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Friday, December 25, 2020

Sheriff's Coat Drive brings warmth to Webster

WEBSTER — The Sheriff was in town for his Annual Winter Coat Drive. On Thursday, Dec. 3, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis made a special visit to the Webster-Dudley Food Share to donate and deliver brand new winter jackets, protective masks and warm socks to help those in need stay warm during the winter season. “Especially during the holiday season, it is vitally important to remember those who may be struggling during this challenging time. Instead of cancelling our annual winter coat drive due to the constraints and concerns of COVID, our department doubled down on our commitment to help those in need during the cold winter months. After months of hard work securing community grants and donations, we are able to donate, deliver and dis-

tribute almost three thousand brand new winter jackets to the elderly, veterans and underserved communities throughout Worcester County. I would like to take this time to thank our tremendous coat drive co-sponsors, Central Mass Agency on Aging and all of our community sponsors for their overwhelming kindness and generosity to help make this year's Winter Coat Drive possible. Our goal is for everyone to have a safe, healthy and warm holiday season,” said Evangelidis. The Sheriff's Office Annual Winter Coat Drive also received a significant boost this year from the generosity of The Stave & Still Restaurant and Waskiewicz Family of Webster who provided the coat drive with an extraordinary kick-off along with a significant donation to help pur-

chase all brand new winter jackets. “Thanks to the incredible generosity of The Stave & Still Restaurant and Waskiewicz family our coat drive was able to overcome the challenges initially presented by the pandemic and allowed us to purchase brand new winter jackets. Their kindness will help so many folks stay warm this winter,” said Evangelidis. In addition to Webster-Dudley Food Share, the Sheriff also donated warm winter jackets to the residents of the Reconciliation House for recovery also located in Webster. “Sheriff Lew and his team are always there for us. During the year, we receive deliveries from their organic farm at the jail and today the Sheriff is here donating



Courtesy

Sheriff Evangelidis recently paid a special visit to Webster-Dudley Food Share in Webster for the Sheriff's Annual Winter Coat Drive. There to receive the donation of brand new winter jackets, warm socks and protective masks (from left to right) are Webster resident Paula Aponte, Webster-Dudley Food Share Director A.J. Alkire, Board Member Lisa Tuttle, Staff Member Angel Santiago along with Sheriff Evangelidis.

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Oxford begins new superintendent search

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — The School Committee kicked off the process of yet another superintendent search last week by interviewing two consultants to aid them, NESDEC's Randall Collins and MASC's Tracy Novick. But they delayed on deciding which to hire until Dec. 21 (after our holiday deadline) to give members time to make some phone calls. “Having a consultant would save us a lot of

stress” and “keep us on time,” opined Palmina Griffin after both interviews were done. But she noted it was “a difficult choice.” September Forbes agreed, noting she didn't think they could put the burden on the already “overtaxed” district staff to coordinate things if the committee did it themselves. Chair Dan Coonan noted they did it themselves two of the last three searches, but he was inclined to go the consultant route as

well, as was Corey Burke. Burke noted he participated in two searches in Millbury. None of them specified who they'd select, but a couple said they thought the cost – \$10,500 for MASC or \$12,080 for NESDEC, with more separate fees in the latter – was “a small investment” in the district's future. Dave Cornacchioli was the exception. Although he favored Novick's presentation, he said he's “leaning to nobody.” “I know what good

leadership is. I know what good leadership is needed in this district, and I know what we need to work on,” he said. But he also noted he didn't intend to “put any more pressure on people in our district to help with this search.” However they choose to do it, Coonan said his goal is to have a new superintendent in office for July 1. The current officeholder, Kristine Nash, is in her second

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Water firm to finish treatment system in 2021

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – In 2021, Aquarion Water is planning to finish their new treatment system to address color and odor complaints stemming from the presence of manganese in some of the wells, according to their presentation to the selectmen last week. Vice President John Walsh said the firm is currently controlling it by mixing the cleaner water from the Nelson Street well with that from the three on North Main Street and flushing water mains periodically. Over the next year, it's building a new two-phase system to treat it by adding sodium hypochlorite then filtering it through green sand to capture the sediments. Manganese is not harmful, and he noted Aquarion gets “relatively low calls” about it now. But the state Department of Environmental Protection required the changes, and recently “authorized us to proceed with conceptual design,” he said. Walsh dubbed it “a relatively large project for this system,” but thinks it can fit on the company's North Main Street property without needing to buy nearby land.

Before settling on this option, he said, Aquarion looked at six potential sites for new wells around town, and actually got access to test three of them. All three had problems with water quality and/or quantity, however. The firm also considered drilling a new well at Nelson Street, but opted not to because of the risk of having just one site. “Having a main break in the wrong place could isolate that well site from all of our customers,” he noted. According to Operations Manager Paul Lawson, Aquarion currently draws most of its water from that Nelson well. Some of it goes to three storage tanks – at Jevic, Prospect Hill and Sutton Avenue – and ultimately through 41 miles of pipe to serve 2628 customers. Under its DEP permit, the firm can draw up to 286 million gallons per year from the aquifer, and has averaged 231 million over the last five years.

One thing that has been in limbo due to Covid-19 is a plan to color-code hydrants so the fire department has quick visual information of how much flow each can provide. Responding to a Michael Daniels question, Lawson noted, if they're “painted a certain color for a certain flow, and [the fire department] doesn't get that flow, there's liability for us.” Instead of painting entire hydrants, they might just paint the caps, as some cities do.

Fire Chief Laurent McDonald said he has not yet had the chance to talk to Aquarion about this. But he noted National Fire Protection standards “want a hydrant to be visible” with color-coding for “specific ranges” of gallons per minute. Today, he said, only about a third of Oxford has hydrants; serving the rest requires tanker trucks. “Inside the system, we typically get pretty good pressure,” he said. He wants to look into it further, “but it's not something I think is critical at this particular time.” Later in the meeting, firefighter Jessica Prefontaine gave some publicity to a new outreach effort she devised to promote fire safety. For a few weeks now, the department's Facebook page has featured “Kevin the Elf” doing various things and “getting to know the town [by] going out on inspections.” Among the brief videos have been items on snow-blower safety, using hot mitts and sanitizers right,

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Planning Board amends Lyons Estates streetlight requirements

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – The Dudley Planning Board has approved a minor alternation to the Lyons Estates Definitive Subdivision Plan reducing the number or overhead streetlights the board is requesting for the property.

