member for a two-year term of Housing Authority: Write-in candidate only.
- One individual for a three-year term as Town Clerk: Robert Craver.

Please note: Write-in candidate names are easily penned in for each category if you or another candidate choose to give a few hours of your time monthly on these committees for the betterment of your town. The Webster ballot is not complicated and the voting process is quick and easy.

Please mark your e-devices and calendars to remind you to participate in your right to vote.

See you at the polls!

JANET E. STOICA
WEBSTER

Open House Directory

(C) Condo (B) Business (P) Land	(X) Condo (U) Duplex (L) Mobile Home	(M) Multi-Family (S) Single Family (A) Apartment	(T) Townhouse (D) Adult Community (W) Waterfront	
ADDRESS	STYLE	TIME	PRICE	REALTOR/SELLER/PHONE
WEBSTER				
401 Treasure Island Unit #401	C	Noon-3	\$439,000	Hope Realty Sharon Pelletier 508-943-4333

To have your open house listed in this directory.

Please contact June Simakauskas 508-909-4062

It's not where you are that's important ...

I have always looked at the thought of a “bucket list” in a negative light. The idea that I’d want to begin compiling a list of things I wanted to do before I die just seemed ... well ... negative.

This week, I received an email from a reader saying, “I’ve been following your cancer journey through your column and social media with great interest. I’m on a similar health path and I’m wondering what’s on your bucket list to do before it all ends.”

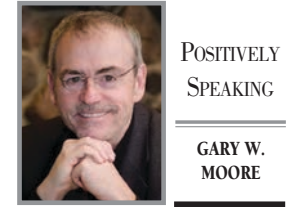
I began responding that my intentions are aligned with my hopes, plan, and actions and that I’m not expecting nor planning on dying from this cancer. But I fell asleep last night and awoke feeling differently and realized that I’ve already aligned my intentions on a partial bucket list, and it

may be fun to compose one.

First, from the moment of my cancer diagnosis, my family, close friends, and I have come together and consciously decided to be more deliberate about being together. Arlene and I have spent more time with our children and grandchildren over the last year than we have on the last five years and plan even more.

I have two incredible sisters and brothers-in-law and once again, I’ve seen them more often this year and plan to do even more. I’ve seen friends I haven’t seen in forty years. It’s really been a beautiful year of seeing loved ones and catching up. My life has been dominated by being with those I love.

But what else? My mind swirled all night



POSITIVELY SPEAKING

GARY W. MOORE

with a combination of things I’ve seen and done and want to do again, and things I’ve never seen nor done. My list may be passive ... no jumping out of airplanes or alligator wrestling ... yet things I want to experience.

In the things I want to do again group ... I want to visit San Antonio, Texas. San Antonio is probably my favorite place on the globe ... history, music, food ... I find it all alluring. I’ve been there dozens of times, but want to go again. I want to dine on fajitas, with a margarita and listen to live mariachi music played table-side with friends and family

at Market Square. After dinner, we’ll stroll by the Alamo and I’ll ramble on about my life-long fascination with Texas history. I love Texas. I love the Texas attitude. And we’ll end the night listening to George Strait singing “I’ll be Somewhere Down in Texas if you’re looking for me” ...on a jukebox at the original Lone Star Cafe.

I remember the first moment we parked our motor home ... I am guessing 1987 or so ... taking the hands of my little family, walking up the long walkway and seeing Mount Rushmore for the first time. It was an unexpected breath-taking experience. I think I need to see it again. Not because I’m dying ... I’m not ... but just because I want to see it again.

I have two books burning inside of me that I

feel driven to finish and another that is finished that my agent is seeking a publishing deal. I’m also thinking about a simple book that’s a compilation of a few of my columns.

I also find that I want to spend more time talking with and listening to God through my prayers. As time passes, I’m understanding how important this is to my attitude, optimism, and mental well-being.

Those are my must do’s. In the category of things not required but I’d love to do is visit the Holy Land. It’s a long trip. If we can make it happen, great, but no regrets if not.

My list is short and simple. Really, all I want is time with family and friends. I’ve already travelled the world and realize my new life philoso-

phy can be summed up by the following simple statement of truth.

“It’s not where you are that’s important, but who you are with.”

If I can spend the rest of my life, anywhere, place or time, being with those I love and those who love me in return, I’ll be deliriously happy.

What could be more important?

