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Friday, April 9, 2021

# Shepherd Hill NHS donates paper goods to local pantires

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARTON – Each month, the Shepherd Hill Regional High School National Honor Society works to give back to their local community through service projects in their school, and for March, the student group put together an effort that would not only help two local organizations but also provide a spirit of unity and competition among the schools in Dudley and Charlton. Called the “Battle of the Borders,” the fundraiser challenges the Charlton and Dudley schools as well as Shepherd Hill,

the district’s shared high school, to collect paper goods to support the CHIP In food pantry in Charlton and the Webster-Dudley Food Share, both significant resources providing access to food and personal care goods during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The concept was sparked by NHS Vice President and senior Cutter Beck, a longtime volunteer for CHIP In who said the NHS wanted to create a fun challenge that would get everyone beyond the walls of Shepherd Hill involved in the cause. “We wanted something where we could get the

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Courtesy Photo

Shepherd Hill National Honor Society members drop off paper goods to CHIP In Food Pantry in Charlton.

## Dudley selectmen praise successful vaccination clinic

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – The COVID-19 pandemic has now been in effect for more than a year, but things are starting to look up as vaccine rollouts continue to take place. On March 13, nearly a year to the day since the official start of lockdowns in 2020, the Dudley Fire Department and Emergency Management helped ring vaccines to over a hundred local citizens through a vaccination clinic at Joshua Place and the Dudley Town Hall. Selectmen discussed the clinic during a meeting on March 22 where they complimented Dudley’s emergency officials for a job well done. Fire Chief Dean Kochanowski provided some details on the results from the clinic and how many vaccinations were managed throughout the day. “The Board of Health people did a great job. The paramedics did a great job and we really worked well together. We gave out 109 doses. I believe it was 44 at Joshua Place and the remainder at town hall. It worked really well, and we’ll be working on getting them their second shots in a few weeks,” Chief Kochanowski said. The effort was considered even more impressive due to the seamless transition that Dudley personnel made after spending the early morning hours of the day managing a fire in nearby Webster, as well as a brush fire in Dudley. Fire responders didn’t miss a beat taking care of their duties effectively before holding the clinic without delay.

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## School budget proposal calls for 2.8 percent increase

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – The Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee has pushed forward a starting number for its Fiscal Year 2022 budget which sees an increase in not only the total spending plan, but the assessments on the two district towns as well. The School Committee previously approved the budget proposal during a meeting on March 10 where all but one absent member voted to push the budget forward to the member towns of Dudley and Charlton. The spending plan was discussed again two weeks later on March 24, during a pub-

lic hearing where there was no input from either the committee or citizens but Director of Finance and Operations Richard Mathieu took the time to break down the proposed increase and where the bulk of the new expenses are coming from. “This is a \$1.464 million increase from fiscal year ‘21, or a 2.8 percent increase. The budget increase is accounted for primarily through increases in expenses as it relates to health insurance, some changes in state assessments to the district, as well as a couple of new requested positions such as an additional nurse for the middle schools, an occupational therapist to serve district wide and a

facilities director for district wide,” Mathieu said. The increase brings the proposed budget to \$52,571,801 and includes increased assessments to both Charlton and Dudley with Charlton being assessed \$14,789,261 and Dudley assessed \$9,890,252. Mathieu said these numbers are due to several factors. “There are two primary reasons for that besides the budgetary increase. The first is the governor’s budget estimate for regional transportation is not in our favor and it’s because Fiscal Year 2020 actual numbers were used, and we’ve communicated with Sen. Gobi, and we hope these numbers will be updated in the House and Senate

budget. It sounds like there’s recognition of providing a clearer and more accurate estimate for these numbers in the next round of projections,” Mathieu said. “The other was the use by the district last year of \$373,000 in one-time revenues to reach the Fiscal Year 2021 assessment requests of our assessment communities. We wanted to make sure that we were able to have a budget approved at the May town meeting, postponed to June, and this was the appropriate path forward at that point in time. We’ll certainly continue to work with the town to reach mutually agreeable numbers.” The committee plans to

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## A unique Lenten experience for a special fourth grade class

WEBSTER — Sister Jeanne Marie Akalski, a Felician Sister who teaches fourth grade at Saint Joseph School, is consumed with the congregational Mission: “As

Felician Franciscans, called by God, we cooperate with Christ in the spiritual renewal of the world.” Whether preparing for Catholic Schools Week or celebrating the

Year of Saint Joseph or any other religion activity, Sister Jeanne tries to involve students and their families, especially their parents. Lent 2021 was another

opportunity to evangelize not just the students but their parents. Each student received a large cross on a piece of heavier paper 16 and a half by 22 inches. The Cross had

40 sections, with guidelines on how to spend this Lent differently each day. None of the suggestions hinged on the traditional “give up candy.” The ideas ranged from chal-

lenging items for fourth graders, such as forgiving someone or asking for forgiveness, to easy ones like hug a family member or smile at your

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Courtesy

St. Joseph School students Tobin Akindele, Ayla Reed, and Ryan Amaral display the crosses they completed for the Lenten project assigned in Sister Jeanne Marie Akalski’s Fourth Grade class.



# Becker College succumbs to economic impact of COVID

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS**  
STAFF WRITER

LEICESTER – Becker College has navigated countless challenges over its 237-year history, but the financial impacts of COVID-19 were too steep for the small school to overcome.

Last week, the Becker College Board of Trustees unanimously voted to cease academic programming at the end of the current academic year. The decision was reached after officials spent several months evaluating all options for potentially saving the college.

“This was a deeply painful decision for the Board to make – one that the college administration made every possible effort to stave off, but one we came to realize in recent weeks was unavoidable,” said Christine Cassidy, the chairperson of Becker’s Board of Trustees.

The school’s current spring semester will continue as planned, including ceremonies for graduating seniors on May 8. The college will also provide academic support

and transitional services to students through Aug. 31.

After enduring a nightmarish year of remote learning and canceled events, Becker undergrads must now balance their academic responsibilities this semester with the need to find a new place to study in the fall. For many students, this will involve finding new apartments, jobs, internships, and extracurricular activities.

Becker officials are committed to assisting students as much as possible in their transition efforts. The college has made arrangements with several area universities to provide admission to Becker students. Further details are available on the Becker website.

“Our commitment going forward is to do everything we can to ensure our students finish this year strongly positioned to continue their education, and that they and all our faculty and staff get access to the best education and employment opportunities available,” Cassidy added.

The college’s admissions staff will work with current students, as well as those accepted for the fall 2021 semester, on potential new admissions pathways. All tuition deposits will be refunded.

The news of the college’s closure was equally distressing for staff members, many of whom have called Becker home for years.

“Becker will assist departing faculty and staff in finding new career opportunities after their employment with the college ends,” read a statement released by the college.

Becker operates campuses in Leicester and Worcester. Established in 1784 as Leicester Academy, the campus at the town center eventually merged with Becker’s Business College in 1887. Both campuses are deeply stitched into the academic and cultural fabrics of their communities.

Although the pandemic drove the final nails into Becker’s coffin, school officials were already

grappling with several challenges long before COVID-19 ravaged colleges nationwide. As a small, tuition-dependent institution, Becker faced mounting adversity in recent years with declining enrollments and rising costs.

When COVID-19 struck in March 2020, college officials struggled with the added challenge of maintaining physical campus operations while transitioning to online education. A year later, as Becker moved to reopen on-campus housing and classrooms, many residential students chose to become permanent commuters or engage in remote learning from home due to the continuing COVID-19 crisis. The prolonged absence of on-campus residents exacerbated the college’s financial situation.

“Ultimately, the impacts of COVID-19 turned what was a very challenging situation into an unsustainable situation,” said Becker College President Nancy Crimmin.

Rather than risk plac-

ing students and staff into an untenable position next year, officials decided to close the school at a time when students’ academic transitions could be best managed.

“We pushed ourselves to develop scenarios in which Becker remained open for another year and beyond,” Cassidy said. “However, those scenarios included more debt, selling assets, and further cutting operations. Guided by the advice of our auditors and other expert consultants, we concluded that this would be irresponsible and unsustainable over time. As devastating as closing this 237-year-old institution is, we want this closure process to be one that conveys the maximum possible respect and support for everyone whose lives and careers we know it will affect.”

Becker’s trustees remain in close communication with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, as well as the college’s accreditation agencies.

To help answer ques-

tions from students, their families, and faculty members, the college has developed a specialized website. It includes information on applying to other schools, transferring credits, and obtaining financial aid. Information is also provided for student-athletes who must plan for the next chapters of their careers.

Looking ahead, Becker officials said decisions on the future of the college’s property and assets will be made in the coming months. Leicester officials are in the process of securing more information on the college’s impending closure, which will inform discussions over the summer.

“The town certainly has interest in obtaining the title to the Town Common, much of which is currently owned by Becker,” said Leicester Town Administrator David Genereux. “Beyond that, we have not had any discussions. I expect that they will take place in the coming months.”

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TEETH  
MATTER

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NATIONAL DENTAL  
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to improve your family's oral health.

Good dental hygiene is very important to overall good health.

Our next Your Teeth Matter is running on June 11 to recognize  
Oral Health Month. Calling all Dental Professionals to join us!

## Exploring dental crowns

Many people visit their dentists and learn they have a tooth that requires a crown. In many instances, dental crowns are necessary for proper tooth care.

Crowns were once widely referred to as “caps.” A crown is a permanent cover for a tooth that would otherwise require a very large filling after dental decay has been removed. Crowns also may be used to repair cracked or broken teeth so that extraction is not necessary. Sometimes crowns are used for cosmetic modifications or to hold a dental bridge in place.

The crown itself can be made from different materials, like stainless steel, gold or metallic alloy, porcelain, porcelain fused to metal, and resin. A dentist will determine which material will work best depending on the application and tooth location.

Understanding your

the tooth instead of filling it down. Again, these determinations are made by the dentist who has the expertise to gauge how much workable tooth is left.

Once the tooth has been prepared, an impression will be made of the bite area. That’s because the permanent crown will be fabricated in a laboratory and the fit/color will need to be exact for comfort — and also to ensure that bacteria and food debris do not get caught between the crown and tooth.

The final component is a temporary cap that will keep the prepared tooth clean. This is molded in the office and will be worn only until the custom-made crown is ready.

When the permanent crown is delivered, the patient will return to the office to have it checked for fit and then cemented into place.

Full and partial crowns

A partial crown may be used if only a portion of the tooth needs to be covered. Dentists will often rely on full crowns to get maximum coverage and

strength.

**Cost factor**

Crowns can be expensive. According to the resource CostHelper, crowns can range from \$500 to \$3,000 depending on the material used and the patient’s insurance coverage. Dental insurance may cover a predetermined percentage of the cost when the crown is medically necessary, but insurance may not cover anything if the procedure is only cosmetic.

It’s always a good idea for patients to express their concerns and ask questions about crowns prior to starting the procedure. Understanding the potential out-of-pocket costs is essential as well.

Dental crowns can last several years and represent the best way to salvage a tooth that is cracked or damaged.

### DID YOU KNOW?

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, dental caries, or tooth decay, is five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever in children. The American Academy of Pediatrics notes that children with dental caries in their baby teeth are at much greater risk for cavities in their adult teeth. Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral that can strengthen tooth enamel and make it more resistant to the acids that can contribute to tooth decay. Parents, even those whose children do not yet have any teeth, can discuss fluoride drops or chewable fluoride tablets with their youngsters’ pediatricians. The CDC notes that more than 40 percent of children have tooth decay before reaching kindergarten, but dental caries is often preventable. Parents who are diligent about their children’s oral care and mindful of potential problems, such as stains on the teeth, can reduce their sons’ and daughters’ risk of tooth decay.

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**STORYTIME ON FACEBOOK LIVE**  
Wednesdays at Noon  
Join Miss Lida for a live storytime on Facebook, every Wednesday at noon, and then stop by the library for a free take-and-make craft kit!  
No Facebook account is needed for this free program. Just point your browser to <https://www.facebook.com/crawfordlibrary> to access the video. Can't tune in at noon? Recordings of each week's storytime are available on the Facebook page beginning Wednesday afternoon.