Currently under construction, the Lyons Estates will be an 18-home subdivision on a roadway called Truman Drive which will empty onto Lyons Road. Tom Revane of Revane Building, LLC sent an email to Town Planner Bill Scanlon in early December requesting that the Planning Board reduce the request-

ed overhead streetlight installations from six to only one. Revane joined the Planning Board on a Dec. 9 meeting, saying his request was to avoid unnecessary light pollution in the estates and to reduce cost to the town who would be operating the lights. “I had met National Grid up there. The orig-

inal plan called for six streetlights throughout the whole subdivision which seemed excessive for the area on a 1,400 linear foot road. There are no streetlights in the entire area. Eisenhower Road has no streetlights and there's only one streetlight about 200 feet

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Courtesy

A SCENE FROM '78

The massive snowstorm that swept through the area last week may have brought memories to mind for some in Webster of the Blizzard of '78, when this photo was taken in Webster. Courtesy of the Webster and Dudley Massachusetts Past, Present, and Future Facebook page.



Courtesy

FALLON HEALTH EMPLOYEES RALLY FOR ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

With the current health care crisis affecting the lives of so many of our friends, families and neighbors, it's not surprising that Fallon Health employees would want to give back in a meaningful way—but the outpouring of support for our annual Feed a Family campaign was even more than expected. Our 1,200 employees rallied together to fill 416 bags of food, which will benefit 28 organizations across Massachusetts—including the Webster Senior Center. Fallon also supplemented the bags with gift cards to local grocery stores to help with the cost of perishable items. A lot of hard work and dedication went into making this year's campaign a success. We are thrilled that our many Fallon volunteers were able to find a safe way to continue the longtime tradition of giving, even during the pandemic.



QCC offers hands-on learning experience to students from the safety of their homes

WORCESTER — At Quinsigamond Community College, hands-on learning is an integral part of student success. Students who have the skill sets that enable them to hit the ground running in a new job are more valued when they enter the workforce. Thus, when QCC transitioned to remote instruction due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of the College's programs developed in-home, hands-on learning modules for students to continue this important educational training.

"QCC is dedicated to providing quality education and this in-home learning module approach is a method that allows students hands-on experiences they would otherwise not be able to have in a remote environment," said Betty Lauer, dean for the School of Business, Engineering & Technology.

Students in courses that ranged from electronics engineering technology to computer systems engineering technology, and food service, have been able to experience hands-on learning from the safety of their homes, mimicking activities they would have normally performed in an on-campus lab setting.

"We have been reviewing our laboratory work to determine what projects can be done remotely, then modifying those projects so that students can do them at home. This is an iterative process to identify the best combinations of tasks and interaction levels for different students," said Jacob Longacre, professor of Electronics Engineering Technology.

In some of QCC's electronics courses, students received a learning module that included both instruments and

components. The components enabled students to build simple circuits and the instruments enabled them to make various electrical measurements. Students in the embedded microcontrollers course received components that included an Arduino programmable microcontroller, small electric motors, LEDs (single color and red-green-blue), pushbuttons, switches, a joystick, temperature sensors, and light sensors.

"With these components students can unleash their creativity and build program projects that involve controlling light (blinking, flashing, fading, multicolor), sound, motion and temperature," said James Heffernan, professor of Electronics Engineering Technology.

Other electronics students received "breadboard" devices used to make up temporary circuits, as well as myDAQ, a Student Data Acquisition Device. The myDAQ is an interface that includes a comprehensive set of plug-and-play, computer-based lab instruments for hands-on student learning outside the lab.

"The myDAQ is a bit like a Swiss army knife and allows students to do a variety of problem solving and experimentation at home," Mr. Longacre said.

In the food services programs, faculty and staff reviewed curriculum requirements and selected recipes for take-home learning modules, which demonstrated specific learning concepts and provided key academic knowledge and skills development. The modules contained non-perishable food items, small kitchen tools and miscellaneous items to enable students to work from their

homes. They were mailed to students, or students were able to pick them up at QCC at the Senior Center, where the College's Hospitality Restaurant Management programs are housed. Students either obtained their own perishable food items or picked them up from QCC.

An example of a key learning concept in food service is the importance of cleaning protocols, required under ServSafe requirements. In the food service module, students received a "glow" powder that they sprinkled on a food prep surface they had cleaned. Then, using a mini black light also provided in the take home packet, they could see any particles that remained on the surface.

Additionally, during the upcoming Spring semester, manufacturing students will be taking certificate exams for Precision Measurement in Associate Professor Lee Duerden's quality manufacturing course. The students will practice on measuring equipment they will receive in their "Metrology Tool Chest" that contains tools such as:

- Tape measure
- Rulers
- Steel rules
- Calipers
- Micrometers
- Combination sets
- Dial Gages
- Bore Gages

"QCC has been lucky to expand its capability and equipment in this area. Just packaging all this equipment up has proved challenging, but providing hands-on training is essential for the successful completion of this manufac-

turing course. It has been an incredible achievement from QCC and its faculty to provide this equipment that is so necessary to continue hands-on learning during this pandemic," Mr. Duerden said, adding that the tool chests will be returned upon completion of the course.

"We expect to continue using this method of learning in the future. Students have really embraced the idea of learning in their own space and many students have excelled in this learning style environment," Ms. Lauer said.

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

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Bay State Savings Bank appoints Rachel G. Hall Assistant VP, Human Resources

WORCESTER — Bay State Savings Bank is proud to announce Rachel G. Hall has been appointed Assistant Vice President, Human Resources at the Bank's 28 Franklin St. location in Worcester. In this role, Ms. Hall will be responsible for the oversight of the Bank's human resource function including salary and benefits administration, employee development, recruitment and training.

Prior to joining Bay State Savings Bank, Ms. Hall was employed by the New England Center for Children where she served as a Human Resources Specialist. She holds an MBA from Assumption University and is certified SHRM-SCP from the Society of Human Resource Management.

"Rachel joins Bay State Savings Bank with valuable experience in the Human Resources field, particularly in employee benefits, that will help the Bank further meet the needs of our employees," said Bay State Savings Bank Senior Vice President, Diane Giampa. "The experience she has will also help us in repositioning our staff so that customer expectations can continue to not only be



Rachel Hall

met, but exceeded. We are so happy to welcome Rachel to our team!"

Ms. Hall volunteers at various events in the community geared towards children and looks forward to continuing her volunteer work as soon as the pandemic is behind us. She currently lives in Whitinsville.

WEBSTER TIMES

ACCURACY WATCH:

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

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Dec. 6-12.

David J. Nicholopoulos, age 64, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 6 for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License.

A 29-year-old female and a 36-year-old male from Webster whose names have been withheld from publication were arrested on Dec. 8 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Luis M. Soto, age 30, of Southbridge was arrested on Dec. 10 in connection with a warrant.

A 34-year-old male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Dec. 11 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order, and Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official.

Sheila M. Parslow, age 40, of Webster was arrested on Dec. 12 in connection with a warrant, and on multiple counts of drug possession. Christopher Ries, age 52, of Millbury was arrested during the same incident in connection with a warrant.