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

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Michael K. Schold and Christine M. Schold to World Savings Bank, FSB, dated March 12, 2007 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40841, Page 278 (the “Mortgage”) of which mortgage U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee on behalf of and with respect to Ajax Mortgage Loan Trust 2018-A Mortgage-Backed Notes is the present holder by Assignment from Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. S/B/M Wachovia Mortgage, FSB F/K/A World Savings Bank, FSB to PROF-2013-S3 Legal Title Trust IV, by U.S. Bank National Association, as Legal Title Trustee dated November 29, 2016 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 56468, Page 40, and Assignment from PROF-2013-S3 Legal Title Trust IV, by U.S. Bank National Association, as Legal Title Trustee to U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee on Behalf of and with Respect to AJAX Mortgage Loan Trust 2018-A, Mortgage-Backed Notes dated July 12, 2018 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 59159, Page 213, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 10 Pebble Beach Road, Webster, MA 01570 will be sold at a Public Auction at 12:00 PM on May 10, 2021, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain tract of land with the buildings thereon of every nature and description, and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in Town of Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts and being a portion of Lot #8 as shown on “Plan of Lots At Cazeault Point”, Webster, Mass. dated August 10, 1945, plan book 158, plan 47, further bounded and described as follows BEGINNING at an iron pipe at the northeasterly corner of Lot #7 and in the northwesterly side line of Pebble Beach Road; THENCE N. 49° 00’ E. by said side line of Pebble Beach Road, ninety-nine and sixty-four hundredths (99.64) feet to a stake; THENCE northwesterly with an included angle of 90° 42’ 20” a distance of fifty-five and fifty-five hundredths (55.55) feet to a stake; THENCE westerly with an included angle of 129° 21’ 40” a distance of fifty-six and sixty-seven hundredths (56.67) feet to a stake; THENCE northwesterly with an included angle of 193° 20’ a distance of one hundred thirty-seven and ten hundredths (137.10) feet to a stake; THENCE on the same course about five (5) feet, more or less, to the Lake; THENCE southerly by the Lake eighty (80) feet, more or less, to an iron pipe at the northwesterly corner of Lot 37; THENCE S. 71° 05’ E. by Lot #7, a distance of one hundred seventy-four (174) feet, more or less, to the point of beginning. BEING the same premises conveyed to us by deed of Francis J. Chlapowski et ux dated June 29, 1977, and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, book 6220 page 52. For mortgagor’s title see deed recorded

with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 14753, Page 73.

The premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and other municipal assessments and liens, and subject to prior liens or other enforceable encumbrances of record entitled to precedence over this mortgage, and subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, reservations and conditions of record and subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

Terms of the Sale: Cashier’s or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee’s attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA 01851 or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

U.S. Bank National Association, as Indenture Trustee on behalf of and with respect to Ajax Mortgage Loan Trust 2018-A Mortgage-Backed Notes Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102 Lowell, MA 01851 (978) 256-1500 Schold, Michael K., 20-037119 April 16, 2021 April 23, 2021 April 30, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO17P3880GD
NOTICE AND ORDER
PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF GUARDIANSHIP OF A MINOR PERSON PURSUANT TO
In the interest of:
Aiden Ethan Woodcock
Of: Webster, MA
MINOR
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: a hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by **Kimberly J. Rockwood** on **April 8, 2021** will be held on **05/13/2021 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Magistrate Hearing Zoom 160 280 6833 or call 645-828-7666**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.
Date: April 14, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
April 30, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO17P3881GD
NOTICE AND ORDER
PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF GUARDIANSHIP OF A MINOR PERSON PURSUANT TO
In the interest of:
Alexander Christopher Stevens
Of: Webster, MA
MINOR
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: a hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by **Kimberly J. Rockwood** on **April 8, 2021** will be held on **05/13/2021 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Magistrate Hearing Zoom 160 280 6833 or call 645-828-7666**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.
Date: April 14, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
April 30, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO17P3883GD
NOTICE AND ORDER
PETITION FOR REMOVAL OF GUARDIANSHIP OF A MINOR PERSON PURSUANT TO
In the interest of:
Cooper K Stevens
Of: Webster, MA
MINOR
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: a hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by **Kimberly J. Rockwood** on **April 8, 2021** will be held on **05/13/2021 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing** Located **Magistrate Hearing Zoom 160 280 6833 or call 645-828-7666**

2. Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to

the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor’s best interests.
Date: April 14, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
April 30, 2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO21P1230EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Edwin Paul Konicki
Date of Death: 02/12/2021