**MUSIC AND MOVEMENT**  
First Friday of every month at 11:00AM  
Join Deb Hudgins on Facebook for Music and Movement, one of our most popular programs! Nothing gets kids on their feet and having fun quite like songs, dance and silly stories, and Miss Deb has been  
No Facebook account is needed for this free program. Just point your browser to <https://www.facebook.com/crawfordlibrary> to access the video.

**SEED EXCHANGE**  
Throughout the month of April  
Have leftover tomato seeds you don't know what to do with? Want to try growing flowers? Changed your mind about that kind of squash? The Pearle is hosting a seed exchange during the month of April – take some seeds to try, leave the seeds you don't need, and get gardening, just in time for Earth Day! Exchange boxes will be placed in the library and all are welcome to contribute flower or vegetable seeds or take some seeds for growing in your own garden.

**EXPLODING SEED BALL CRAFT FOR KIDS**  
Tuesday April 20 (multiple sessions)  
Want to have some fun while making the world a greener, more environmentally friendly place? Make exploding balls of seeds that are both fun to throw and an easy way to grow native wildflowers.  
This activity will take place outside in the side parking lot. We will be roping off a safe area. We will have tables set up 6ft apart and only 5 children per session. We will be disinfecting between sessions.  
This is for ages 2-6.  
Free; registration is required. Sponsored by the Hugh W. and Harriet K. Crawford Endowment.

**EARTH UP! NATURE TALES AND SONGS FOR THE PLANET**  
Thursday April 22 2:00PM-2:45PM  
Celebrate Earth Day with Storyteller Diane's "Earth UP! Nature Tales and Songs for the Planet!" These interactive stories and songs are fun for the whole family and nature too, so join us and all of nature for this celebration of stories and songs about all the simple things we can do to help the planet.  
Earth UP! Nature Tales and Songs for the Planet has participatory tales and songs like "Kate's Acorn." Kate wants to Save the World, but when she starts by saving a bunch of squirmly earthworms she helps a little acorn grow up strong. Before the story is done, the whole audience is acting out a trio of funny bugs as we learn just how important soil creatures are to the life of plants. This original story is complemented by "The Garden Song" by David Mallet accompanied by musical husband Tom Megan on guitar. In "The Tailor" the whole audience is invited to join in as we go on a recycling adventure with a very funny tailor! Diane's retelling of this classic Jewish folktale gives us ideas on ways we can recycle more and more things every day! Lots of fun- the whole audience is telling the story by the end.  
About Diane Edgecomb: One of America's most beloved storytellers, Diane is known for transforming into the characters in her tales bringing stories to vibrant life. Whether live in the room or present to her audiences via her beautifully recorded videos and/or Zoom events, Diane's warmth and invitation to participate brings today's family audiences into the heart of

the moment. Diane has been featured on NPR and is the winner of the ORACLE award for Storytelling Excellence in the Northeast as well as five Storytelling World awards.  
Free; registration is required. Participants will receive a link to the Zoom meeting 24 hours before the event. Sponsored by the Hugh W. and Harriet K. Crawford Endowment.

**MAKE A MINI GARDEN**  
Friday April 23 (multiple sessions for tweens, teens, and adults)  
A terrarium is like an aquarium, but for plants instead of fish. It is made in just about any glass container. It is planted to look like a miniature garden or forest enclosed in its own little world. You can easily make a beautiful terrarium yourself. Please bring your own glass container. We will have some to choose from as well.  
This activity will take place outside in the side parking lot. We will be roping off a safe area. We will have tables set up 6ft apart and only 5 children per session. We will be disinfecting between sessions.  
Free; registration is required. Sponsored by the Hugh W. and Harriet K. Crawford Endowment.


**A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN COMPOSERS**  
Thursday May 6 6:00PM-7:30PM  
Historian Jeffrey Engel will highlight the lives and the music of several distinguished female composers/concert pianists who attained recognition and success during the nineteenth century in this Zoom program.  
There have always been women composers. As far back as the seventh century BC, Sappho, the Greek lyric poetess, played her own accompaniments on the barbiton and the pektis. Throughout the twelfth century there were female troubadours and during the sixteenth, madrigal composers. Francesca Caccini (1587-1638) is thought to be the first woman to write an opera and Elisabeth-Claude Jacquet de la Guerre (1663-1729), the author of an early ballet. It is not until the end of the nineteenth century, however, that significantly more women begin to enjoy public performances of their music and become professional composers. Perhaps you've heard of Teresa Carreno, Sophie Menter and Clara Schumann?  
Free; registration is required. Participants will receive a link to the Zoom meeting 24 hours before the event. Sponsored by the Hugh W. and Harriet K. Crawford Endowment.




**ACCURACY WATCH:**  
*The Webster Times* is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected in a timely manner on page A3. We cannot run corrections based upon differences of opinion or unconfirmable facts. We will, however, print letters to the editor from area residents who wish to add their comments to our news coverage. If you find a mistake, please email [news@stonebridgepress.news](mailto: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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Artie Heins, a long time Webster resident, passed away at the end of December and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to:


The staff at Dudley EMS for their rapid response and lifesaving efforts.  
The staff at Dudley Housing Authority for their care and support.  
All who contributed to Artie's GoFundMe account and to all who donated on his behalf to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Webster – Dudley Veteran Council and Webster Dudley Food Share program. There are too many people to list, but the sheer number is a testament to his extensive group of friends which span several generations.  
Roland Malboeuf of the Scanlon Funeral Home for his attention to detail and expertise in guiding us thru a multitude of decisions during a very difficult time. We also appreciate the special touch he added to the urn, it truly captured Artie's spiritual side.  
Lisa Sullivan and staff at the Flower Garden for a breathtaking urn wreath. It was the perfect complement to the perfect urn!  
The staff at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish - Nancy Kudzal for her guidance in selecting the hymns and readings and to Father Adam for a beautiful personalized service.  
All who were able to attend the funeral mass and to those who were there in spirit.  
To Bush Hall, PAV and Fish & Game for hosting small group gatherings after the service.  
Artie touched so many lives and that was evident with the outpouring of support on his behalf. We are blessed with the memories of such a wonderful person who showed us how to live life by example – **“faith, family and friends”**.  
Sincerely,

*Artie's family and friends*

Office Assistant Position

Solair Recreation League in Woodstock CT has one or two hourly positions for an office assistant. This position involves greeting guests, accepting payments, scheduling reservations, working with our office manager to help with paperwork, mailings, etc. The successful candidate should be able to work with limited supervision, have a working knowledge of personal computers (Windows 10, familiar with MS Word), and good customer service skills. We will work with the successful candidate on a fixed schedule which will include weekends. Up to 38 hours per week are available. Training will be provided for our scheduling and reservations software. Weekend hours are required.

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Water Mains

Aquarion Water Company will be cleaning water mains in Oxford starting on Monday, April 5 through Friday, May 14, 2021. This annual maintenance project is being completed so we can ensure that you continue to receive the highest quality water.

This project will last approximately six weeks and, during that time, you might notice some discoloration in your water. This discoloration results from the temporary disturbance of the water flow, which stirs up naturally occurring minerals that settle in water mains.

You may want to store tap water in the refrigerator ahead of time for drinking and cooking. And, if your water is discolored, delay washing clothes until it is clear.

We appreciate your understanding and patience. The work hours will be between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The schedule will be available on our website at [www.aquarionwater.com/alerts](http://www.aquarionwater.com/alerts).

This schedule is subject to change. Signage will be placed daily in the work area.

If you have any questions, please contact our Customer Service Center at 1-800-732-9678 or [cs@aquarionwater.com](mailto:cs@aquarionwater.com).




# Put tax-smart investing moves to work

We're now well into what's known as "Tax Season." If your income in 2020 was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, your tax return will reflect it. However, if your earnings were fairly normal last year, you might look at your tax situation and wonder how you could improve it in 2022. One area to look at may be your investment-related taxes.

To help control these taxes, consider these moves:

Take full advantage of tax-deferred investments  
As an investor, one of the best moves you can make is to consider contributing as much as you can afford to your tax-deferred accounts – your traditional IRA and 401(k) or similar employ-



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er-sponsored plan – every year. If you Look for tax-free opportunities  
Interest from municipal bonds typically is exempt from federal income tax, and, in some cases, from state and local income tax, too. (Some municipal bonds, however, may be subject to the alternative minimum tax.) And if you qualify to contribute to a Roth IRA – eligibility is generally based on income – your earnings can be withdrawn tax-free, provided you've had your account for at least five years, and you don't start taking withdrawals until you're at least 59 and a half. Your employer may also offer a Roth 401(k), which can provide tax-free withdrawals. Keep in mind, though, that you contribute after-tax dollars to a Roth IRA and 401(k), unlike a traditional IRA and 401(k), in which your contributions are made with pre-tax dollars.

Be a "buy and hold" investor  
Your 401(k) and IRA are designed to be long-term investments, and you may face disincentives in the form of taxes and penalties if you tap into them before you reach 59 and a half. So, just by investing in these retirement accounts, you are essentially pursuing a "buy and hold" strategy. But you can follow this same strategy for investments held outside your IRA and 401(k). You can own some investments – stocks in particular – for decades without paying taxes on gains. And when you do sell them, you'll only be taxed at the long-term capital gains rate, which may well be less than your ordinary income tax rate. But if you're frequently buying and selling investments you've held for one year or less, you could rack up some pretty big tax bills, because you'll likely be taxed at your ordinary income tax rate.  
Be prepared for unexpected taxes  
Mutual fund managers are generally free to make whatever trades they choose. And when they do sell some

investments, they can incur capital gains, which may be passed along to you. If this is a concern, you might look for funds that do less trading and bill themselves as tax efficient.  
While taxes are one factor to consider when you invest, they should probably not be the driving force. You need to build a diversified portfolio that's appropriate for your risk tolerance and time horizon. Not all the investments you select, and the moves you make with them, will necessarily be the most tax efficient, but by working with your financial and tax professionals, you can make choices that can help you move toward your long-term goals.

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

# Open Sky announces Presenting Sponsor and awardees for Safe Homes Gala

WORCESTER — Open Sky Community Services has announced that the Gala and People of Courage Awards in support of Safe Homes will be held virtually on Friday, April 9 from 6-7 p.m.

Safe Homes is an Open Sky program providing a Drop-in Center and peer-led services and supports for LGBTQIA+ youth ages 14-23 in Central Massachusetts. Safe Homes offers leadership development, educational and social programming, connections to resources and mental health counseling at no cost to partici-

pants. The program is supported in part by grants from The United Way of Central Massachusetts, Greater Worcester Community Foundation, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and others.

According to Ken Bates, President and CEO at Open Sky, the isolation and uncertainty of the past year has had a profound effect on LGBTQIA+ youth. "I am pleased to say that throughout the pandemic, Safe Homes has supported youth through virtual drop-ins, food deliveries, connections to community resources and free counseling."

com, Arbor Associates, Fallon Health and Revelation Productions.

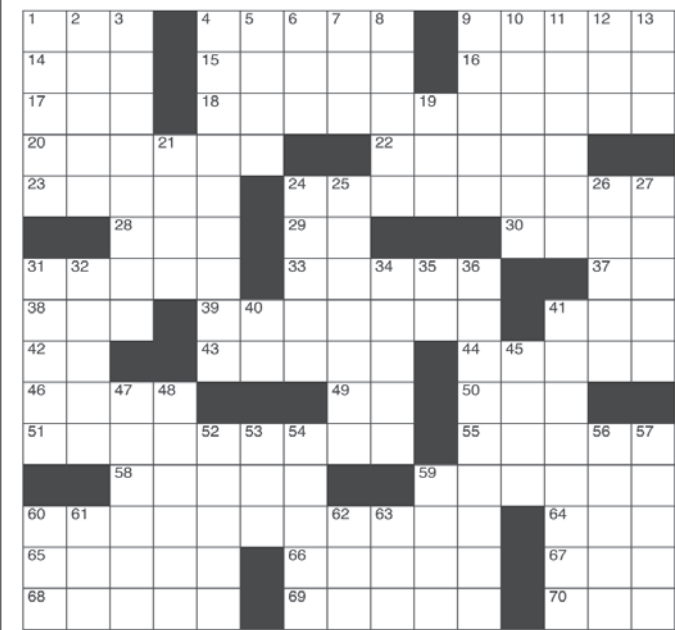
There are a variety of ticket options available including a free registration option. Attendees can register at [openskycs.org/gala](https://openskycs.org/gala).