Vaccine distribution underway throughout state

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Gov. Charlie Baker recently announced updates on the state's distribution efforts of the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Last week, the first doses of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine arrived in the Commonwealth. By Dec. 15, about 53,620 doses had arrived at 17 hospitals statewide.

Medical personnel are among the first to receive the vaccine this month. In addition to Pfizer's vaccine, the Moderna vaccine will soon be joining the mix.

"Pending the approval of Moderna's emergency use authorization, the Commonwealth, based on federal guidance, has been told to anticipate 180,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine and 120,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine," read a statement released by Baker's office. "In all, the administration expects the Commonwealth to receive 300,000 doses by the end of December."

The state's Department of Public Health (DPH) will place all vaccine orders on behalf of individual providers. Vaccines will then be shipped to the hospital or facility directly from the manufacturer.

Hospitals will be responsible for reporting all vaccination data to the DPH, which has launched a command center and dashboard to keep track of immunizations.

Over the next few months, staggered groups of individuals and personnel

will be allowed access to the vaccines. Priority groups will include nursing home residents and employees, first responders, front-line workers, and seniors. The general public will then be able to access the vaccine by the spring, officials said.

Certain groups of residents like pregnant women, children, and individuals with a history of severe allergic reactions are not advised to receive a vaccine until further testing is completed.

Individuals with questions about vaccination phases should send an email to COVID-19-Vaccine-Plan-MA@mass.gov.

Additionally, CVS and Walgreens will begin vaccinating in nursing homes during the week of Dec. 28. Doses will come from the state's Pfizer allocation; between 40,000 and 60,000 doses will be shipped to CVS and Walgreens for Massachusetts skilled nursing facilities.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths are continuing at an alarming rate across the state. Last week, the Department of Public Health released guidance to help residents celebrate the holidays safely.

The following recommendations are in place through the New Year's holiday:

- Limit in-person celebrations to household members only.
- Postpone or cancel travel this holiday season. If you do choose to travel, you must comply with Massachusetts travel order requirements.
- Follow the current state gathering

size limits and sector-specific workplace safety standards.

The DPH guidance also provided tips for engaging in lower-risk celebrations and traditions this holiday season, while discouraging high-risk activities.

"Any time you gather with others outside of your household, you increase the risk of contracting or spreading illness," read a DPH statement. "You are risking your health and others' health if you host or participate in any large in-person festivities."

All residents are reminded to continue wearing masks in public and practicing social distancing. You must be masked in all public venues, even outdoor spaces.

For a full list of the state's holiday guidance and regulations, visit www.mass.gov/holidays.

United Way announces MAPFRE Foundation donation

SOUTHBRIDGE — The United Way of South Central Massachusetts (UWSCM) celebrated the holidays and the midway point of the 2020 Annual Campaign with a virtual event on Dec. 17.

Campaign Chairman Jim Croteau announced that the campaign has reached 46 percent of the \$525,000 ambitious goal so far. With some workplace campaigns not completed yet and the hope of end of year personal donations to still come in.

"It's not too late to donate for 2020. With the increase of the \$300 tax deduction for charitable giving, it is our hope that those who haven't donated yet will still do so. This is a tough year for many and donations are needed more than ever so we can support the health, education and financial stability of those in need in the South Worcester County community," Croteau said.

Mr. Croteau also announced the \$80,000 Fundación MAPFRE grant to UWSCM. Fundación MAPFRE, a global nonprofit organization founded by MAPFRE in 1975, awarded the grant to support children and family programs in the region.

"MAPFRE Insurance has been partnering with the United Way since the 1990's. We are proud to collaborate with the United Way South Central MA to support them in helping those at risk," said MAPFRE Assistant Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility Linda Johnson, who spoke at the event.

"Having this wonderful collaboration with MAPFRE Fundación is new for me personally, as they have previously worked with the United Way of Webster and Dudley," said UWSCM Executive Director Mary O'Coin. "We are so grateful to have merged and thankful now to experience the support of MAPFRE for our entire region. I look forward to continuing our relationship for both the volunteerism of MAPFRE employees and receiving the financial support from such a global corporation."

Another guest speaker was Liz Hamilton, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Worcester and Webster-


Dudley. The B&G Club of Webster-Dudley's Remote Learning and Afterschool program is supported by the United Way and is one of the programs MAPFRE's grant will directly impact.

Ms. Hamilton stated, "If it were not for the support of the United Way, we would not have been able to open our doors when our kids and community needed us most. We are grateful for the United Way grant which helped us stay open throughout the pandemic and provide vital services such as food, emergency childcare and learning hub programming while schools are remote. The United Way has stood by us every step of this unprecedented year."

The United Way of South Central Massachusetts serves the communities of Charlton, Dudley, Southbridge, Sturbridge and Charlton and is located at 176 Main St., Suite 400, Southbridge, MA 01550. To learn more about programs and donate, visit www.uwscm.org, follow on Facebook @UWSCM or call (508) 765-5491.

PLACE MOTORS IS PROUD TO SPONSOR

❖❖❖Friday's Child❖❖❖



Hi! Our names are Aleeanna and Savannah and we would like to be adopted together!

Aleeanna, who likes to go by Aleee, is a fourteen year old girl of Caucasian and Hispanic descent. Aleee speaks both Spanish and English. Aleee is a funny, sassy and outgoing teenager. She enjoys watching television, being outdoors, and running. Aleee also spending time with her sister and friends. She is an engaging girl and does well in school with support from school staff.

Savannah is a seventeen year old girl of Caucasian and Hispanic descent. Savannah, similar to her sister, speaks English and Spanish. Savannah is a kind, easygoing, and creative teenager. She likes to help out around the home, spend time with her friends, and watch television. In school, Savannah does best with the academic support she receives.


Savannah and Aleee are legally freed for adoption. The siblings will thrive with a family that is patient, understanding, and supportive and have the ability to meet them where they are at. Savannah and Aleee would do best in a home with older or younger children as long as they are placed together and in separate rooms. They would prefer a family that will help them maintain contact with biological dad.

Who Can Adopt?

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

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

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





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Dudley police receive grants for tech, traffic enforcement

**BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT**

DUDLEY – The Dudley Police Department recently announced the acquisition of two grants that will help increase the departments technological capabilities and funs traffic enforcement initiatives in the community.

Dudley Police Chief Steve Wojnar said the grants were procured

thanks to the efforts Officers Phil Magas and James Mastrogiovanni who he credits and working tirelessly to bring the funding to Dudley. The first grant is from the Byrne Foundation and will allow Dudley to purchase new technology to help combat drunk driving and enhance their computer systems.

“That grant mostly covers computers and new portable breathalyzer machines. These cost

a little over \$24,500 total. Hopefully, that should be something very useful for us going forward,” Chief Wojnar said.