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Jane E Konicki of Webster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Jane E Konicki of Webster MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/11/2021**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 08, 2021
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 30, 2021



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– Heather S., Renewal by Andersen customer, Holliston, MA

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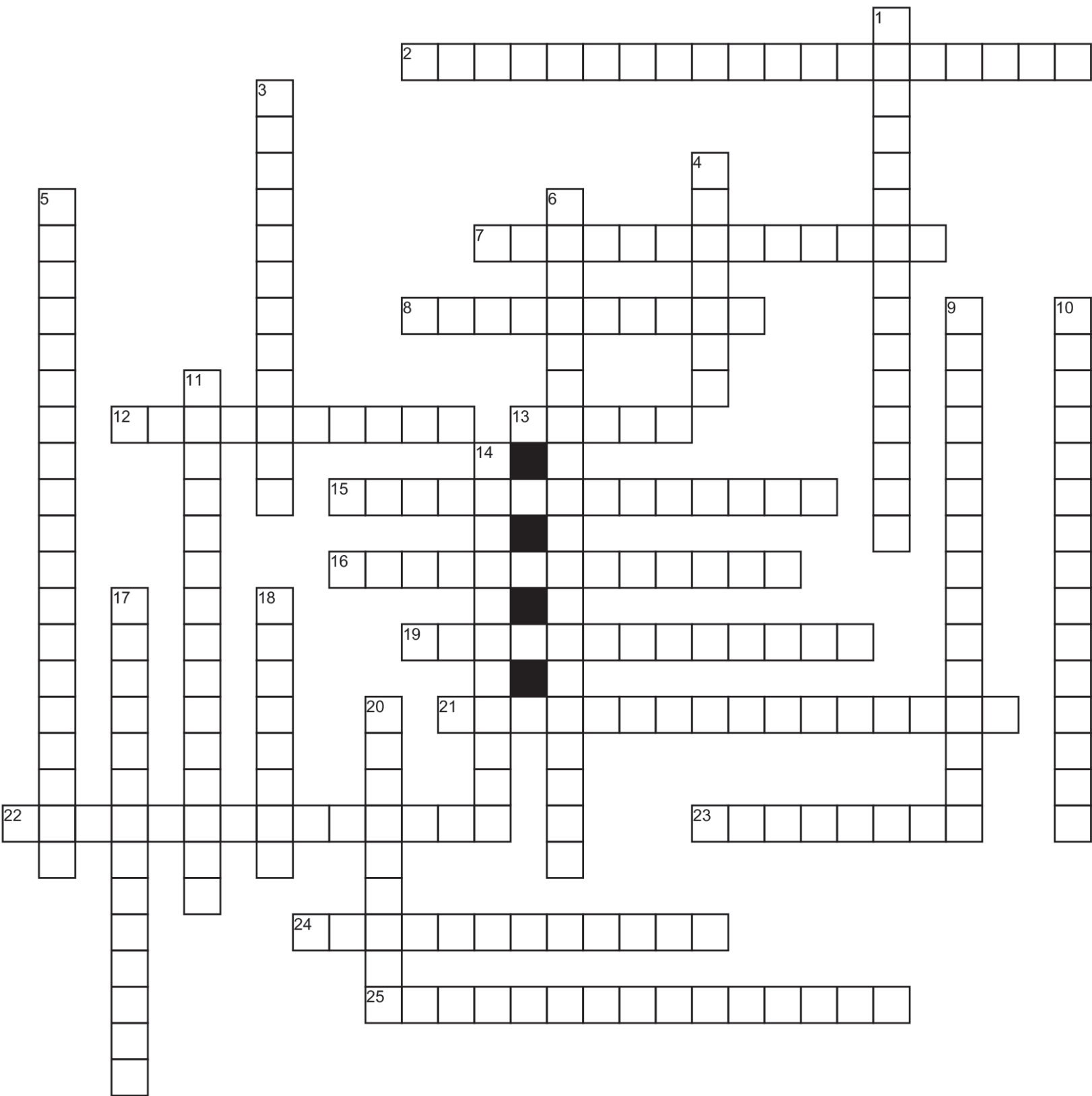
1-800-209-2746

¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 5/1/2021. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get 20% off your entire purchase and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 4/1/2021 and 5/1/2021. Additional \$250 off your project, minimum purchase of four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors required, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 5/1/2021. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2021 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2021 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved.