People of Courage Award recipients:

- Public Service Award  
Sharon McQueen
- Young Adult Award  
Adam Stone
- Corporate Award  
Unum Group
- Educator and Influencer Award  
Dr. Angela Sheble
- Social Justice Advocacy and Action Award  
Redemption Rock Brewery Co.
- Safe Homes Partnership Award recipients:  
Zia  
Ginkgo Bioworks
- Worcester Together- A partnership of United Way of Central Mass and Greater Worcester Community Foundation in collaboration with the City of Worcester.

For more information on Safe Homes, or to register or to sponsor, visit [openskycs.org/gala](https://openskycs.org/gala) or email [safehomesgala@openskycs.org](mailto:safehomesgala@openskycs.org).

About Open Sky Community Services  
Open Sky Community Services is a 501(c)3 non-profit agency that offers a wide range of services for adults, adolescents, and children with mental health challenges, developmental and intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, brain injury, homelessness and other challenges throughout Central Massachusetts. Open Sky Community Services has more than 1,100 dedicated employees and an annual budget of \$83 million with more than 100 programs throughout the region. For more information, please visit [www.openskycs.org](https://www.openskycs.org).



- CLUES ACROSS**

  - Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
  - Ceramic jars
  - Monetary units
  - Alias
  - "Superman" actor
  - Britonic tribe
  - Shorten
  - LA Dodgers manager
  - Hoarder
  - Theatrically portray
  - Noah's grandson
  - Dependent
  - Peyton's little brother
  - Cools the house
  - Principle part of
  - Type of wrap
  - Peels
  - Commercial
  - Make an attempt
  - Arrange in steps
- CLUES DOWN**

  - Batflower genus
  - Predatory seabirds
  - Fish farm
  - Arrangements
  - Go in advance of others
  - Bulgarian monetary unit
  - "Maria"
  - W. African ethnoreligious group
  - Wild Asian oxen genus
  - Vinegary
  - To this
  - Explosive
  - Female sibling
  - Orlando museum (abbr.)
  - Type of hoop
  - About Holy Father
  - Academic environment
  - Extremely angry
  - Surrenders
  - Swiss mountain pass
- CLUES ACROSS**

  - U. Utah athlete
  - Old English
  - Trade
  - Nostrils
  - Ticket seller \_\_Hub
  - Of I
  - Institute legal proceedings against
  - Takes apart
  - Doorway
  - Long int'l river
  - Traillblazing athlete Gibson
  - Former CBS News host
  - Sign language
  - Badgerlike mammal
  - Thin strips of wood
  - Brooklyn hoopster
  - Portents of good or evil
  - Footwear
  - When you think you'll arrive
- CLUES DOWN**

  - Sharp mountain ridge
  - Erases
  - Spielberg's alien
  - Absurd
  - Dorm worker
  - Used to make pesticides
  - The sister of your father or mother
  - A way to let know
  - Can't produce much vegetation
  - Small streams
  - Folk singer DiFranco
  - Weights
  - Start over
  - Black Sea resort city
  - Wimbledon champ
  - Corporate executive (abbr.)
  - Unskilled actor who overacts
  - Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
  - Of or relating to ears

PUZZLE SOLUTION

V	L	E	S	O	H	S		S	N	E	W	O
L	E	N	S	H	L	V			E	L	V	H
T	S	V	E	S	O	H	E	I	T	H	V	H
V	E	H	L	T	V			V	N	I	H	O
A	H	L	N	E	S	E	L	V	H	V	d	E
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## WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of March 28 to April 3.

Orane Aronde, age 21, of Worcester was arrested on March 31 in connection with a warrant.

Shawn Michael Perrin, age 47, of Webster was arrested on March 31 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

A 30-year-old female from Lexington whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 1 for Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, and Vandalization of Property.

Anthony D. Giroux, age 31, of Webster was arrested on April 2 for Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, Assault with intent to Murder, Home Invasion, Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, and Assault & Battery.

A 23-year-old male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 3 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Misty Lynn White, age 32, of Dudley was arrested on April 3 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle and Leaving the Scene of Property Damage. Eric James Delisle, age 33, of Oxford was arrested during the same incident for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol.

**All We Know Is Local**



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# Dudley library planning in-person Earth Day activities

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – As Earth Day approaches later this month the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library in Dudley is preparing to roll out its first participatory in-person programs since the start of the pandemic in 2020.

During a meeting of the Library Trustees in March, Library Director Drusilla Carter revealed to trustees that the library is planning two

new programs in honor of Earth Day which will be the first time in more than a year that locals will be able to participate in activities in person rather than over Zoom or social media. The first activity was described as “exploding sea balls” which are similar to bath bombs. The second activity will be more representative of the Earth Day celebration where participants will be allowed to build their own terrariums.

“We’re talking to a couple of local places about possibly donating some of the supplies. In order to do a terrarium, you need succulents and those aren’t cheap so we’re going to see if we can at least get some of that covered,” Carter told the trustees. “That will be for tweens, teens and adults but there will be multiple sessions, five people a session and divided by age.”

Both programs will be held in small groups with

individual tables set out for each participant to promote social distancing.

“We’re going to try doing some in-person programs limited to five at a time and outside. We’re going to rope off part of the parking lot and we’re going to use some of the folding tables from the children’s department so each person will have their own table. We’re going to see how that goes. We’re still working on the logistics,” Carter said.

Another new program will also be launched in the next month helping

to promote gardening in the community through a seed exchange. Similar to the little libraries spread throughout local communities that promote reading by allowing citizens to donate books and take books that were already donated, the seed exchange will allow gardeners to donate unused or unwanted seeds and use those left by others to grow new crops and plants.

“As anyone with gardens knows, you end up with random packets of seeds where you don’t know how you got them or a packet of fifty tomato

seeds and you only use ten. So, we are setting up a seed exchange station,” Carter said. “The bins are herbs, flowers, vegetables, and greens because we seem to have an awful lot of seeds for spinach and kale and other things. It’s kind of like a little free library, take some seeds and leave some seeds.”

The bins will be left out on a table for contact free exchanges and are expected to make their debut this month just in time for the Earth Day holiday.

## Karen Maloney-Hagel earns Ameriprise Client Experience Award

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As a Private Wealth Advisor, Karen Maloney-Hagel provides financial advice that is anchored

in a solid understanding of client needs and expectations and is delivered in one-on-one relationships with her clients. For more information, please contact Karen Maloney-Hagel at 508-796-0083 or visit the Ameriprise office at 324 Grove St., Worcester.

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### Webster Public School Department



<b>Cafeteria Worker, Park Ave - 2 Positions</b> Schedule: M-F 10:00-1:00 (15 hrs.) Rate: \$14.25/hr. *these 2 positions will primarily deliver meals to classrooms Start Date: ASAP	<b>Cafeteria Worker, Webster Middle School - 1 Position</b> Schedule: M-F 8:00-11:00 (15 hrs.) Rate: \$14.25/hr. Start Date: ASAP *this position is primarily a kitchen prep position
<b>Breakfast in the Classroom Worker, Park Ave - 1 Position</b> Schedule: M-F 7:30-10:30 (15 hrs.) Rate: \$14.25/hr. Start Date: ASAP	<b>Cafeteria Worker, Bartlett High School - 1 Position</b> Schedule: M-F 9:30-12:30 (15 hrs.) Rate: \$14.25/hr. Start Date: ASAP

Please apply to: Attn: Lori Marrazzo  
Webster Public Schools, 77 Poland Street, Webster, MA 01570  
For questions about positions please call or email [Ellen.Nylen@webster-schools.org](mailto:Ellen.Nylen@webster-schools.org)  
508-943-0104 ext. 40016 or [enylen@webster-schools.org](mailto:enylen@webster-schools.org)  
\*At this time all positions run through the end of the school year.

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*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-Thursday ..... 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Thursday nights ..... 5 to 7 p.m.  
Fridays ..... 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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NHS  
continued from page A1

whole district involved so we decided to do a drive, but there were a lot of food drives that had already gone on during the year. I work at the CHIP In food pantry in Charlton. I've worked there for about seven years as a volunteer. During Christmas times there's usually a paper goods drive that happens and this year that didn't

happen, so they were really low on those items," Beck said. "I thought we could do something for that and figured if we were going to encompass the whole district, we decided to split it between the Webster-Dudley Food Share and CHIP In so that we could split the work across both communities." Around 4,000 paper goods were collected as a result which NHS President and senior Louisa Foisy says was an

amazing effort by everyone involved. "I think it was really special to see everybody in the NHS embrace this activity, making posters and making it heard around the schools that we were doing this. My English class alone collected over 2,000 items. It was just cool to see everybody get so excited about something that was going to help the communities. It created enthusiasm and it helped Chip-In and the Webster-Dudley Food

Share," Foisy said. "I think as the years go on the younger schools will get more involved and it will become a bigger and bigger event that will unify the district for a common cause." NHS advisor Corey Stefan said he was proud of the results and that the students in the NHS make his job easy by taking initiative and showing the community that they're here to help and be a part of the bigger picture.

"We wanted to try to build some kind of positive experience across the school district at a time where we're seeking every unique opportunity possible to get any shred of hope and positivity to these students who need to look at school as not just a place that's academically focus. It's also about social and emotional trust, hope and support," Stefan said. As of this report a "winner" of the "battle" had not been determined, but

in the end that wasn't the point. It was never about winning. It was about bringing school community together towards a common goal and thanks to the efforts of the NHS and its countless student supporters families from throughout the district will now have access to resources to help keep them happy and healthy during these difficult and unsure times of COVID-19.

CLINIC  
continued from page A1

Every selectman present at the March 22 meeting complimented the work of Dudley's personnel for making the clinic possible. Selectman Steven Sullivan said it was a great team effort that everyone worked hard to achieve.

"I want to thank the fire chief, board of health, town administrator, paramedics, our nurses and everybody who participated in the clinic. I've heard nothing but positive things. We've been waiting for this. A lot of people don't know we had the equipment already on order. We were holding it waiting for the vaccines and we got denied by the state a few times," Sullivan said. "We're getting there, people. Just keep the masks, keep the social distancing. Yes, things are loosened up a little bit and that's great. The weather's nice, but we're getting the ball to the finish line. Let's finish it and start back to whatever the new normal is going to be."

Selectman Jason Johnson offered his gratitude as well and said he knows many were happy to have access to the vaccines.

"That's a lot of happy people that were glad to get their shot, and didn't have to go too far from home for it. That was a huge benefit for the town," Johnson said.

Selectman John Marsi followed that up by saying he was proud the town was able to hold the clinic.

"I know a lot went into that. I know we don't know upfront when it can be. Sometimes, it comes in the last minute. Thanks to all that made that a success," Marsi added.

Board Chair Kerry Cyganiewicz was also grateful for those who made the clinic possible but used the bulk of his time to remind citizens how they can access information for Dudley residents to get access to a vaccine.

"There's the red banner at the top of the website. That's how you sign up to get a call to get a vaccine. If you haven't done it yet, if you've put it off, I get it. Life gets in the way. Maybe you don't think your time's up yet, so you don't have to sign up, just sign up. If you want a vaccine, it doesn't take you long. It's an easy process," said Cyganiewicz. "Hopefully, there will come a time when I won't be saying this and we've got everyone taken care of and we're past this, but until then it's there if you'd like it."

Details on further clinics have not been announced as of this report but citizens are encouraged to keep an eye on the town website and Facebook page, as well as the Dudley Fire Department Facebook page for any details that may be announced.

BUDGET  
continued from page A1

continue to adjust the budget numbers based on requests and negotiations with Charlton and Dudley officials. The numbers will require approval from town meetings in both communities in order to be set for the new fiscal year.