The Second grant is a \$12,000 traffic and highway safety enforcement grant that the department has received in the past that, as its name implies, will be used to offset the cost of traffic enforcement in and around Dudley.

“That’s been a recurring one that we’ve had

over the last probably ten years. That’s one that gives us additional money for traffic patrols during certain periods of the year and it usually also designates some money for traffic safety equipment like cones, barricades, signs and different things of that nature that we need,” Chief Wojnar said.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continuing to create uncertainty with budgeting,

Chief Wojnar said funding like this is more important now than ever. These grants will go a long way to helping the Dudley Police Department maintain and continue to improve on their services to the community.

“We don’t know the uncertainties of where money is going to come from, what you’re going to have, what’s going to be left at the end of the year, what’s the state

funding going to be. All of these are uncertainties. Anything that we can use to buy equipment, pay for overtime or patrols outside of the normal operating budget is huge,” Chief Wojnar said. “We’re really fortunate to get these and I give credit to the officers for taking the time to put this all together.”

Reach out to someone who’s quit smoking

To the Editor:ã

This holiday season, I’d like to remind readers to thank a co-worker, friend or family member who has quit vaping, smoking, or using other tobacco products. 2020 has been a year full of stresses for many of us, and staying tobacco free may have been hard for people you know. This is especially significant now since smoking and

vaping may harm the lung’s ability to fight off infections, including COVID-19.

Nicotine is the very addictive substance in tobacco, and many vape products. It takes most people with a nicotine addiction several tries to quit for good. So reach out to those who have conquered this addiction. Let them know you are proud of how hard

they’re working to better their wellbeing. Thank them for improving their health and the health of the people around them.

The holidays are also a great time to support your friends and loved ones who are trying to quit vaping, smoking or other tobacco products. Even if they have tried quitting in the past, encourage them to keep trying – they learn some-

thing new every time they try to quit.

Smokers and vapers can call 1-800-QUT NOW (1-800-784-8669) for FREE coaching from the Massachusetts Smokers’ Helpline through phone and web, 24 hours each day, seven days a week (except Christmas) or enroll online through [makesmokinghistory.org](https://www.makesmokinghistory.org). Adults who work with a coach can receive

up to eight weeks of free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges (with medical eligibility). And, this year, the Massachusetts Smokers’ Helpline is also offering up to \$50 in gift cards to Massachusetts residents who use menthol tobacco products and participate in coaching services!

Quitting is hard—give thanks to someone in your life for quitting or

for trying to quit. Every email, text message, phone call, or encouraging word makes a difference.

Sincerely,
TINA GROSOWSKY
CENTRAL MA TOBACCO
FREE COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP

QCC’s credit for prior learning program makes college more attainable

WORCESTER — At Quinsigamond Community College, students are attaining their dreams for a higher education in less time through Credits for Prior Learning. By earning credit for life experi-

ence, students save time earning their degrees, as well as realize substantial tuition savings. In 2020, 1,472 credits were awarded to 310 students.

QCC’s Career Services and Credit for Prior Learning Office works with students to assist them in translating their life experiences into college credits. Students may earn college credit for acquired life experience in a variety of ways that include taking a challenge exam, having portfolio assessments, or through credentialing of prior certificates and trainings such as military service, firefighting academy and emergency medical technician training. Credit for Prior Learning offers a significant savings over QCC’s already affordable tuition rates. The program offers a savings of between \$130-\$205 per credit.

President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D. noted that these types of savings are extremely beneficial, particularly during a pandemic when many students are struggling to make ends meet.

“While financial concerns may be exacerbated by the pandemic, credit for prior learning not only offers a way for students to save money, but also enables them to graduate earlier and enter the workforce sooner with less debt,” he said.

Student veteran Javier Viera spent 30 years serving in the Army before coming to QCC. During his first 12 years in the

Army, he worked as a combat engineer and the last 18 years as an Army recruiter. Mr. Viera was awarded 69 credits for prior learning, of which he used 35 credits for a human services degree.

As a former Army recruiter, Mr. Viera said he has always promoted and was aware of credit for prior learning, however, “... seeing it applied when I came to QCC was a great surprise,” he said.

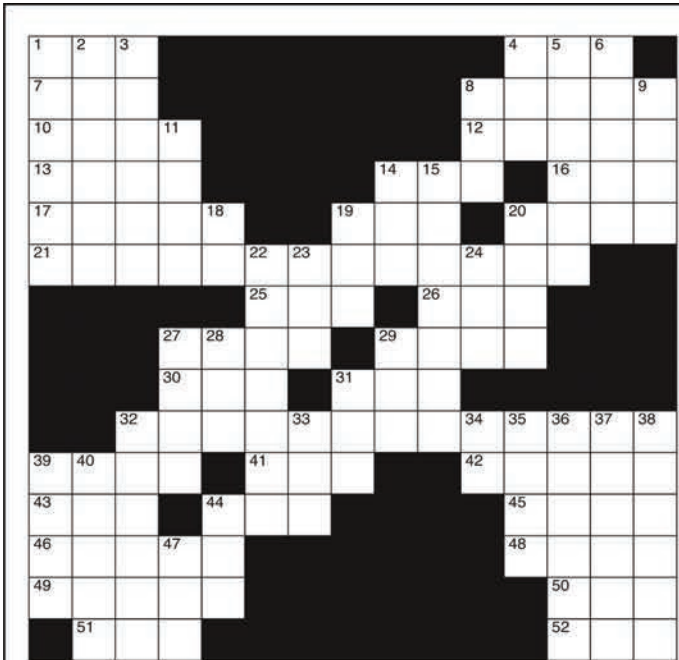
Mr. Viera said that while he could have used the majority of his awarded credits for a general studies degree, he chose instead to use all applicable credits toward the human service degree he really wanted. His plan is to graduate from QCC in Fall 2021 and then work with veterans.

“I can’t say I wasn’t tempted to go for a general studies degrees,” he said. “The applicability of my military time for credits blew me out of the water.”

“The Credit for Prior Learning program is a great way for students to take advantage of the knowledge they’ve gained over the years and have it pay off in a lucrative way,” Dr. Pedraja added.

To learn more, visit Credit for Prior Learning<<https://www.qcc.edu/services/career-services-credit-prior-learning>>.