3rd Annual ABC's of the Seasons

Spring Edition 2021

Please find the answers to this crossword puzzle on the ABC's Page



ACROSS

- 2. Treat your yard before they take over
- 7. Best sales experience
- 8. Balance Transfer
- 12. USDOT# 2407387
- 13. We can save you time and money!
- 15. Help wanted, real estate, legals
- 16. Save you money on your energy bill
- 19. Great gifts for Mothers Day
- 21. Quality content
- 22. Weber Grills
- 23. Beautifying America one vehicle at a time
- 24. I'll beat any of my competitors prices
- 25. Arborcoat

DOWN

- 1. ...flowers that will last a lifetime
- 3. Come work for us!
- 4. Salon & Spa
- 5. New patients welcome
- 6. Use promo code palmer123
- 9. Always going the extra mile for our customers
- 10. Fresh local eggs
- 11. Grove & Main
- 14. Family owned and operated since 1967
- 17. AAA Roadside Assistance
- 18. Patient first, goal oriented
- 20. 15 Years...experience

3rd Annual ABC'S OF THE SEASONS, SPRING EDITION
Hint... answers don't always include the entire business name.

Name: _____
Address: _____

Circle which paper you found this in: *Spencer New Leader, Webster Times, Charlton Villager, Sturbridge Villager, Auburn News, Blackstone Valley Tribune, Southbridge News*
Daytime Phone: _____
Email address (optional) _____
Comments: _____

Please find the answers to this crossword puzzle on the ABC's Page. Enter to win a \$25 gift card to an ABC business by mailing in your completed crossword to ABC Crossword Puzzle, Stonebridge Press, P. O. Box 90, 25 Elm Street, Southbridge, MA 01550 OR scan & email or take a picture and email it to jsima@stonebridgepress.news by Wednesday, May 19th. Random-drawing for winner of all correct entries to be announced in the May 28 issue. One entry per person. Please support these ABC's businesses and tell them you saw their ad in your local paper! Good luck!

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Saturday, May 29th

Universal Tag Parking Lot, 36 Hall Road, Dudley
Early Birds (8am to 9am) \$10.00 per person fee
9am until 3pm FREE

"New this Year, we are able to accept CREDIT CARDS!"
24,000 sq.ft. of yard sale items ONE DAY ONLY
Pick your items and Make an offer!

Masks and Social Distancing Rules will Apply

Grouped Items: Electronics - stereos, speakers, etc. (no TVs) **Tools** - hand tools, lights, flooring etc. **Furniture** - Tables, chairs, bed frames, cabinets, hutches, etc.. **Housewares** - glassware, dishes, pictures, mirrors, bowls, cups, small appliances **Sporting goods** - Bikes, skis, baseball equipment, golf, exercise equipment **Clothes** - shirts, pants, jackets, shoes, bags **Kids toys and baby items** - high chairs, bouncy, games, seats **Antiques**

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Town of Spencer – Conservation Agent
(Part-time– 19 hours/week)

The Town of Spencer seeks a proven conservation professional with excellent written and oral skills and thorough working knowledge of the Wetlands / River Protection Acts and local wetlands by-laws. Provides environmental / open space planning support and periodic Title V assistance; reviews stormwater permit applications; performs annual Conservation gravel pit inspections and provides technical support to the Conservation Commission.

Associates Degree in Environmental Science or related field and three (3) years of experience in a similar capacity; or a combination of education and experience. MACC "Fundamentals" certification required to be completed within one year of hire.

This is a non-union position with a starting rate of \$22.71 up to a maximum of \$28.18 per hour.

Job description and application available at: www.spencerma.gov.

Submit resume and application to Town of Spencer, Town Administrator's Office, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA *EEO Employer.*

Town of Charlton seeks to fill a PT (15 hr)
Local Inspector in our Building Department

Must have thorough knowledge of the State Building Code, local zoning bylaws and other applicable state statutes, rules and regulations. High School diploma and advanced technical training; five years of experience in the supervision of building construction or design; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. State certification as a Local Inspector, Massachusetts Construction Supervisor's License and Massachusetts driver's license required. Hourly rate: \$25.00 – \$28.00/hr dependent on qualifications.

Full job description available online at
<https://townofcharlton.net/158/Human-Resources>.