LENTEN  
continued from page A1

classmate. The students were instructed to choose a different option each day. Having accomplished it, they then filled in that section either by coloring or using some other artistic filler like beads, sequins, buttons, stickers,

flowers, jewels, etc. The fourth graders were encouraged to have their parents help them in this project. In some cases, both parents and children would become richer in our Catholic faith by reading the Parable of the Good Samaritan or the Parable of the Lost Sheep. In other situations, donating food to a local pantry, giving

toys to needy children, or books to a library strengthened the family's spirit of service.

The fourth graders have completed their crosses, and each one is a special remembrance of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross and Lent 2021. Sister Jeanne hopes that Lent has become a living experience for the members of her

class. It is quite evident that families have spent quality time together on this project. All posters were A+, and Sister Jeanne is truly grateful for the wondrous way her students and their parents lived their faith during this holy Lenten season.

# Car Care and Tips



TAKE THE HINT  
KAREN TRAINOR

Spring has spring, and few simple pleasures compare to cruising down the highway with the fresh springtime breeze blowing in the open window. But do you really know how much that joyride is costing you in gas? And are you sure your tires are giving you your money's worth? For answers to these questions, along with some springtime car washing tips, read on!

Do you love highway driving with the wind whipping at your hair? If so, it's a pleasure you'll pay for. Did you know driving with your windows all the way down at higher speeds, will waste 10 percent more gallons of gas than driving with them closed? The drag will cost you more in fuel, so avoid cranking the windows completely until you're at a slower pace.

If your car has cruise control feature, use it. Not only will you give your accelerating foot a rest, you'll save money too! Using cruise control will save you 5 to 10 percent of a gallon of gas on long trips!

Want to conserve more gas? Just use the overdrive shift as soon as your speed is high enough. It also acts as a fuel saver.

Keeping tires properly inflated and aligned equals gas savings. Periodic wheel alignments and keeping tires inflated to the maximum recommended pressure really does improve your gas mileage, according to experts.

According to a major tire company approximately one third of all tires on the road are under inflated. These tires not only wear out quicker and but they are more at risk for a blow out. Since tires lose air at a rate of about a pound a month, it pays to periodically check your tires

Not sure how to rotate your tires? According to the experts, radial tires can be crossed from side to side in the rotation pattern. Bias ply tires should never be rotated

from side to side, only front to back. Confused when it comes to using your car air conditioner efficiently? Memorize this mantra: In town, turn it down; going fast, let it blast! According to cooling experts, when traveling 45 mph or less, you should open the windows or vents to create a steady airflow that'll give your car a cool boost. When going faster than 45 mph, you should crank up the a/c instead. This method avoids the drag generated when windows are left open during high-speed travel.

Believe it or not, tires driven at 70 m.p.h. wear out almost twice as fast as cars that go 55 mph. So it really does pay to slow down!

Here are some tips for the do it yourself car washer: Experts claim you should wash your car every ten days, and especially after it rains or snows. Waxing is recommended only every six months.

From Consumer Reports: When rinsing, use a hose without a nozzle and let the water flow over the car from top to bottom. This creates a sheeting action that helps minimize pooling of water.

Did you know more frequent waxes are needed if your car is red, black or white? The reason for this is because these colors are more susceptible to acid rain and UV rays. And one of the most critical times to wash your vehicle is immediately after a rainfall. Even after the lightest rain shower, the water evaporates, but the acid remains on the vehicle's finish.

When you wash your car, be sure to use a separate sponge to clean the wheels and tires. They may be coated with sand, brake dust, and other debris that could mar the car's finish.

Never wash your car when the body is hot, such as immediately after driving it or after it has been parked in direct

sunlight for a while. Heat speeds the drying of soap and water, making washing more difficult and increasing the chances that spots or deposits will form.

If you need to get all the water off the car, try using your leaf blower. It will blast water from even the tiniest crevices.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month will win a fabulous three course dinner for two at the renowned restaurant, located on Route 131 across the town common in historic Sturbridge. Because I'm in the business of dispensing tips, not inventing them (although I can take credit for some), I'm counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

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

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\$300,000, 302 Killdeer Rd, Cimoch, Joseph B, and Cimoch, Maureen C, to Smith, Cameron R, and Smith, Colleen C.  
\$290,000, 13 Morris St, Smith, Gregory J, and Smith, Maryellen, to Rivera, Maritza.  
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\$175,000, 130 Gore Rd #2, Weil, Richard G, and Weil, Erica L, to Sentaug RT, and Milne Law PC Tr.  
\$155,000, 21 Elm St, US Bank NA, to Go America LLC.  
\$92,000, 37 Market St, Furey RET, and Furey, Gregory A, to Market Properties LLC.  
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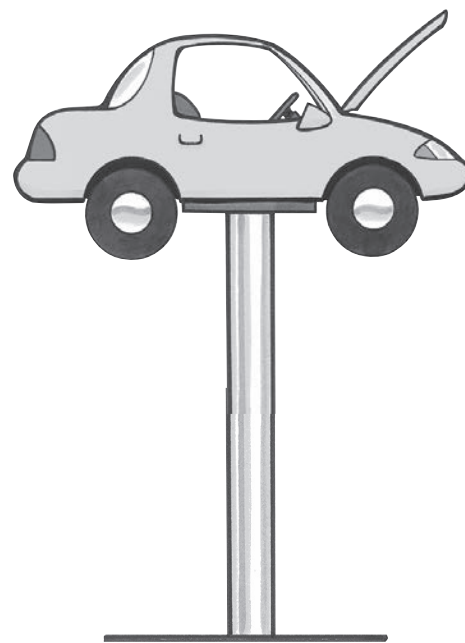
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EDITORIAL

# The power of positivity

Every day, we wake up with the best intentions — or we like to think that most of us do. Each new day brings with it specific challenges. Many times, those challenges come by way of a misunderstanding or a shifted perspective. We have come to realize, long ago, that often there is more to a story than we can see at its surface. Just being aware of that one simple fact, can change the way a situation is viewed. Often times it's easier said than done, however the more we choose to remain optimistic the better. What might seem catastrophic in the moment is usually nothing more than a small frustration that has an easy fix and will pass. A wise man once said, 'Don't sweat the small stuff, and it's all small stuff.'

This isn't to negate the fact that larger issues do surface and take some time to sort out, however we need to remind ourselves that we are all surrounded by well intended, intelligent people. People who are willing to be helpful, generous, rational and kind through productive conversations will always find the pot of gold in any situation.

Remembering to check a kneejerk reaction before gathering all of the facts is crucial to your ability to remain optimistic. Again, this is not always easy, but once mastered can change everything.

Believe it or not, optimism is a choice and offers surprising benefits. Choosing to look on the bright side of life can lower your risk of heart disease and stroke while also extending your life.

One study revealed that individuals who spent five minutes a day thinking positive thoughts about their future increased their ability to be optimistic in just two weeks. Before turning in at night, list five things that you are grateful for and five things that you are looking forward to. Every time you stop at a traffic light, tell yourself something that you like about yourself. Keeping pessimists in your life at a distance is always a good idea.

When a negative thought does creep through your mind, that's ok. Recognize it, and decide how realistic it actually is. To offset those thoughts, try spreading positivity yourself. While at work, offer a co-worker an 'atta boy' or 'atta girl' for a job well done. If your child has been hard at work on a school project, tell them how proud you are. Send a letter to someone who has had a positive impact on your life. When you bestow positivity on others, it has a lasting effect on your own life.

One way to practice being more optimistic is to flip every negative thought with a positive one despite how creative you need to get. For example, if you're thinking 'I'm going to be late for dinner and I don't feel like cooking' you can flip that by reminding yourself about the wonders of the microwave and take out. If a rainy day has you feeling groggy, remind yourself that those are the best days to read all day, catch up on Netflix and not feel guilty about missing all of that sunshine.

A quote from Rodolfo Costa, "Learn to adapt. Things change, circumstances change. Adjust yourself and your efforts to what it is presented to you so you can respond accordingly. Never see change as a threat, because it can be an opportunity to learn, to grow, evolve and become a better person."

# VIEWPOINT

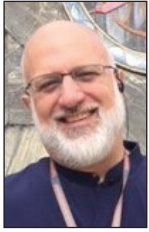
## Honest doubt that leads to faith

Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead is the very cornerstone of Christianity. Christian faith isn't first and foremost about "Do's and Don'ts" nor is it about some standard of morals. No, the Christian faith is first and foremost about Christ victoriously rising from the dead and destroying death! It's about the ultimate victory of good over evil and life over death.

Saint Paul put it bluntly when he stated that if the resurrection isn't true, then the Christian faith is meaningless. If the resurrection is a fairy tale, then Christians are the greatest fools of all because they believe in a lie. If Christ is not risen, then everyone is dead in their sins. If Christ is not risen then instead of trying to live a disciplined life of love, we should just "eat, drink and be happy." Enjoy the moment of the day for there is nothing after death!

Many people in our modern world of skepticism embrace a life without resurrection, and thus a life without ultimate meaning. In fact, although people may grudgingly accept some moral value in Christianity, they reject its foundation – Christ's Resurrection.

Well, doubt and uncertainty existed during Christ's time as well. The disciples of Jesus didn't accept the resurrection immediately. They witnessed his cruel and terrible death, and initially doubted the resurrection. We can see this



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

in the post-resurrection story of Thomas and the other disciples. Jesus first appeared to ten of his disciples on Easter Sunday. The apostles stood amazed looking at their Risen Lord. They couldn't believe it, yet their eyes didn't deceive them. Christ was truly risen!

The disciples rejoiced and were filled with joy. Yet, one of Christ's followers, Thomas, wasn't present when He appeared to the others. When his colleagues enthusiastically told Thomas "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas represented skeptics of every future generation when he announced, "Unless I see the mark of nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

"Unless I see... I will not believe." How many of us can relate with Thomas? How many of us have uncertainties and doubts? Is it OK to have such doubts? Our Lord Jesus says, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe!" Well, it's important to realize that doubt can play an important role in one's journey of faith. It all depends on what type of doubt we harbor.

The first doubt that many people hold we may call "rebellious doubt." This doubt takes root from our ego and pride. We don't want to believe because we think that we are above such foolish faith. Modern humanity has wrestled with this rebellious doubt. Many so-called great thinkers of this age simply don't want to believe in the miracle of Resurrection, in even any idea of an Eternal God, or really in the thought of anything greater than the human mind. Such "enlightened" people prefer to consider themselves gods, and thus, reject anything that doesn't fit their human logic. Such "rebellious doubt" has no value in one's spiritual journey.

A second type of doubt we may call "wavering doubt." Sometimes uncertainty comes to us in moments of weakness. We don't want to doubt but we may allow different thoughts to enter our minds during moments of temptation and we may not be too sure of what truth is. In moments like this, we express doubt in issues of faith. This doubt has value only in reminding us of what weak creatures we are, and how the evil one continually uses temptation to lead us astray. We should address such wavering doubt with humility, guarding our minds and hearts while seeking answers from

Turn To **PEWS** page **A9**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A positive legacy ruined by greed

To the Editor:

Well, the Polish American Citizens Club on Harris street Webster has succumbed to the Coronavirus pandemic this past year; it can no longer exist financially.

The Club is permanently closing its doors for good, and will be selling the property soon.

It's sad, as the club has been there since the early 1900's, as my Dad always told me. I remember my dad there being on the Board of Directors in the '60's, and during that time, the club members back then decided to build a new club & hall, and put in a nice picnic area. It hosted the Pulaski Brass Band, Happy Louie Orchestra, The Emeralds, Chet K Band and so on and so forth.

Now some of the club members want to keep the money for themselves; others

would like to see it donated to charity; too many fingers in the pot, which develops greed, jealousy.

I myself would like to see the remaining money afterwards, when all bills are paid, go to the Polish Church & School on Whitcomb Street to keep the Parochial school open for years to come.

But many members don't see it my way; no matter what, greed will take over, evil, and that's when everyone wants more than others. Greed is evil, it's Satan. I'd like to see it donated to charity; that's the most humanitarian issue to do with compassion for the love for our children to get the best education.