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



- CLUES ACROSS
1. Crow species

4. Partner to flow

7. Male offspring

8. Sedate

10. Orange beverage

12. Pair of small hand drums

13. 12th month of Jewish civil year

14. Former Pirates star Jason

16. Computer company

17. Made angry

19. Beverage container

20. Charlize Theron film “__ Flux”

21. Localities

25. Consume

26. Don’t know when yet

27. Bed style

29. Make a low, continuous sound

30. Wrath

31. Pollinates flowers

32. Association

39. Prejudice

41. Unhealthy

42. Hasidic religious leader

43. Distinctive philosophy

44. Short-term memory

45. In a good way

46. Emperors of Ethiopia

48. Imaginary line

49. Of barium

50. One’s sense of self-esteem

51. Man who behaves dishonorably

52. Monetary unit

- CLUES DOWN
1. Rear of (nautical)

2. He minds the net

3. Ring-shaped objects

4. When you hope to get there

5. Young children

6. Beloved hobbit

8. Pigpen

9. Wish harm upon

11. Quick-eyed (Scottish)

14. Scrooge’s phrase “__ Humbug”

15. One more

18. A ballplayer who only hits

19. Once vital TV part

20. Sixth month of Jewish civil year

22. Advantage

23. Type of tree

24. Luke’s mentor __-Wan

27. Life stories

28. Vase

29. Tiny

31. Package (abbr.)

32. A photog’s tool

33. Wood

34. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)

35. Pueblo people of New Mexico

36. Wild goats

37. A way to comply

38. Horatio __, British admiral

39. Actress Leslie

40. Sir __ Newton

44. Pouch

47. Have already done



QCC to offer free healthcare training in the New Year

W O R C E S T E R — Quinsigamond Community College’s Workforce Development and Continuing Education Center (WDCC) is offering free, grant-funded Nurse Assistant/Home Health Aide and Administrative Medical Professional programs in 2021.

The free 120-hour Nurse Assistant /Home Health Aide Training program provides students with the necessary theory and entry-level skills to safely provide basic nursing assistant care in a long-term care facility, acute care facility or home health care agency. Upon successful completion of the program, students will be eligible to take the Massachusetts Certified Nurse Assistant Competency Exam. A free virtual information session will be held Jan.

5, 2021 via Zoom to learn more. Space is limited. For eligibility requirements or to reserve a seat in the information session, email QCC instructor Jo Sundin at jsundin@qcc.mass.edu. This program is funded through the Executive Office of Health and Human Services Nursing and Allied Health Initiative, SNAP Path to Work.

The Administrative Medical Professional program will prepare students for a career as a Medical Administrative Assistant in a variety of healthcare settings. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the projected employment growth rate for Medical Administrative Assistants from 2019 to 2029 is 19 percent more than the 4 percent average growth rate for all occupations.

In QCC’s program, students will learn the roles and responsibilities of a healthcare team, interpersonal communication, medical records management and compliance with HIPAA, as well as diagnostic and procedural coding. The course will also include lessons in how to handle medical emergencies. After successfully completing the course, students are eligible to sit for the National Health Career Association’s (NHA) Certified Medical Administrative Assistant Certification Exam. To learn more, email Ms. Sundin at jsundin@qcc.mass.edu.

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

OXFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

OXFORD — Oxford Middle School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.

High Honors
Grade 7: Justine Anderson, Rachel Arndt, Logan Barriere, Sadie Bond, Cassidy Burke, Andrew Cloutier, Keegan Comeau, Abigail DeJong, Nathan Dube, Christopher Dufresne, Mya Federico, Anatasia Ford, Ethan Ford, Chloe Gabis, Veronica Griffin, Gwen Gustafson, Jeffrey Guzman, Kolton Hemenway, Matthew Hilman, Abigail Hoyt, Jack Johnson, Kyra Krasinskaskas, Emily McDonald, Samuel Paradise, Jacob Pratt, Noah Proctor, Camden Stone, Vanessa Walker, Ethan White, Abigail Worst
Grade 6: William Brambilla, Catherine Cloutier, Emily Dupuis, Kate Mayo, Nicholas Meneguzzo, Benjamin Rucho, Shayne Ryder, Zachary Sirard, Lilian Vaillancourt
Grade 5: Andrew Collins, Laura Grenier, Olivia Hammond, Sophia Keefe, Brooke Nitti, Victoria Sullivan

Honors
Grade 7: Jonathan Ardon, Sarah Arndt, Tyler Blomquist, Delaney Burke, Daniel Carlisle, Alyssa Carrier, Tyler Forgione, Dominic Graika, Craig

Grenier, Alexander Hamilton, Abigail Kimball, Madison Labay, Addisen Monsen, Jesai Morales, Brynn Nieber, Alexis Nolin, Daniel Palmer, Nolan Remington, Paige Reynolds, Amaya Rosario-Green, Benjamin St. Francis
Grade 6: Emma Brindisi, Grace Crouch, Abigail Davis, Cameron Davis, Eric Day, Ariana Dolan, Nathan Donnelly, Connor Dwyer, Dylan Filipkowski, Randi Flynn, Aria Fournier, Brandon Fresolo, Turner Goyette, Jordyn Grazulis, Brooke Hodsdon-Beurman, Nathan Holmes, Finnian Keefe, Henry LaMountain, Evan Latuga, Ethan Lemire, Damon Libby, James Mack, Jared Magnusson, Riley Moody, Chase Paul, Lia Pavilionis, Julian Ruiz, Cameron Shields, Bradon Stone
Grade 5: Sabrina Adamiak, Khloe Anderson, Samantha Bouley, Ayva Coffey, Kaeli Cordova Del Cid, Zachary Dufresne, Liam Fahey, Michael Faust, Caroline Harty, Tatiangelys Hernandez Barreto, Chloe Hosley, Noel Jandrow, Colin Joyce, Ella Kasprzycki, Kaiden Labay, Isabella Latuga, Laycie Leverone, Evan Micciche, Kyleigh Minardi, Landon Nelson, Jacob Rondeau, Isabella Roszkowski, Grace Shoblom, Adam Sliwoski, Krystiana Sobocinski, Torin Stone, Jackson Stuart, Keagan VanArsdalen, Abby Vignali, Christina Vitale, Larry Wade



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EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Making SMART resolutions

With New Year’s Day just around the corner, we, like many, are thinking about resolutions. We could debate that September is actually the start of a new year given the clean slate of grades to start a new school year, but a new year is a new year, and not all of us are still in school.

More than half of all resolutions end in failure, but we like the fact that generally, we, as people, seek to improve ourselves and our lives. One reason resolutions fail is that a person just hasn’t chosen the right one, something that has meaning. Many people fail before the end of January.

A resolution isn’t the right one for you if it’s too vague, if it’s someone else’s expectations for you, or if you have no plan.

The acronym SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound) can be used to help facilitate your success. If you make a specific goal of losing a certain amount of weight, your goal will be easier to obtain. If you set a time limit, (baby steps) by saying I will lose one pound each week, your plan becomes more effective. As a side note if you haven’t seen ‘What About Bob’ starring Bill Murray, you must.