Deadline to apply is 5/4/21.
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REAL ESTATE



Jules Lusignan



T.A. King



Maureen Cimoch



Ellen Therrien



John Kokocinski



Adrienne James



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WEBSTER LAKE - 11 Bay View Rd! One of the Lake's Premier Properties! 9,822' of Real Nice Set on .68 Acres of Park Like Grounds with 297' Waterfront! Over \$4 Million Spent! Nothing was Spared! 18 Spacious Rooms! 5 Water View Bedrooms, 4 with their Own Bathrooms! 5.5 Bathrooms Total! Brazilian Cherry Hardwood Floors, Grand & Spiral Stairways! Elevator from the Ground Floor up 3 to the Master Suite! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bathroom with Steam Shower just off the Mirrored Exercise Room! Billiard Room! Media Room with Custom Cabinetry & Wet Bar! Fantastic Center Island Granite Kitchen with Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Refrigerator, 16' Butler's Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Floor Plan! Dining Area, Family Room with Cherry Entertainment Center & Wet Bar! Open Formal Dining Room, Fireplace Living Room & Atrium! Library with Private Deck! Waterfront Master Suite with Private Office, Bedroom with Triple Glass Door to its Private Deck with Panoramic Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Lake View Bathroom with Huge Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool Tub, Double Vanity Sinks & Separate Commode/Bidet/Pedestal Sink Area! 16 Zones of Updated Geothermal Heat & Air Conditioning - 30 Tons! Recessed Lighting & Sprinkler System Through Out! 3 Car Heated Garage! Full House Generator! Slate Roof! All Decks & Railings Brazilian Ipe Hardwood! Copper Gutters & Downspouts! It's Time to Reward Yourself! **\$2,249,900.00**

WEBSTER - 35 Everett Ave! 2 FAMILY - GREAT INVESTMENT! 4/4 Rms, 22 Bdrms, 1/1 Baths! Family Home Lovingly Cared For! Quiet Residential Area! Set on a 11,000' Level Lot! Great Yard! Updates include Roof, Boiler, Electrical, Gutters, Porch, Sewer Lines, Insulation in Attic, Basement and Exterior Walls by Mass Save! Replacement Windows & Doors! Hardwood Garage or Workshop! **\$224,900.00**

WEBSTER - 44 Sunny Ave! Sought After Neighborhood! 7 Room 1,632' Colonial! 1st Flr Features Open Flr Plan, Kit w/Is, Din Area, Fam Rm, Frpld Liv Rm, 1.5 Baths! 2nd Flr w/3 Bedrooms & Bathrm! 2.5 Baths Total! Tile Flrs Throughout! LPGas Heat & Hot Water! Town Services! **\$289,900.00**



DUDLEY - 12 Susan Drive! Ideal 7 Rm Split! Beautifully Landscaped 18,615' Lot including a Heated In-Ground Pool w/Pool House! Fully Appliance Kitchen w/Corian Counters, Island, Hardwood Floor & Door to the Deck! Dining Rm w/Hardwood & Slider to Deck overlooking the Pool! Living Rm w/Bay Window, Brick Fireplace w/Wood Pellet Insert & Fujitsu Wall Mount AC Split Unit! 3 Comfortable Bdrms all w/Double Closets, Spacious 12x16' Master! Halfway Full Bathrm w/Skylight & Door to the Master! Lower Level 13x24' Family Rm w/Recessed Lighting! Convenient Half Bath! 2 Car Heated Garage! Many 2018 Updates - Roof, Siding, Windows, Buderus Furnace, Hot Water Super Store, Oil Tank & Pool Liner! Out Back a Garden Area & Storage Shed! Town Services! Won't Last! **\$339,000.00**

WEBSTER LAKE - 11 Henry Road! Bates Point - Middle Pond & Panoramic Views + Western Exposure = Beautiful Sunsets! Never 2 the Same! 3,184' 9 Room Fully Furnished Colonial Built from the Ground Up as a New Home in 2005! This Home Features 4 Bedrooms, 2 of which are Master Suites, 1 of which Overlooks the Lake, 4.5 Bathrooms, 2 of which have Separate Showers & Whirlpool Tubs, 3 of which have Double Granite Vanities, 2 Complete Granite/Stainless Kitchens! The First Floor Open Floor Plan with Hardwood Floors Features an Eat-in Kitchen with LP Gas Jenn-Air Range, Double Drawer Dishwasher & Trash Compactor! Spacious Formal Dining Room with Crown Moldings & Chair Rails! Lake Facing Great Room/Living Room with Gas Fireplace, Wet Bar with Bottle Cooler, Surround Sound & Slider to Composite Deck! Half Bath with Laundry Closet! The Second Floor with 4 Bedrooms! Comfortable Front 16x16 and Back 17x17 Masters with Tray Ceilings, Recessed Lighting, Ceiling Fans, Surround Sound & Full Tile/Granite Bathrooms! Full Hall Bath for the other 2 Bedrooms! Fully Finished Walk-out Lower Level with Full Summer Kitchen, Family Room with Gas Fireplace, Surround Sound, Slider to Paver Patio & Full Bath! Buderus 3 Zone Oil Heat! 3 Zone Air Conditioning! Central Vac! Security! 2 Car Heated Garage! Boat Dock! **\$1,099,900.00**