Sincerely

ANTHONY HORANZY  
WEBSTER

### Thanks to a longtime supporter

To the Editor:

Webster Little League would like to thank Webster First Federal Credit Union for their recent donation of an unprecedented \$4,000 — the largest single donation in our league's 50-plus year history! For many of those years, Webster First has been one of our annual "team sponsors," which consists of a \$250 donation.

Due to the lost income from a shortened and modified 2020 season, some off season damages that occurred at our fields and some much needed updates we have begun to offer additional sponsorship opportunities. We are offering outfield banners for \$350, dugout sponsorships for \$700 and special project sponsorships such as clubhouse improvements starting at \$1000. Several businesses have "stepped to the plate"

and helped out but Webster First clearly went above and beyond! Information about our league and additional sponsorship opportunities can be found at WebsterLittleLeague.com, as well as a complete list of our sponsors whom we rely on to keep the kids of Webster playing baseball in a fun, competitive and low cost program.

Along with our biggest sponsor this year, Webster First Federal Credit Union, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank additional project sponsors Donovan Logistics, Barry Equipment and Ramco; and field sponsors TD Bank, Nipmuc/Ted's Package, Lakeside Masonry & Remodeling and East Coast Metal Roofing.

WEBSTER LITTLE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Thank you for supporting food drive

To the Editor:

St. Vincent de Paul of Sacred Heart of Jesus Webster/Dudley would like to extend a big thank you to Tammy Ducharme of TMD, as well as the Black Tavern Historical Society and the First Congregational Church of Dudley, for their generous effort in coordinating a successful food drive.

We would also like to thank those who made contributions to the Food Drive, with a special thanks to Bob &

Chris Ducharme, the caretakers of the Black Tavern. These efforts are greatly appreciated and so important to the St. Vincent de Paul's mission to help feed our neighbors in Webster and Dudley. Those in need may contact us at 943-3140, ext. 3.

Lisa L. Berg

PRESIDENT  
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## Keep those hands free behind the wheel



CHIEF'S CORNER

STEVE WOJNAR

Hands-free cell phone use while driving has been the law for two years here in Massachusetts. Cell phones and electronic devices are supposed to be mounted in a safe location in the vehicle. I was recently sent a photo of a vehicle traveling on a local road with a dash mounted cell phone. I was asked if this was allowed.

According to the law, Massachusetts drivers can only use electronic devices and mobile phones in hands-free mode. You are only permitted to touch devices to activate them for that purpose. Drivers cannot hold or support any electronic device/phone while operating. MGL Chapter 90 Section 1 provides some information on mobile devices and calls for them to "be properly mounted to the windshield, dashboard, or center console in a manner that does not impede with the operation of the vehicle." This applies also to other devices, such as GPS navigation systems. The key requirement is it must be in a place that does not interfere with the operation of the vehicle. These situations are always determined on a case-by-case basis. In the photo provided to me as an example, the cell phone is rather large. It is mounted on the dashboard in a spot which does appear to impede the driver's vision. This driver could be the subject of a violation. It is important to position these in a safe place. Cup holder mounts work great. The device is nearby, in the event it is used for navigation purposes, and it is below the dashboard level. This ensures the operator's field of view is clear.

The penalty for a first offense violation carries a \$35 fine under the impeded operation statute (MGL CH. 90 Sec. 13). Again, with the prevalence of cell phones in vehicles today, these situations are always determined on a case-by-case basis. It is important to do your research and outfit your vehicle with the appropriate hands-free mounts to make certain any phone use is both safe and in compliance with the law. Do your best to limit distractions and try to only use phones when necessary. If the call or message can wait, let it.

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](http://www.dudleyma.gov) or by calling 508-949-8036. We continue to serve the people of Dudley and work with the community to improve the quality of life for everyone. I thank the men and women from my department for their continued dedicated service to the Town during these trying times. Thanks also go out to the many Police Officers, Fire and Emergency Services members, public works, health care, government officials, and all other "essential" personnel for their continued hard work and service. Hopefully, the end of this pandemic is in sight. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

Thanks again for your questions and comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department, 71 West Main St., Dudley, MA 01571 or email at [swojnar@dudleypolice.com](mailto: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.





# It's almost turkey time



Mike Daniels and Pete Walker with lake trout from Wachusett this past Saturday

Cool mornings had kept many anglers off of the water last week, but those that braved the cool temperatures did very well catching trout at many of the stocked trout waters, including rivers and streams. Wachusett Reservoir opened this past Saturday with many anglers catching their limits of lake trout as one of this week's picture shows. Most Lake Trout caught were two to three pounds, but some were a bit more impressive. Anglers are encouraged to retain their limits of lake trout, because of their high population in Wachusett Reservoir! Some of the lakers had perch, bass, and other fish in their stomachs when cleaned, causing concern about their huge appetite that could have a negative effect on other fish species in the Reservoir.

Wallum Lake opened this past Wednesday after a lot of confusion by Rhode Island's last-minute changes. The lake normally opens on the second Saturday of April each year, but because of the pandemic, Rhode Island decided to open the lake to fishing on April 7, this year. They were also not going to stock it with trout until a later date even though Mass. did a stocking prior to April 7. The Rhode Island Fish & Wildlife reversed their plans late last week, and announced that they were indeed going to stock trout prior to April 7. Wallum Lake regulations apply to the lake under an agreement with Massachusetts! The daily limit is five

trout per angler, and can be legally fished with a Rhode Island license or Rhode Island fishing license.

Wild turkey hunting in Massachusetts is not far away. Zones 1-13 open to hunting this sharp-eyed bird, on April 24. Successful hunters need to get out early, and setup before daylight. Sitting in a ground blind that was often set up the day or two before opening day, will increase the hunter's odds of bagging a gobbler. Only tom birds (male) can be harvested during the spring hunting season. Sitting in a blind prior to daybreak offers the hunter the peaceful quiet start of the day. Watching numerous wild animals and birds can entertain the hunter as he waits patiently for the sound of female turkeys as they waken, and leave their roost. The sound of their wings flapping as they glide down to the ground, can get the hunter's heart pounding with excitement. It is not long before the gobble of a tom turkey breaks the still morning air.

They are next to fly down from their roost, often high from a big pine tree. Waiting patiently for the birds to make their way to a hunter's set of decoys can be frustrating, but patience often pays off. If the birds are silent for a few minutes, I often give a light call on my diaphragm turkey call. It often gets the attention of the tom bird and he will quickly reply with a gobble. He will soon come looking for your hen turkey call. Suddenly, the movement of a white

and red head appears 40 or 50 yards away in thick cover. He is coming!

A couple of calls on your turkey call has the big tom responding with a series of raspy gobbles. Time to get your gun in position for a shot. If you are in a ground blind movement to get ready for the shot is easy, but if you are sitting in camouflage on the ground, your movement of any kind could be noticed by the turkeys keen eye sight, and the hunt will be over very quickly, as the bird heads into the opposite direction. Taking aim at the head of the turkey will often insure a quick kill. Carefully squeezing the trigger, the discharge of the shotgun echoes through the valley in the crisp morning air.

The smell of gunpowder is also in the air, and if you made a good shot, your reward of a tom turkey lays motionless 20 or so yards from your blind. Your heart is still racing, and the excitement of the hunt still has an effect on your body. Time to exit the blind and rush over to the bird. Filling out your harvest report and permit and then attaching it to the bird should be done. Even the simple task of filling out your permit is often complicated by the adrenaline rush of shooting your bird. If you do not



Parker with a big rainbow out of West River.

experience all of the above-mentioned reactions to your body, you should find another sport.

Take a Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## PEWS

continued from page A9

God. Questions and doubt aren't bad, as long as we sincerely seek out answers. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Christ offers truth, absolute truth. The question is whether we will take the time and make the effort to seek after ultimate truth, or simply accept the skepticism and cynicism of modern humanity.

A third type of doubt we may name "honest doubt." This doubt comes to someone who is uncertain, yet who admits that they may not have examined every side of the argument. Although this person expresses doubt, they still remain open to being proved wrong. They remain open to faith. They remain open to God's Holy Spirit. Yes, we may not be sure, but we are humble enough to learn or to be corrected.

The Apostle Thomas' doubt was surely this third type - an honest doubt. He questioned the truth of Christ's Resurrection because

he saw the gruesome death. Yet, he stayed open to be proven wrong. Remember, honest doubt can play an important role in increasing our faith! True faith rarely comes without questions, without struggles, without a sincere search and longing for truth. Honest doubt teaches us to stay humble, to learn and to grow. Without questions, we remain babies in our faith.

The significance of Thomas' doubt was that he remained open to God, and immediately changed his beliefs when proven wrong. Thomas didn't accept the witness of his friends, yet when he saw the Risen Christ a week after His resurrection, he immediately believed and made the great profession of faith, "My Lord and My God!" His honest doubt opened the door to greater faith.

What can we say about the doubts we harbor in our own hearts? The central question we must ask ourselves is this: "Am I sincerely and earnestly searching for answers to my questions and doubts, or have I remained con-

tent with my skepticism and cynicism of faith?"

Christianity is unapologetic about its claim of absolute truth found in Jesus Christ. Yet every believer must remain a sojourner in their pursuit and understanding of absolute truth. No one understands everything, and surely doubts will arise in our hearts from time to time. The Apostle Thomas, however, reminds us to keep journeying from doubt to faith, from ignorance to knowledge, from uncertainty to truth. The ultimate answers to life's questions exist in Jesus Christ and within the Christian worldview and faith.

Don't be afraid to ask questions or to address the doubts lurking in your heart. Be sincere and honest with your doubts and questions, but be even more sincere and honest in your pursuit for answers! In this way, our faith will increase, and we also will come to the point of saying, "My Lord and my God."



# Community Connection

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# OBITUARIES

## Arthur E. Marrier, 82



BELLINGHAM—Arthur E. Marrier, 82, passed away at home on Wednesday March 17, 2021 while surrounded by his loving family. Arthur was born in Webster, MA on August 18, 1938, son of the late Edward and Dorothea (Norman) Marrier. Arthur owned and operated Spencer Billiards for many years prior to his retirement. Arthur enjoyed golfing, going to the dog and horse tracks and he loved playing pool and making pool tables. Arthur is survived by his longtime

companion Lorraine Robinson; two sons: Robert A. Marrier of Spencer, and Edward S. Marrier of Worcester; two daughters: Deborah B. Zarzecki and her husband Mark of Charlton, and Cheryl Ricard of Spencer; two brothers: Luther Marrier of Webster, and Robert Marrier of Florida; his sister Janice Moriarty of Putnam, CT; four grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; he also leaves many relatives and friends. Private funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home. A guest book is available at [www.shaw-majercik.com](http://www.shaw-majercik.com) where you may offer condolences, share fond memories, or light a candle in remembrance of Arthur.

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



# QCC students encourage community to get vaccinated

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is taking to the airways to deliver an important message to students and the community-at-large: Get vaccinated.

The College has put together an informational website, with a series of public service videos from QCC students in English, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Vietnamese, and Albanian. The videos are designed to engage, inform and encourage people to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

In addition to the videos, the Web site includes information about the vaccine in English, Spanish and Vietnamese, as well as vaccination locations and eligibility phases.

“These public service announcements are designed to help increase the dissemination of accurate information about the COVID-19 vaccines. Let’s all get vaccinated as soon as we are eligible. The vaccines have been shown to be highly effective, and the faster we get vaccinated when eligible, the more we can begin to do some of the things we did prior to the pandemic,” said President Luis. G. Pedraja, Ph.D.