We all like to see progress and to see it fast. One way is to make something measurable. If you want to scale back on something, say using social media, you can use the ‘see how much time you’ve spent on Facebook’ setting to watch your usage go down. Or if you’ve set out to watch as many old classic movies or read as many John Grisham novels as you can this year, you can make a check list, and as you finish each one, check it off the list. Or bring an empty bookcase into your house, and as you finish a book, pop it on the shelf.

Pick a goal that is achievable. By taking a leap that is too big, you might find yourself in over your head and likely frustrated. Having a goal of saving more money than you can will leave you hopeless; however, if you can put away \$50 per month, then you’re on to something.

Choose a resolution that is relevant. Doing something for the right reasons is key. A relevant goal is a lasting goal. If you want to do more research on your family’s ancestry, so that your family will have the information for years to come, then what you’re doing has meaning to not only you but to the people you care about. Choosing to bring others in on your goal is never a bad idea either. We all need a coach at times.

Using a timeline for your goals should be realistic. Knocking off small goals along the way will lead you to your larger goals and will also give you a chance to create your new habit.

Learning something new is one of the most refreshing things about being alive. Being able to continually grow and morph into the best versions of ourselves is what life is all about. The more you enjoy, the more meaning you get out of life.

As the poet T.S. Eliot said, “For last year’s words belong to last year’s language, and next year’s words await another voice.”

VIEWPOINT

Divine light has shone fort in our dark world

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light... The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it... I am the light of the world, whoever believes in me shall not walk in darkness but will walk in the light of life.” (Isaiah 9:2; John 1:5; John 9:5)

These words of the Bible summarize the true meaning of Christmas. Christmas is about light, but not only about the lights around town. Christmas lights symbolize the One True Light that has come into the world. Christmas is about much more than one miraculous star that shined brightly 2000 years ago and led the wise men to find the Christ child. More significantly, Christmas is about the coming of divine light into a dark world. This is the Good News of great joy which the angels proclaimed to the shepherds – the Divine Light has come into a world of darkness!

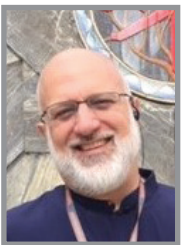
The Divine Light became a human being, and for those who choose to receive that Light, and follow that Light, their lives will never be the same. The Divine Light has come into a world of darkness and has changed our perspective of the world and our hope for the future, and it can change the lives of each one of us!

Every year, I teach a course on World Religions at Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology. As a part of this class, my students visit five different places of worship representing the great world religions. Whenever we visit a Jewish synagogue and listen to the rabbi talk about Judaism, one of the questions my students inevitably ask is why Jews don’t believe that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah. The rabbi typically answers that when the Messiah comes on earth, he will bring peace and good will to all people. The Jewish Messiah will usher in an era of peace and stability, where, as the prophets say, the lamb and the lion will sit down together. The rabbi then states that if we look at the world before the coming of Jesus, and the world after the coming of Jesus, we don’t really see much change. The years of BC and the years of AD are both full of darkness – the darkness of violence, ignorance, evil, and ongoing death. So, one can honestly ask, “What difference has the coming of Jesus made in the world? If He is truly the Messiah, why hasn’t the world changed?”

A valid and tough question that Christians need to answer. Just look at the news every day, and we read death and the pandemic, about war and violence, about hatred and evil, about greed and suffering, and about the destruction of our world’s planet as well as the destruction to God’s greatest creation, humanity itself. Two thousand years after the coming of the Messiah and there still seems to be too much darkness in the world.

Well, if we believe that the coming of Christ, and that is what Christmas celebrates, will usher in an era of peace and good will on earth, then we don’t understand well what the Bible, the Church, and our Christian faith actually teach. In fact, if we dream about peace and good will on earth here and now – for a utopia on earth – then we surely don’t understand or even know what Jesus Himself taught. Jesus clearly told his followers that there would be many wars and tumultuous times in the future. He warned his followers that they must be prepared take up their cross, to suffer and die, and become martyrs of the faith. The little baby born in Bethlehem would Himself grow up and experience all the darkness and ignorance and violence of the world, and would suffer terribly, even tasting death itself. So, in a very concrete sense, Jesus never promised that the world we live in would become a better, more peaceful, more beautiful place in the near future.

The coming of Jesus Christ on Christmas is an announcement of hope in the midst of ongoing darkness. The Divine Light has shined in the midst of a dark world and revealed that darkness isn’t the only way. We can follow a different path of peace in the midst of this



BEYOND THE PEWS
• • • • •
By FR. LUKE A. VERONIS
SAINTS
CONSTANTINE
AND HELEN
GREEK
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dark world. We can embrace light and hope and love in this world even in the midst of darkness!

One of my favorite images for understanding Christmas can be taken from World War 2. Think of the devastating war that engulfed the entire world for six years. War is the pinnacle of the world’s darkness, evil and suffering. During WWII, many people suffered terribly and were longing for an end to the war. And when did that end happen? Well in the European theatre, one could argue that the end of WWII began on D-Day, June 6, 1944 when the allied forces landed on the beaches of Normandy. Once the allied forces got a foothold on mainland Europe, the end of the war was in sight. This was the beginning of the end of the war!

Yet, how much longer did the war go on? V-Day, the actual end of the war didn’t happen for another 15 months on Sept. 2, 1945. During those 15 months, there was still much bloodshed and violence, darkness, suffering and death as the war raged on. Yet both the allied forces, and the axis powers knew that the tides of the war had turned, and the end was near. For the subjugated peoples, they understood the good news that the oppression and tyranny of evil forces was coming to an end. This is the message of Christmas!

Christmas can be seen as D-Day against the forces of Satan and all his powers of darkness. Christ’s Second Coming will ultimately be V-Day. At Christmas - Christ’s First Coming - God entered the world in a surprising way that fundamentally signifies the eventual end of darkness in the world. As we heard in the Epistle reading for Christmas, “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son.” (Galatians 4:4) The coming of our Eternal God as a human being, the coming of the Uncreated Light into a world of darkness, the coming of Jesus the Messiah and the Christ as the Savior of the world, offers a sign of hope to the world that the reign of darkness is coming to an end!

Yes, there is still darkness and violence and much evil occurring every day in the world, and it will continue and even get worse until the Second Coming of Christ. Let us understand, though, that we are in that difficult yet hopeful period in between D-Day and V-Day. The Good News of Great Joy at Christmas announces that a Savior is born. God has come among us and given the world hope! For everyone who chooses to accept this Divine Light in our own lives, we will never despair of any darkness we see all around us because we know that the darkness shall never prevail. V-Day is around the corner. Until that time, however, we will engage against the darkness. We may suffer in the darkness, but we know through Christ we can overcome it. We can overcome the darkness of ignorance by living in the light of divine knowledge. We can overcome the darkness of sin and evil by living in the light of God’s goodness. We can overcome the darkness of hatred and violence by living in the light of divine love, forgiveness and mercy. We can overcome the darkness of death by living in the light of Christ’s resurrection and victory!