CHARLTON - 74 Daniels Road! Completely Renovated 9 Rm, 4 Bdrms, 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, Bdrms w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Laundry! Both Fully Appliance! 2 New Driveways, Irrigation, AG Pool! Shed! Security! Generator Hookup! **\$489,900.00**



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FEATURED LISTING!

WEBSTER • 17 BRODEUR AVE

To Be Built or Build to Suit - 2000+ Sq Ft Custom Cape!
3 large bedrooms, Master suite, Central air, 2 Fireplaces!
2 car garage. All town services. **\$425,000.**

A SELLER'S MARKET

is continuing into year 2021!

Thinking of selling, NOW is the time! Call us, your neighborhood Real Estate Professionals, for a FREE OPINION of VALUE - NO strings attached.

Do business where the business is being done!

WATERFRONT THOMPSON - BECOLA RD



ON DEPOSIT

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

WEBSTER - 99 UPPER GORE ROAD



ON DEPOSIT

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

WEBSTER - 155 THOMPSON ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!

Terrific opportunity for one Large business or Several businesses. 4784 sq bldg. Zoned B5. Off I395 exit 1. High Traffic & Visibility. Excellent Location!
assisted sale **\$695,000.**

WEBSTER • 9 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE



SORRY, SOLD!

Beautiful CAPE! Enormous amount of updates. New Asphalt Shingles, & 8 New Skylights! - 4 Bedrooms! 3 - 1/2 Baths! 24 x 26 Great Rm w/ Gas Fireplace! Master Suite w/Spa Like Bath & Soaking Tub! WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT? INGROUND POOL? OK!! has that TOO!! All Painted! SS Appliances. New Tankless Hot Water Boiler. **\$467,000**

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!

Estate Sale! Scenic View of Beautiful Webster Lake! Boarding Stone Walls! Split Level! 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Dining Rm, Hollywood Bath! Master Bedroom & Master Bath. Fireplaced Living Room! Finished Lower Level w/1/2 Bath, Garage. "Salt Water" Inground Pool. **\$319,000.**

WEBSTER • 233 - 235 NORTH MAIN STREET



ON DEPOSIT

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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



SORRY, SOLD!

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

Featured New Listing!



OPEN HOUSE • 5/2 • NOON - 3

Webster - 401 Treasure Island Condo

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

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OXFORD

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021 at 12:00 P.M.

8 PROPERTIES

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HOLLAND NEW TO THE MARKET

Air conditioning (mini-splits), 2.5 baths, 3 bedrooms, Finished lower level includes family room, dining room, full bath and laundry, Updates include; kitchen cabinets, granite counters. Water access - deeded beach rights

23 Bernie Rd, ~ \$329,900

HOLDEN

Replacement windows
2 bedroom each unit
2 car garage
Off-street parking
44 Highland St ~ \$479,900

For a listing or showing appointment.
Call Maria, Diane or Jo-Ann
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VOTE

BOB MILLER

Monday, May 3

Bob Miller is back! He is energized and eager to serve the residents and townspeople of Webster once again.

He is poised to continue as a Dedicated Selectman—a role he has Successfully fulfilled many times in the past for our Town.

This position statement will outline his accomplishments, describe his leadership beliefs and values, and project his plan for the go forward future of Webster.