To learn more about the vaccine and clinic locations visit [www.QCC.edu/C19VAXFACTS](http://www.QCC.edu/C19VAXFACTS)

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

# LEGALS

**NOTICE OF SALE**

Pursuant to Mass General Laws Chapter 105A, the contents of the following space: D77 (Laura McNeeley) located at 144 Schofield Avenue, Dudley, MA will be sold to satisfy the owners lien of Storage Plus. Sale date is Wednesday, April 14, 2021 @ 3:30pm. Inspection between 3:00 and 3:30pm on April 14, 2021. All goods must be purchased by cash as is, and must be removed within 48 hours of sale. Owner has the right to bid to protect his lien and to withdraw any unit upon settlement by the obligated party up for sale. For further information or to make an appointment, call (508)949-8818 or (413)245-4388. Thank you, Liz Pettit  
Owner  
April 2, 2021  
April 9, 2021

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 76 Old Douglas Road, Webster, MA 01570  
By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Susan B. LaRose to Medford Savings Bank, and now held by **Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A. s/b/m Citizens Bank of Massachusetts s/b/m Medford Savings Bank**, said mortgage dated February 7, 2002 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 25949, Page 211, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on May 12, 2021 at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

*The land in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, situated on the southerly side of Old Douglas Road, being shown as Lot #13 on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Webster, Massachusetts, surveyed for Finecamp K.O.A., 1nc.", dated September 4, 1986, by Para Land Surveying, Inc., recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 565 Plan 19, and more particularly bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the northeasterly corner of the lot herein described, at a point in the southerly sideline of said Old Douglas Road, said point being at the northwesterly corner of Lot # 14, as shown on said plan; THENCE S. 01° 12' 40" W., by said Lot #14, a distance of 271.88 feet to a point; THENCE S. 18° 44' 31" W., still by said Lot #14, a distance of 166.50 feet to a point at land now or formerly of Beatty; THENCE N. 86° 46' 41" W., by said Beatty land, a distance of 100 feet to Lot #12, as shown on said plan; THENCE 19° 05' 33" E., by said Lot #12, a distance of 163.14 feet to a point; THENCE N. 01° 12' 40" E , still by said Lot #12, a distance of 317.16 feet to a point in the southerly sideline of Old Douglas Road; THENCE S. 64° 20' 00" E., by the southerly sideline of Old Douglas Road, a distance of 109.86 feet to Lot # 14, as shown on said plan, and the point of beginning. Containing 45,246 square feet (1.039) acres, more or less, according to said plan. For title see Deed recorded Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 12386 Page 1 and Worcester Probate Court Docket No. 94PR2680VA.*

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.  
For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated

September 29, 1989 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 12386, Page 1.  
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described. FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC  
1080 Main Street, Suite 200  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
Attorney for Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A. s/b/m Citizens Bank of Massachusetts s/b/m Medford Savings Bank  
Present Holder of the Mortgage 401-217-8701

April 9, 2021  
April 16, 2021  
April 23, 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. WO21P1013EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Ann M Bessette Date of Death: 02/20/2021**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Baumont at Northbridge, Scott Bullock of Northbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that **Baumont at Northbridge, Scott Bullock of Northbridge MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **an 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 04/27/2021.** 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 es-

tate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 26, 2021  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
April 9, 2021

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division Docket No. WO21P0688EA Estate of: Muriel M. Raymond Date Of Death: November 9, 2020 NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jean L. Johnson of Thompson CT** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
April 9, 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. WO21P1031EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Dorothy M Kasierski Date of Death: 02/14/2021**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Kevin W. Sullivan of Webster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner Requests that: **Kevin W. Sullivan of Webster MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without surety** on the bond in **an 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 04/20/2021.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day,

action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)** A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 26, 2021  
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate  
April 9, 2021

**Webster Public Schools Public Notice of Intent to Apply**

This announcement serves as public notice of intent to apply for the fiscal year 2022 21st Century Community Learning Centers - Supporting Additional Learning Time funding. The Webster Public Schools is applying for funding through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education fund code 647 B1. The Webster Public Schools will disseminate information about the 21st CCLC out of school time program if awarded funding. This information will also be posted on our school website, social media, and Class Dojo. Upon receipt of funding, site specific web pages will be created to further communicate information and to accept community comments. Site specific web pages will announce employees and contact information, program goals and outcomes, timeline, and partnerships. Please email [pmack\\_y@webster-schools.org](mailto:pmack_y@webster-schools.org) with any questions/comments.  
April 9, 2021

**TOWN OF DUDLEY PUBLIC HEARING PETITION FOR JOINT OR IDENETICAL POLE LOCATIONS NATIONAL GRID AND VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 22, Chapter 166, of the Massachusetts General Laws, you are hereby notified that a Public Hearing will be held at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA on Monday, April 19, 2021 @ 6:35pm in the Veterans' Memorial Hall, Room 321A. **The purpose of this Hearing: To act on a Petition from National Grid to relocate one(1) JO Pole on Lyons Road beginning at a point approximately 35 feet southwest of the centerline of the intersection of Lyons Road and Truman Drive. Wherefore it prays that after due notice and hearing as provide by law, it be granted a location for and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires, together with such sustaining and protecting fixture as it may find necessary, said poles to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed here with marked - Lyons Road - Dudley, Massachusetts**

Anyone wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the date and time specified or submit their concerns in writing.  
Board of Selectmen  
Kerry Cyganiewicz, Chairman  
April 9, 2021





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<sup>1</sup>DETAILS 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.



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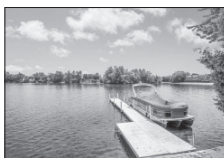
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**WEBSTER LAKE** – 7 Cedar Drive! Middle Pond! 8 Rm English Tudor across the street from w/Direct Waterfront Lot – Full Lake Access! Offering the Option of an In-Law Apartment or Plenty of Room for Family & Friends! Entry Foyer enters from 3 Sides w/locked door access into the house, stairway to the lower level In-Law and the convenience of a Half Bath! The 1st Floor features Applianced Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Open Floor Plan – Frplcd Beamed Cathedral Ceiling Great Rm (Dining & Living Rms), Comfortable Bdrm & Hall Full Bath w/Laundry! Upstairs to the Spacious Master w/Master Bath & Slider to Lake View Deck! Additional Bdrm w/Built-ins! Lower Level with 2nd Kitchen, Open Dining & Living Area w/Brick Hearth, Full Bath & Possible (4th) Bdrm! Central Air! Huge Carport! Detached 3 Car Garage! Lakefront Lot w/Deck, Concrete Patio & Boat Dock! Take Advantage of the Low Interest Rates & make this House Your Home! Summer's Just Around the Corner! **\$489,900.00**


**SOLD**


**WEBSTER** – 6 Nicholas Circle! 8+ Rm Center Hall Colonial! 1.22 Acres! Sought After Neighborhood! Great Commuter Location Accessible to Many Major Routes! Spacious Stainless Steel Applianced Cabinet Packed Eat-in Kitchen & Formal Dining Rm! 23 x 24 Frplce Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & Slider to the Huge Deck! Front to Back Living Rm! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry Closet! The 2nd Floor You'll Find the Comfortable 12X17 Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Linen Closet! 2 Additional Bedrooms plus an Office/Nursery/Bedroom all w/Ample Closets! 2nd Full Bath off the Hall w/Linen Closet! 2.5 Total Baths! Lower Level Ideal for Storage or Future Expansion! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers w/Dble Door Entry to the Basement for Moving Larger Items aka Boys Toys! 2 Z Oil Heat, 2 AC, Separate Oil Water Heater! Irrigation! Don't Delay! **\$418,900.00**

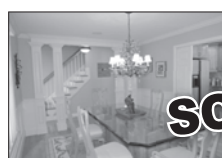

**SOLD**

**ON DEPOSIT**

**ON DEPOSIT**

**WEBSTER** – 31 Park Street! 3 Family! 6/6/6 Rooms! 3/3/3 Bedrooms! 1/1/1 Bathrooms! Each Unit is nearly 1,300' Featuring Spacious Kitchens, Living Rooms & 3 Good Size Bedrooms! Remodeled! 10 Yrs Ago! Updated Electric! Tile Flrs Throughout! LPGas Heat & Hot Electric Heat! **\$284,900.00**

**WEBSTER** – 44 Sunny Ave! Sought After Neighborhood! 7 Room 1,632' Colonial! 1st Flr Features Open Flr Plan, Kit w/IsL, Din Area, Fam Rm, Frplcd 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**


**SOLD**

**SOLD**

**SOLD**


**WEBSTER** – 69 Minebrook Rd! Conveniently Located 7 Rm Split Entry! 1.04 Acre Lot! House set well off the Road for added Privacy! Open Floor Plan! Eat-in Applianced Kit w/Island & Seating, Tile Flr, Tile Backsplash & Ceiling Fan! Din Rm w/Hrwd Flrs & Slider to the Deck Overlooking the Private Backyard! Frplcd Liv Rm w/Hrwd Flr! Ideal for Entertaining! Down the Hrwd Hall find a Full Bath w/Tile Flr & 3 Bdrms w/Wall to Wall Carpeting! Master Bdrm w/2 Dble Closets, Ceiling Fan & Master Bath w/Marble Tile Flr & Shower Surround! Hrwd Stairs, the Finished Lower Level Fan Rm w/Recessed Lighting, Stone & Tile Hearth w/Woodstove, 1/2 Bath w/Tile Flr, Laundry Rm w/Sink & Tile Flr, Utility Rm w/Storage! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers & Door to Backyard! Oil Heat! Steel "T" Beam Construction! Shed! Won't Last!! **\$349,900.00**

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

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### Featured New Listing!



**WEBSTER**  
99 UPPER GORE ROAD  
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.**

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

**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 - 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.**

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**LAND**  
**WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS**  
**Oxford** - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided! **ON DEPOSIT \$89,900**  
**Webster** - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE! **\$115,000.**  
**Webster** - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res! **Each \$24,500.**  
**Douglas-Mount Daniels** 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest! **SORRY, SOLD \$132,900**

**WEBSTER - 17 BRODEUR AVENUE**  
**Featured New Listing!**  
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.**

**WEBSTER • 9 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE**  
**SORRY, SOLD!**  
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**MARCH'S SINGLE FAMILY HOMES REAL ESTATE MARKET**

OXFORD			
	March 2020	March 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$262,500	\$335,000	▲
Market Volume	\$1,692,400	\$3,787,000	▲
# of Homes Sold	7	11	▲
Avg Days on Market	44	21	▼
Month Supply Inv.	1.01	.66	▼

AUBURN			
	March 2020	March 2021	Trend
Median Price	\$274,000	\$357,100	▲
Market Volume	\$4,201,500	\$3,651,100	▼
# of Homes Sold	15	10	▼
Avg Days on Market	58	24	▼
Month Supply Inv.	.72	.33	▼

Contact us to find more about your neighborhood market & what your home is worth! Inventory is extremely low!

Eve Patterson 508-341-4434	Nana Frimpong 508-615-6149	Doreen Gagliardi (774) 242-2313	Jammie Geddis 774-242-9752	Johnny Wariebi (508) 335-5076	Antonia Vaughan (617) 373-0053	Diane Strzelecki (508) 335-2384	Jillian DeGrace (860) 315-3636

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--	---	---

**CALL Diane or Jo-Ann for a Real Estate Market Analysis**



# Is it time to begin stepping into the light of normalcy?

What is your new normal? It's your choice.

I think my life is forever changed, even though I'm not sure what that means. I believe the pandemic has had a profound and maybe permanent impact on my life. Around the time this shut down began, I received a serious health diagnosis. This one-two punch was powerful.

In the beginning, we only left our home for doctor visits and groceries. For Christmas, our daughter signed us up for Instacart, a shopping home delivery service and I haven't been into a grocery store since Dec. 23.

I wear a mask out of the house always and when I visit the hospital for chemo/immunotherapy treatment, I add a face shield. I wash my hands and never pass a hand sanitizer opportunity. When the pizza man comes, he leaves it on the porch, rings the doorbell and leaves.

I realize my life has been reduced to an exceedingly small size. Partly out of necessity. Partly from following the alleged science that seems to change before our very eyes ... and partly ... maybe mostly ... out of fear. I think many Americans are frightened because the available info changes within the moment and we really do not know what the healthy and safe protocols are.

"Masks don't work" ... wait ... "Masks do work and are mandatory" ... wait ... "one mask doesn't work, so wear two" ... "After vaccination, masks won't be required" ... wait ... "Masks should be worn into 2022 and maybe beyond." Here's the real kicker ... "Follow the science!" ... wait ... But we've learned that we really have been ignoring the science when it comes to schools and the classroom. Instead, the teacher's unions are leading the way with no scientific basis at all.



POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

GARY W.  
MOORE

Who do we listen to? Who do we believe? Who do we trust? No wonder so many are frightened.