Christmas is about “people walking in darkness and seeing a great light.” Christmas is about “Light shining in the darkness and the darkness never overcoming it.” Christmas is about Jesus, “the light of the world, helping whoever believes in Him to never walk in darkness but to always walk in the light of life.”

This is Good News of Great Joy to everyone who chooses to understand and live by the Divine Light of Jesus Christ. Many people will not understand and thus, will see a world of darkness all around. Those who choose to not understand will miss the essence of Christmas is truly about.

Yet for those of us who believe and follow newborn child in Bethlehem, we know that a Divine Light has shined forth, and we will never be afraid of darkness again! Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Winter driving tips

CHIEF’S CORNER
STEVE WOJNAR

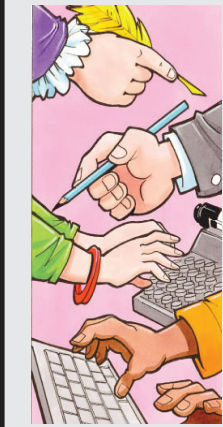
Now that the snow and ice season has officially arrived, it is important for first time, as well as longtime, drivers to exercise some caution while traveling. Besides the obvious safety points, such as driving defensively, leaving plenty of space between vehicles, and using seatbelts, many things are important to keep in mind. Be sure to leave extra time to arrive at your destination and drive slowly when weather conditions are bad. Try to avoid slamming on your brakes as this will increase the possibility of skids and the loss of control. This is especially important for new drivers. Besides already having a lack of experience, new drivers most likely have not driven under adverse weather conditions. Always take some time to acclimate yourself with the conditions and drive appropriately. It is troubling to see some people operating four-wheel drive vehicles who feel they can still travel at regular speeds during storms. Even if a road is posted at 40 mph, it does not mean you can still drive at that speed when it snows. The rate must be adjusted to meet the conditions. The faster you travel, the greater the distance you need to make a full and safe stop.

Remember to remove or prevent any unnecessary distractions on or around your vehicle. Clear snow and ice from the windows and do not have items hanging from the rear-view mirror which may obstruct your view. It is especially difficult to see when mirrors and other lines of vision are obscured. Snowfall and other inclement weather will diminish visibility naturally, so it is important not to add to the difficulties. In addition to vision, if snow and ice is not removed from your vehicle’s roof, trunk, or hood, there is a greater likelihood of this taking flight while traveling. Not only could it land on your own windshield, it may also go onto another unsuspecting vehicle behind you. In addition to causing potential damage, serious accidents can occur. Simple precautions taken before driving in bad weather can limit accidents and injuries.

Finally, Article Ten of Dudley’s By-laws contains the parking regulations. Section three, in part, deals with snow removal operations. Vehicles are not allowed to park on any Town controlled way to interfere with snow removal operations. The Superintendent of Streets may remove, or cause to be removed, any vehicle interfering with this operation. For snow removal purposes, any accumulation of two inches or more can enact this provision. Your vehicle can be towed to accommodate snow removal. Snow plowing is challenging enough without the added difficulty of parked vehicles. We do not wish to tow vehicles and the goal is to have all of them off the roads when snow removal is underway. The Town tries to place the parking bans in effect as soon as possible to provide residents with enough warning in advance of storms. Some people leave their vehicle parked on the streets, simply to keep their driveway open for their personal snowplows. This cannot happen. The public streets take precedent, so we ask you avoid this at all costs.

On behalf of the Dudley Police Department, I wish you and yours a safe, healthy, and happy Christmas and Holiday Season and extend to everyone best wishes for the New Year 2021. We all hope it will be better than 2020.

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



LETTERS

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

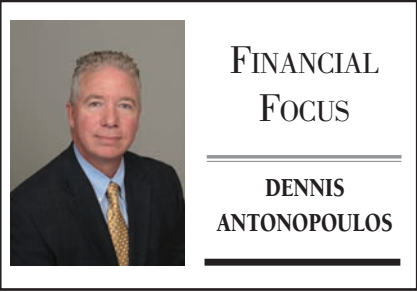


Time for New Year’s financial resolutions

Many of us probably felt that 2020 lasted a very long time. But now that 2021 is upon us, we can make a fresh start – and one way to do that is to make some New Year’s resolutions. Of course, you can make these resolutions for all parts of your life – physical, emotional, intellectual – but have you ever considered some financial resolutions?

Here are a few such resolutions to consider:

Don’t overreact to events. When the coronavirus pandemic hit in mid-February, the financial markets took a big hit. Many people, convinced that we were in for a prolonged slump, decided to take a “time



FINANCIAL
FOCUS

DENNIS
ANTONOPOULOS

out” and headed to the investment sidelines. But it didn’t take long for the markets to rally, rewarding those patient investors who stayed the course. Nothing is a certainty in the investment world, but the events of 2020 followed a familiar historical pattern: major crisis followed by market drop followed by strong recovery. The lesson for investors? Don’t overreact to today’s news –

because tomorrow may look quite different.

Be prepared. At the beginning of 2020, nobody was anticipating a worldwide pandemic and its terrible consequences, both to individuals’ health and to their economic well-being. None of us can foretell the future, either, but we can be prepared, and one way to do so is by building an emergency fund. Ideally, such a fund should be kept in liquid, low-risk vehicles and contain at least six months’ worth of living expenses.

Focus on moves you can control. In response to pandemic-related economic pressures, some employers cut their

matching contributions to 401(k) plans in 2020. Will some future event cause another such reduction? No one knows – and even if it happens, there’s probably nothing you can do about it. Instead of worrying about things you can’t control, focus on those you can. When it comes to your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, put in as much as you can afford this year, and if your salary goes up, increase your contribution.

Recognize your ability to build savings. During the pandemic, the personal savings rate shot up, hitting a record of 33 percent in April, according to the U.S. Bureau of Economy Analysis. It fell over the next sev-

eral months, but still remained about twice as high as the rate of the past few years. Of course, much of this surge in Americans’ proclivity to save money was due to our lack of options for spending it, as the coronavirus caused either complete or partial shutdowns in physical retail establishments, as well as dining and entertainment venues. But if you did manage to boost your own personal savings when your spending was constrained, is it possible to remain a good saver when restrictions are lifted? Probably. And the greater your savings, the greater your financial freedoms – including the freedom to invest and freedom from excessive debt. When we reach a

post-pandemic world, see if you can continue saving more than you did in previous years – and use your savings wisely.

These aren’t the only financial resolutions you can make – but following them may help you develop habits that could benefit you in 2021 and beyond.

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.