He is asking You to Join the Miller Train and support his plan and effort by casting your vote for **Bob Miller, Selectman, on May 3, 2021.**

Miller's Accomplishments

Bob has passionately served the Town of Webster for five terms (15 years) in the past where he has contributed to these major accomplishments for the citizens of Webster:

1. Seven years ago, Bob was instrumental and an active member of the ADA Board Commission to procure grant funding for projects which greatly improved the lives of Americans with disabilities in Webster.
2. When the Town experienced water problems, Bob prioritized the solution which resulted in the building of a new water treatment system for Webster. He also had a Meeting for residents and engineers at the auditorium.
3. When Webster realized a billing problem in conjunction with the sharing the sewer system with Dudley, Bob helped to rewrite the contract which established a new Inter Municipal Agreement to correct the situation. Now Dudley pays its fair share, which has been a benefit to Webster and Dudley.
4. Bob worked closely with Charter Communications for a rate adjustment for the people of Webster to equalize the rate paid by the Town of Southbridge which was significantly lower at the time.

The Future with Miller as Selectman

You cannot go wrong by casting your vote for Bob Miller for Board of Selectman on May 3, 2021. Unlike his opponent who wears many hats, Bob has only the citizens of Webster on his agenda. He is always available to Listen to anyone who comes to him with a problem, he is Consistent in his approach to the Town's rules and regulations, and he is dependable—You can Count on Bob to get the Job Done at all times. In all of his past actions, Bob has followed the rules adhered to procedural protocols and maintained high standards for one and All. Born, raised and educated in Webster, Bob knows the townspeople both personally and professionally. He has Served the Webster Community and he has managed and operated his own business for 42 years. He confronts Any situation, Speaks his mind, follows up when necessary and doesn't stop until the problem is solved.

His attendance has been nearly 100%, missing 1 meeting in past years.

When assessing the future needs of the Town of Webster, Bob wants to focus on opening up communication between all current Town boards (appointed by Selectman) so that responsibilities are met and not duplicated. (They should be User friendly and helpful) He wants to assure accountability in those departments, without stepping out of line. Avoid town lawsuits which are Currently at an ALL Time High, to conserve and

Put him Back onto the Board of Selectmen where Bob will adhere to the rule of law, make himself available to listen to and advocate for ALL of Webster's citizens, intervene for the rights of townspeople sometimes overlooked and mistreated by other department officials. If you have ever had an unfortunate experience with an existing Town Department, you need to be sure to cast your **Vote for Bob Miller.**

Allocate taxpayer Money to Productive pursuits instead of having to Clean Up after Costly Mistakes, which have and Will continue to COST the Taxpayers Hundreds of thousands if not Millions of dollars Needlessly Wasted, and Does Not Make Empty Promises, Always Up Front with Everyone, and Does Not Try to Hide ANYTHING from the Taxpayers and Voters of WEBSTER. Don't be Fooled Again, Vote Bob Miller Selectman, Monday, May 3, 2021, Would Appreciate Your Vote.

The Board of Selectmen are 5 equal members, Not Controlled by 1!!! Setting Policy!! Harmony with All the Board is

My Top Priority!! In the past, some Board members may disagree, but when the final vote came after discussion, 9 out of 10 times, a unanimous vote would be taken, for the record. Communication with the Board on all matters is a Priority!!

In closing, please believe it is ' Miller Time Again ' and would appreciate your Vote, Monday, May 3, 2021.

2020 was a difficult year for most of us, Let's make 2021 a Better & Productive Year for All of the Residents of WEBSTER,

With Your Help and Your Vote and in conjunction with the Board, We can get this done without personal gains by some.

Please cast your Vote for Bob Miller for Selectman, Thank you

Paid for by Robert J. Miller for Selectmen Committee

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21 SCHOFIELD AVE, DUDLEY

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COFFEE HOUR

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REAL ESTATE

Dudley Grange looking forward to Summer Music Series

DUDLEY — The Annual Dudley Grange Strawberry Festival is cancelled this year due to ongoing concerns of the Coronavirus. However, the Grange is looking forward to hosting the Dudley Grange Outdoor Summer Music Series, funded by the Dudley Cultural Council and Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The three-part evening musical series begins in June on the Grange lawn followed by performances in July and August. The musical series will feature area bands performing a variety of musical genres that are sure to entertain. More information to follow.



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Sunday, May 10
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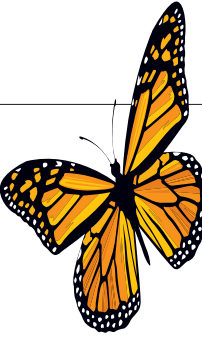
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Also, save the date, Oct. 2, for the Dudley Grange Annual Apple Festival.