I believe most health officials and politicians continue to act on the best information they have. I'm not a conspiracy theorist and refuse to buy into that brand of anguish. Has the virus been politicized? Of course. It's an unfortunate part of our democratic system. I think most can see through and past it. Are we safe? Will we be again? Were we ever?

I'm told that until we achieve eighty-percent herd immunity there are still risks, but again,

I'm tired of living my life waiting for the next health directive. Arlene and I are vaccinated.

It was an easy decision for us. Being vaccinated makes sense to us and we are happy with our choice. I don't know what to say to the anti-vaccination crowd. I have two friends who are dead from Covid. One died early in the pandemic and one in February. It's real. It's not going away soon. We all must make our choices based upon our personal research, beliefs and needs. I'll encourage all to be vaccinated but will also respect your choice regardless. Do your research and take the proper precautions to protect you and others.

The late, great Vince Lombardi said, "Fatigue makes cowards of us all," and I think most of us are fatigued by this pandemic. Get out. Take a breath of fresh air. Do not be afraid.

I do believe it's time to step out of the darkness of fear and into the light.

For Arlene and me, it's time to take our lives back and we started by

going grocery shopping and a visit to Staples. Small steps but positive steps towards normalcy.

I began by asking, "What is your new normal?"

It's our choice to make. I'll wear a mask, but I'm not putting on a second. I'll social distance but I'm going to start living my life outside of our home. I can go into the store and pick up my groceries. I can greet friends. Maybe I'll bump fists for a while rather than shaking hands. I'll be cautious. I won't act stupidly or irresponsibly but I will no longer allow the fear to determine my actions nor rule my life. We have a finite number of minutes on this earth, and we plan on living them, unafraid and with family and friends.

I encourage you to properly protect yourself and others, then do the same. Step out of the darkness of fear into the bright light of life. Walk in the sun. Say hi to your neighbors.

Catch up with each other and once again, breathe in the fresh air of life. Hug your family. Eat in your favorite restaurant. See a friend you have not seen in a year. Make up for lost time.

When the nurse put that needle in my arm for the second vaccination, I felt like screaming "Freedom!" I felt like I was given my life back.

Southwest Airlines has a tag line where there is a 'ding' and a flight attendant says, "Your free to move around the country."

It's time. I hope to see you outside!

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

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# Fattman, Gobi among senators asking for state testing delay

**BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT**

BOSTON –Ryan Fattman and Anne Gobi have joined fellow senators in urging Gov. Charlie Baker and State Commissioner of Education Jeffrey Riley to delay state testing in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Senators Fattman and Gobi were among 29 state senators that signed a letter on March 31 urging the delay of the MCAS and ACCESS testing until the fall and utilizing any

alternate readily available testing program. The senators argue that the MCAS test is “time consuming” and does not give rapid or immediately usable results and instead would like the state to issue more immediately usable testing that wouldn’t interfere with instruction.

“We share your interest in obtaining actionable benchmark around student learning loss. Yet we also concur with organizations representing teachers and administrators as well as civil

rights organizations and the student and aren’t representatives on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education who believe that standardized testing this spring will produce no valid or actionable information, waste valuable learning time, and harm children,” the letter reads. “Standardized testing this spring will not produce any valid information on student learning except for what we already know – many children have lost learning time. Results can-

not be compared in any valid way with results from previous and future years.”

The letter also quotes the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents who have also moved for state testing to be changed for 2021 citing the potential for “skewed results” from communities significantly impacted by the pandemic and that the National Assessment of Education Progress has already taken steps to postpone their test in 2021.

Senators further argue that the \$30 million spend for the MCAS administration would be a waste of money better spent on social emotional supports and other priorities. They further stress that results wouldn’t be available until mid-fall after the start of the new school year, noting “Some students will have attended summer school or had other opportunities; their results from the spring testing will suggest they need remediation that they actually no longer need. Other students will

have experienced a ‘summer slide,’ their results will also be useless.”

Senators concluded their letter noting the stress and added hours of work the tests would create for administrators and teacher as well as students asking the commissioner and governor to consider an exam that would limit testing time and give school more rapid information necessary to help students succeed in a time where the pandemic has severely impacted their learning time.



### SCIENCE FACT!

THIS OCCURS WHEN WATER DROPLETS CONDENSE ON ONE ANOTHER, CAUSING THEM TO GROW AND BECOME HEAVY.

ANSWER: RAIN

### Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-8.  
The numbers in each row add up to the totals to the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	5		8
3	0		11
7		6	17
11	9	16	

6	4	7
8	0	3
2	5	1

Solution

### THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

- **1865:** GEN. ROBERT E. LEE SURRENDERS TO GEN. ULYSSES S. GRANT AT APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE.
- **1939:** CONTRALTO MARIAN ANDERSON GIVES A CONCERT AT THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL.
- **1963:** WINSTON CHURCHILL BECOMES THE FIRST HONORARY U.S. CITIZEN.

### New Word

**DOWNPOUR**

heavy rainfall

### How they SAY that in...

**ENGLISH:** Rain

**SPANISH:** Lluvia

**ITALIAN:** Pioggia

**FRENCH:** Pluie

**GERMAN:** Regen

### Did you know?

MAWSYNRAM, INDIA IS ONE OF THE WETTEST PLACES ON EARTH. THIS REGION RECEIVES THE HIGHEST RAINFALL IN INDIA. THE MAJORITY OF ITS RAIN FALLS DURING THE MONSOON SEASON.

### GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: RAIN BOOTS

### CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to Easter.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 22 = U)

**A. 6 16 9 12 15 6 22 14**  
Clue: Constant and steadfast

**B. 21 10 13 10 22 17**  
Clue: Full of happiness

**C. 2 16 17 12 2 26**  
Clue: Spring Christian holiday

**D. 7 22 3 3 13**  
Clue: Hopping animal

Answers: A. faithful B. joyous C. Easter D. bunny

### SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

**Fun By The Numbers**

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

**Here's How It Works:**

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

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

ANSWER:



# Worcester State athletes inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma Honor Society

WORCESTER — Thirty-seven Worcester State University student-athletes have earned induction into Chi Alpha Sigma, the student-athlete honor society.

The group joins 24 inductees from a year ago who are still active on Lancer rosters, bringing Worcester State’s Chi Alpha Sigma total to 61 student-athletes. The complete list of Worcester State inductees can be found below.

To be eligible for the honor society, student-athletes of junior or senior status must achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.40. Graduating Chi Alpha Sigma inductees will receive black and gold cords to be worn at Commencement.

“In Worcester State’s seventh year of membership in Chi Alpha Sigma, it is exciting to continue to honor our student-athletes’ academic achievements,” said Kelly Downs, coordinator of student-athlete support services. “Our student-athletes take pride in their academics and are excited to represent our department at Commencement by wearing their athletic honor society cords.”

“These student-athletes have shown an incredible commitment to academics in their time at Worcester State,” said Director of Athletics Michael Mudd. “They shine not only on the field, court, track, and ice, but also in the classroom, and are true role models on our campus.”

For more information on Chi Alpha Sigma, please visit their website at [chialphasigma.org](http://chialphasigma.org).

Inducted into Chi Alpha Sigma in 2020

Dominique Alves (Ludlow, Mass.) - Women’s Tennis  
Lauren Arbec (Fairhaven, Mass.) - Women’s Lacrosse  
Parker Bigelow (Leominster, Mass.) - Baseball  
Alexa Bobbin (Charlestown, R.I.) - Field Hockey  
Mark Clemente (Holden, Mass.) - Men’s Golf  
Emma Collings (Marion, Mass.) - Women’s Tennis  
Tim Drevitch (Oxford, N.J.) - Men’s Ice Hockey  
Sarah Duff (Warren, Mass.) - Field Hockey  
Lauren Fleming (Leominster, Mass.) - Field Hockey  
Maddie Fong (Norton, Mass.) - Women’s Soccer  
Pat Galvin (Shrewsbury, Mass.) - Baseball  
Kyle Hayter (Helena, Mont.) - Men’s Ice Hockey  
Rachel Jorge (Dartmouth, Mass.) - Women’s Track & Field  
Madison Kuzio (Franklin, Mass.) - Women’s Volleyball  
Matthew Manning (Novi, Mich.) - Men’s Ice Hockey  
Bernice Mensah (Worcester, Mass.) - Women’s Track & Field  
Monika Mularski (Auburn, Mass.) - Women’s Tennis  
Tayla O’Leary (Salem, Mass.) - Women’s Soccer  
Jake Poitras (Harwich, Mass.) - Men’s Golf  
Zack Poitras (Webster, Mass.) - Men’s Track & Field  
Shaylee Puleo (Tewksbury, Mass.) - Women’s Cross Country and Track & Field

Kyra Siano (North Attleboro, Mass.) - Women’s Cross Country and Track & Field  
Ally Tocman (Shrewsbury, Mass.) - Softball  
Hoang Vo (Worcester, Mass.) - Men’s Track & Field

2021 Chi Alpha Sigma Inductees  
Will Ahearn (Charlestown, Mass.) - Men’s Ice Hockey  
Victoria Alexander (Worcester, Mass.) - Softball  
Ashley Barratt (North Attleborough, Mass.) - Women’s Cross Country and Track & Field  
Rachel Bigelow (Westborough, Mass.) - Softball  
Sarah Blomgren (Lunenburg, Mass.) - Women’s Basketball  
Charles Bray (Shrewsbury, Mass.) - Men’s Track & Field  
Dariel Canela (Peabody, Mass.) - Men’s Track & Field  
Mike Chaves Jr. (Hudson, Mass.) - Baseball  
Kasey Clark (Dudley, Mass.) - Women’s Cross Country and Track & Field  
Julia Collins (Shrewsbury, Mass.) - Field Hockey  
Aidan Conlon (Lowell, Mass.) - Men’s Ice Hockey  
Kyle Cravatis (Beverly, Mass.) - Baseball  
Sean Devin (Lynn, Mass.) - Baseball  
Apphia Donoghue (Rowley, Mass.) - Women’s Soccer  
Hannah Foster (Worcester, Mass.) - Women’s Soccer  
Drew Fottler (Chelmsford, Mass.) - Men’s Cross Country and Track & Field  
Coley Hayes (Norwood, Mass.) - Field

Hockey  
Lincoln Henry (Kingston, Jamaica) - Men’s Soccer  
Kylie Hill (Lunenburg, Mass.) - Women’s Lacrosse  
Denise Hoxha (Worcester, Mass.) - Women’s Volleyball  
Ryan James (Katy, Texas) - Men’s Ice Hockey  
Calli Korbey (Hopkinton, Mass.) - Women’s Basketball  
Alyson Langhorst (Natick, Mass.) - Women’s Tennis  
Gigi LeMay (Grafton, Mass.) - Women’s Basketball and Women’s Golf  
Ann Maher (Mansfield, Mass.) - Field Hockey  
Charlotte Mullane (Sterling, Mass.) - Women’s Tennis  
Cam Neary (Mansfield, Mass.) - Men’s Golf  
Hannah Nolan (Pepperell, Mass.) - Women’s Lacrosse  
Brendan O’Shea (Methuen, Mass.) - Baseball  
Alexander Papageorgiou (Tewksbury, Mass.) - Men’s Soccer  
Emma Poplawski (Rowe, Mass.) - Women’s Basketball  
Alessandro Romeo (Worcester, Mass.) - Men’s Soccer  
Max Roth (Chicago, Ill.) - Men’s Ice Hockey  
Gunther Stange (Niles, Ill.) - Men’s Ice Hockey  
Logan Sylvester (Swansea, Mass.) - Football  
Leelle Tyler (Longmeadow, Mass.) - Women’s Volleyball  
Sarah Ward (Townsend, Mass.) - Women’s Volleyball

## Cornerstone Bank contributes to Worcester Bravehearts charitable programs

S O U T H B R I D G E — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout central Massachusetts, has made a \$10,000 contribution to the Worcester Bravehearts baseball team to help promote the love of reading and writing in local youth. This partnership will fund both the Ticket to Read and Pen Pal Club programs, initiatives that reward children who read a set number of books or exchange notes with seniors, with prizes and experiences.