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Courtesy

DUDLEY POLICE REPORT SUCCESSFUL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK EVENT

On Saturday, April 24, the Dudley Police Department, and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), conducted another prescription drug "Take Back" event. For the 17th time in Dudley, the public had the opportunity to provide for safe disposal of expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. The service was free and anonymous. This was a well-attended event. More than 45 people dropped off a large quantity of prescription medications. A total of seven boxes were turned in for disposal. It was another successful event, and the Dudley Police encourage everyone to take advantage of these programs in the future. The next one is tentatively planned for the Fall of 2021.

ATTN: WEBSTER VOTERS MONDAY, MAY 3RD

Re-elect **RANDY BECKER** for **SELECTMAN**
Qualified • Proven • Responsible



Personal:
57 year resident of Webster
Married for 37 years to Donna (Fitzback) Becker
Proud father of two sons, Andrew (33) and Alexander (31)
Graduate of Bartlett High School, '79
Graduate of Nichols College, BSBA '83 in Accountancy and MBA '96
Retired Chief Financial Officer of MAPFRE Insurance

Affiliations:
• Member of the Webster Board of Selectmen (since May, 2015), Chairman since May, 2019 • Secretary and Member of the Police/Fire Station Building Committee (2008-2018) • Director of the Southern Worcester County Communication Center • Chairman of the Board of Directors of MAPFRE Insurance • Trustee and Finance Committee Chair of Nichols College • Director and Treasurer of the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts • Director and Vice Chair of Harrington Hospital • President of the St. Louis School Endowment Fund which funds All Saints Academy • Couple to Couple Pre-Marital Ministry with my wife, Donna, for over 25 years

Dear Webster Citizens:

My wife Donna and I have been blessed to grow up, live and work in Webster for practically all our lives. Giving back to our community, of time, talent and treasure, is always something we and our families have tried our best to do. I have been honored to serve as one of your Selectmen. Reflecting on all the good that has taken place in Webster these past six years, I truly believe we are in a far better place today. Working together we will continue our upward trajectory of improving our Town for the betterment of its citizens. This past year, COVID-19 dominated our lives, resulting in untold hardships, including the loss of some of our loved ones. In addition to the truly outstanding effort to fight COVID-19 put forth by our Town Administrator, Board of Health Agent and many others, some of the top positive outcomes in Webster these past six years, include: (1) the hiring of Town Administrator (TA) Doug Willardson; (2) completion of the new water treatment plant, coupled with a prioritization of pipe re-lining/replacement in the most acute areas of town; (3) under both the TA's and Town Accountant's leadership, the Town's financial condition is far better than it has been in decades; (4) the Head Start program, sponsored by the Worcester Community Action Council, has taken over the old Senior Center providing needed care for Webster's little ones; (5) the Town has a truly dedicated Opioid Task Force and we also have the CDU and AIC at Harrington's Webster Campus to help combat and treat the terrible disease of opioid/pain killer addiction; (6) significant improvements made to Memorial Beach, many thanks to our Recreation Director and the folks she works with; (7) increased attention to Main Street, including new businesses and the River Walk; and, (8) a higher level of volunteerism and enthusiasm towards our Town. These accomplishments and many others are a testament to a very dedicated group of Town employees, my fellow Selectmen and our citizens. Being a Selectman is a role I've been entrusted with and take most seriously. I believe we have an exceptionally dedicated Board of Selectmen that work extremely well with our TA.

My number one concern, in fact the ONLY reason I am seeking a third term, is the potential break down of our Town's positive direction over the past few years through a disruptive change in the Board of Selectmen. I'm a firm believer in the saying attributed to Bert Lance: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it".

We still have much to accomplish, including: (1) continuing our work with the Water/Sewer Commission on replacement/re-lining of the highest priority water pipes in town; (2) continuing the Board of Selectmen's responsibilities of oversight and providing guidance, while rejecting any desire for interference or involvement in the day to day operations of the Town – after all, that's why we hired TA Willardson to run the Town; (3) reviewing what additional Town services can be streamlined and improved; (4) continuing prioritization of capital plans; (5) continuing the focus on Economic Development, including Main Street, North & South Main Streets and the Shaws/Kmart Plaza; and, (6) listening to the concerns of our citizens.

If re-elected, I will continue to take seriously my oversight and guidance role. I will steadfastly do my very best to continue moving Webster forward in the most positive way possible.

Thank you for your consideration,
Randy Becker

PLEASE VOTE: We'll need to have a really good voter turnout on May 3rd so please remind your friends and family to get out and vote.

Paid for by Donna Becker

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