“Helping to fund these critical programs and give back to our community is always rewarding, but even more so given how education has changed so much for students this year,” said Cornerstone Bank CEO Todd Tallman. “We thank the Bravehearts’ organization for having the foresight to infuse fun into reading and writing, and for allowing us the opportunity to partner with them on this.”

The Ticket to Read Program offers students incentives for read-

ing in the form of baseball game tickets, merchandise and even a class field trip by reading 10 books a month. Additionally, the classroom that reads the most books over the year will win a free field trip to a Bravehearts baseball game. Each year, more than 30 schools in the Central Massachusetts area and 6,000 students participate in the program.

The Pen Pal Club encourages students to increase the amount of time they spend reading and writing. The pro-

gram pairs a local middle school student with a senior citizen and the two write each other monthly letters throughout the school year. Then, during summer break, the pen pals have the opportunity to meet one another and enjoy a Bravehearts game together.

Cornerstone Bank is proud to support these community initiatives and help foster a love of reading and writing in children across the Central Massachusetts area. To learn more about Cornerstone Bank

and its charitable donations, visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com).

About Cornerstone Bank  
Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving residents, businesses and communities throughout Central Massachusetts. Our customer promise, Built on Trust, is not just a brand, but also a corporate focus. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone Bank rests on the foundation that relationships are built on trust.

Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender and SBA Preferred Lender. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or call 800-939-9103.

## Cornerstone Bank to award \$2,000 scholarships

S O U T H B R I D G E — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with 12 locations throughout central Massachusetts, will be awarding 16 \$2,000 scholarships to students in the area it serves. Cornerstone Bank is hoping to help 2021 high school graduates throughout their community pursue higher education and foster advancement in the fields of business and finance. The sixteen scholarships will be awarded to the students who best demonstrate achievement in academics, extracurricular activities and community involvement.

“Making sure the future leaders of America get a great education is so important to us at Cornerstone Bank,” said CEO Todd Tallman. “We are excited to be able to help students achieve their dreams every year to go into the business or finance industries. Access to a good education can be difficult for many students, especially with how difficult this past year has been, so we hope the help we are able to provide to this group of graduates helps them to reach their goals.”

To apply for a scholarship, the student must:  
Be a 2021 high school graduate  
Reside within 10 miles of a Cornerstone Bank branch or office  
Anticipate being a full-time student at an accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education  
Anticipate studying in a business or financial field  
Demonstrate achievement and high standards in academics, extracurricular activities, and community involvement  
Submit an official transcript and GPA from their guidance office  
In addition, the student must choose one of the following prompts and submit a one-page typed essay:  
1. Are there any challenges you have had to overcome in your high school career?  
OR  
2. What are your goals for the future, and how will this scholarship assist you in meeting them?  
Applications must be submitted or postmarked to Cornerstone Bank by April 5. Please send all applications to [scholarships@cornerstonebank.com](mailto:scholarships@cornerstonebank.com), or mail to Cornerstone Bank Scholarship Committee: P.O. Box 370, Southbridge, MA, 01550. Selected recipients will be announced by the week of May 24. Scholarship funds will be disbursed to the student after successful completion of the first semester, and upon presentation of an official copy of the first semester transcript and second semester bill.  
For more information, and to download the application form, please visit <https://cornerstonebank.com/scholarships/>.

About Cornerstone Bank  
Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving residents, businesses and communities throughout Central Massachusetts. Our customer promise, Built on Trust, is not just a brand, but also a corporate focus. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone Bank rests on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. Deposits are insured in full by a combination of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Depositors Insurance Fund. The Bank is an Equal

Opportunity Employer, Equal Housing Lender and SBA Preferred Lender. To learn about

Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit [cornerstonebank.com](http://cornerstonebank.com) or

call 800-939-9103.

## QCC offers information session for Becker students

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College will host a virtual information session for Becker College students on Thursday, April 8, 4 – 5 p.m. The session offers current Becker students information on how to transfer into QCC. Prospective Becker students are also invited to join.

QCC recently signed a transfer agreement and memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Becker College to assist current Becker students in transferring into the College to continue their studies. The agreement is for all current Becker students in programs transferrable into QCC’s comparable programs that include:

- Associate Degree in Business Administration Transfer
- Associate Degree in Criminal Justice
- Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education
- Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education Birth – Eight Years Old (Evening Only)
- Associate Degree Nurse Education

“We will do everything we can to assist Becker students in navigating these uncharted waters. We are waiving our application fees for these students, and QCC/Becker transfer specialists will assist in providing them with the supports they need to succeed,” said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. “Starting in the fall, we are offering in-person classes, as well as three different types of remote learning modalities, designed to meet each student’s unique learning style.”

At QCC, students can attend for free by qualifying for financial aid, and the College has increased its financial support to students during the pandemic, with more than \$3 million in emergency aid from federal, state and institutional funds. QCC’s Student Emergency Fund is also available to current students in significant hardship due to the pandemic, regardless of citizenship, residency or enrollment status.

Students can start at QCC then transfer their credits into a Bachelor degree program, through transfer agreements with a vast array of colleges and universities, saving them thousands.

“QCC has been a smarter option in higher education for so many in the region. We look forward to Becker students realizing the opportunities that are afforded to them here,” President Pedraja said.

Registration is required to attend the information session. For more information, and to register, visit <https://www.QCC.edu/becker>.

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





# Grow stevia – nature’s sweetener

Sweeten your meals by growing your own sugar substitute in gardens or containers. Stevia is nature’s own sweetener that can be snacked upon fresh or added to soups, sauces, or beverages.

Wait for warm nights and the danger of frost to pass before planting stevia outdoors. It is a perennial in USDA zones 8 and warmer, but those gardening in colder areas must grow stevia like an annual.

Start plants from seed, cuttings, or transplants. Seeds are difficult to find and even more difficult to sprout. Use this method if you like a gardening challenge.

Reduce your effort and increase success by starting with transplants. Check garden centers and mail order catalogs for plants. Place Stevia plants 12 inches apart in full sun or light shade with moist well-drained soils. You will get the best growth and most leaves during the long warm days of summer.

Incorporate a low nitrogen slow-re-

lease fertilizer in the soil or potting mix at planting. These provide small amounts of nutrients over a long period of time. Make a second application midseason if needed.

Water new plantings often enough to keep the roots and surrounding soil slightly moist. Gradually extend the time between watering. Thoroughly water whenever the top few inches of soil are crumbly and slightly moist. Spread a layer of evergreen needles, shredded leaves, or other organic matter over the soil surface. Mulching helps conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil, reducing your time weeding and watering.

Harvest leaves as needed for sweetening your dishes. Munching on a single leaf can help suppress a sweet craving. You may be able to pass on a candy bar and go for a healthier option.

Wait for cool short days at the end of the growing season when the sweetness is most intense to make large harvests



GARDEN  
MOMENTS  
.....  
MELINDA  
MYERS

for drying. You can dry in a microwave, dehydrator, or a warm dark location in your home. Cut, bundle, and hang stems upside down to air dry. Knock leaves off the stem and save the dried leaves in an airtight jar. Grind the leaves by hand or use a coffee grinder to crush the leaves and release the sweetness. Dried leaves stored in an airtight jar will last for several years.

You can grow stevia indoors in a bright sunny window or under artificial lights. Purchase plants or start your own from cuttings. Check plants often and water thoroughly when the top few inches of soil is starting to dry. Fertilize with a dilute solution of any fertilizer labeled for use on indoor edible plants. Harvest the leaves as needed to sweeten your favorite dishes.

Growing stevia indoors or out can add flavor to your beverages and meals and fun to your gardening experience.

Melinda Myers has written more



Melinda Myers

**Stevia, nature's own sweetener, can be grown indoors or out as long as the plants receive proper care.**

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

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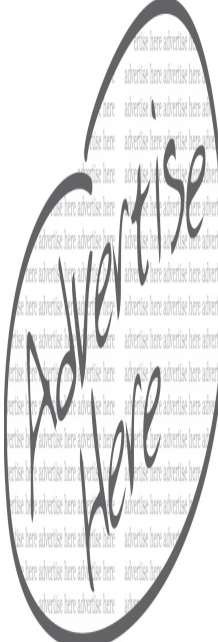
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Stop in at 385 Morris St., Southbridge, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to see what is available.

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Quality fishing and horse equipment, tools, wedding décor, homegoods, women's wear, and more.

NEWLY RENOVATED two bedroom Apartment for rent

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CUSTODIAN DOUGLAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1.0 FTE Custodian (2:00 PM-10:00PM – hours subject to change) This position is open until filled. Interested candidates should send a letter of intent, resume, and three recent letters of recommendation to: Jeffrey Kollett, Facilities Manager, 21 Davis Street, Douglas, MA 01516

All appointments are conditional based on a satisfactory CORI and SAFIS Background check per 603 CMR 51.00

The Douglas Public Schools is committed to maintaining a work and learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, pregnancy, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital/civil union status, ancestry, place of birth, age, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation, genetic information or disability, as defined and required by state and federal laws. Additionally, we prohibit retaliation against individuals who oppose such discrimination and harassment or who participate in an equal opportunity investigation.

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Town of Charlton seeks a FT Conservation Agent

Qualified candidates will have knowledge of Mass General Law relating to the MA Wetlands Protection Act. Working knowledge of soil types; ability to verify wetland boundaries; familiarity with permit and grant writing. Minimum qualifications includes Bachelor's Degree in an environmental field, five years' experience in environment management, land conservation or a related field; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Engineering Degree a plus. Must be able to lift 30 lbs. and have the physical ability to walk rough terrain and access all areas of inspection sites. Hiring range \$27.43/hr. – \$30.93/hr. dependent on experience and education.

*Position will remain open until filled.*

Apply online at <https://townofcharlton.net/158/Human-Resources>

*Equal Opportunity Employer*

TOWN Of SPENCER Veterans Agent

The Town of Spencer is seeking a qualified individual for the Veterans Agent position. Responsibilities include facilitating services to veterans and their dependents, furnishing information, advice, and assistance to veterans pursuant to MGL c.115.

Candidate must be an honorably discharged veteran. High school graduate; four years of experience in the field of veteran benefit administration, or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

This is a part-time, 15 hour per week position with a salary range of \$20.50 to \$24.82 per hour.

Job description and town application available at: <https://www.spencerma.gov/home/pages/employment-opportunities>

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

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## Dudley Woman’s Club seeking mask donations!

DUDLEY — The Dudley Woman’s Club’s April “giving project” is a mask drive for those who receive services from the Webster-Dudley Food Share. Donations are welcome from all who may be interested in supporting this effort, including non-members! A drop box for donations is located on the side porch of Empire Travel, 98 West Main St., Dudley. What is needed most is masks for children. Donations will be collected throughout April. As children go back to schools, masks are needed more than ever! For more information, contact [info@dudleywomansclub@gmail.com](mailto:info@dudleywomansclub@gmail.com)!

## Webster Republican Town Committee re-organizing


WEBSTER — The Webster Republican Town Committee is re-organizing after two years of “inactive status.” If you are interested in being a part of the Republican Town Committee or would like more information, contact Linda at 508-949-1218 or email [linpau@hotmail.com](mailto:linpau@hotmail.com).

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**Spring Into A Rewarding New Career in 2021**  
We are grateful to be a part of this wonderful community. Thank you for “social distancing” to keep us all safe. We hope you’ll consider Quaboag as your next career move.

## Positions Available

**5K SIGN-ON BONUS FOR FULL TIME OVERNIGHT NURSES FOR A LIMITED TIME**

**Maintenance • PT Physical Therapist • FT Speech Wound Care Nurse FT • Overnight Supervisor M-F Evening Nursing Supervisor M-F Evening Nurse 3-11 • Overnight Nurses 7p-7a PT Dietary Aid • FT/PT Housekeeping C.N.A.’s all shifts available**



### What our employees have to say...

*“One of my favorite things about working at Quaboag is that you can tell the staff is here because they care about the patients. I have also found that my supervisor and administrator are very approachable when I have any concern. There are a lot of places where someone in a supervisor position is not that approachable.” — Nicole F. (CNA)*

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

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

### We Offer Great Benefits!

- Health and Dental • Flexible schedules
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