De-Stressing Strategies Promote Good Cheer

The holidays are around the corner, and despite the usual merriment of the season, this year is (not surprisingly) different. The CDC reports that symptoms of anxiety and depression have increased considerably due to COVID fears and since social restrictions have been in place. In fact, a recent study revealed that 27.8 percent of U.S. adults had depression symptoms compared to 8.5 percent before the pandemic.

With these figures in mind, the following strategies to combat stress and depression are offered. Some ideas have been previously published in this column, but bear repeating.

Read on for a variety of natural ways to halt high anxiety and greet the holidays with good cheer!

Note: Consult with your health care profes-

sional before taking any herbs, as they could have dangerous side effects.

Massage therapy: Did you know when you are anxious, your body produces an abundance of cortisol, a stress hormone? Massage has been proven to lowers cortisol levels. In addition, it relieves muscle tension caused by anxiety. In fact, according to a research study by the Touch Research Institute, experiencing a 15 minute massage for just twice a week can lower both anxiety and depression levels.

Carbs are calming: Complex carbohydrates such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains and starchy foods increase the amount of serotonin in your brain, a powerful neurotransmitter that boosts your mood, calms

you down and is beneficial in reducing overall feelings of anxiety/depression related disorders. Studies also show pasta, which is rich in complex carbohydrates can help relieve anxiety and help fight depression.

Meditation mode: Meditation can be a powerful weapon in the fight against stress, and can work to ward off a panic attacks. Meditation and proper breathing can help slow the heart rate and calm nerves. In fact, medical studies reveal meditation may also ease anxiety for those who not only suffer from anxiety disorders, but for those who have obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) as well. A quick calming trick is to close your eyes and breathe slowly and deeply, focusing on the breaths.



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

Writer Carol Krucoff of the Seattle Times offered this advice on breathing to relieve stress and panic: “Slow, deep breathing is a powerful anti-stress technique. When you bring air down into the lower portion of the lungs, where the oxygen exchange is most efficient, heart rate slows, blood pressure decreases, muscles relax, anxiety eases and the mind calms.”

Chew away stress: Can chewing gum reduce stress? According to a NASA research it can! In a NASA-funded study, sci-

entists from Wheeling Jesuit University monitored the responses of 25 college students during simulated driving scenarios. The volunteers reported that peppermint lowered their feelings of fatigue or anxiety by 20%. Peppermint and cinnamon each decreased frustration by 25%, increased alertness by 30%, and made the ride seem 30% shorter. Don’t like candy or gum? Buy peppermint or cinnamon air fresheners or car diffusers for the same effect.

Paint RX for panic: The color yellow is not only bright, it’s a mood booster too! Just be aware yellow a little goes a long way, and too much bright yellow can over stimulate the nervous system. Or try painting your walls orange, or at least a workable shade of

orange, such as peach or terra cotta. Orange is the top mood booster and can dispel anxiety, according to experts. Painting a room a light green is therapeutic for tired, stressed nerves. And studies show bubble gum pink and cool blue are proven stress relievers.

Herbal Help: Ylang ylang: Ylang ylang has been touted as an anti panic treatment. When Ylang ylang essential oil is added to a warm bath, feelings of depression can literally be washed away!

Lemon balm: Lemon balm is a relaxing herb that reduces restlessness, anxiety and irritability. It is also used to treat anxiety that causes digestive problems.

Note: Do not use if you have thyroid problems.

Do-it-yourself holiday centerpiece

Dress up your holiday meals with a centerpiece crafted from greens, colorful stems and seed heads collected from your garden. Or purchase fresh materials you need from your favorite garden center or florist.

Most gardeners spend some time gathering a few blossoms and creating a bouquet or arrangement for their summer gatherings. Don’t let winter stop you from crafting a festive centerpiece from materials collected from your gardens this time of year.

Start by gathering some greens. The fan-like sprays of arborvitae, blue-green sprigs of juniper as well as branches of yews, boxwood, pines and spruces can provide all the greenery you need.

Now look for items with interesting color or shape. Red and yellow twig dogwoods and paper bark birch add festive color to any arrangement. The interesting shapes of curly willow, contorted filbert and fantail willow provide intriguing form.

Next gather cones, berries, and fruits. Look for



GARDEN
MOMENTS

MELINDA
MYERS

orange and red rose hips, blue berry-like cones of junipers, sweet gum seedpods, and alder’s cone-like fruit. Gather a few evergreen cones to include in or around your arrangement.

Look for potential adornments that are lingering in the perennial garden. Coneflower, rudbeckia, and allium seed heads can add a bit of structure to your arrangement. Gather a few milkweed, balloon plant and lotus pods. And don’t worry, your milkweed plants will return for next year’s visiting monarchs. Honor their natural color or add a bit of bling with some gold, silver, or red paint.

Include a few shiny ornaments as needed. Glittered stems, ribbons and candles can add festive color to nature’s

beauty in your centerpiece.

Visit your favorite florist or craft store for needed supplies. Pick up some floral foam to secure the stems. Cut it to shape to fit the size and shape of the container.

Moisten the foam before inserting fresh greens and cut flowers. Set the block of foam on top of a basin of water and let it sink. This allows all the air spaces to fill with water, ensuring your flowers and greens have the water they need. Use high density foam when working with evergreen boughs and branches.

No need to moisten the foam when using dried and artificial material. This material makes it easier to create your arrangement.

Consider purchasing a few seasonal flowers for added color for your special event. These can be placed directly in the floral foam or water filled florist tubes set in the arrangement. Simply remove faded flowers and replace as needed.

Or use miniature poin-



Melinda Myers

settias, kalanchoes and cyclamen for longer lasting living color. Tuck them in the bed of greens or use them to decorate each place setting. Check the soil moisture frequently as the small pots dry out quickly.

The possibilities are endless, and the results are sure to brighten your spirits no matter how you are safely celebrating this holiday season.

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



OBITUARIES

John S. Gornis, 70



WEBSTER – John S. Gornis, 70, died Monday, December 14, 2020 in UMASS/Memorial Healthcare, Clinton after an illness.

He leaves 2 sisters, Christine Czesnowski of Webster and Theresa M. Levasseur and her husband Wayne of Dudley; a brother, Joseph A. Gornis of Webster; a nephew, Jacob Levasseur and his fiancée Karen Agna of Sierra Vista, AZ; an aunt, Ludvicka Gonet of Zarki, Poland; and many cousins. He was preceded in death by his infant sister Maria Gornis.

He was born in Hebron, Germany on July 13, 1950, a son of Stefan and Karolina A. (Gajewska) Gornis. He came to America at the age of one and has lived in Webster most of his life. He graduated from Bartlett High School in 1968 and then earned an Associate Degree in Engineering from University of Lowell.

Mr. Gornis worked on construction projects for the Local Union 107 in

Worcester before retiring.

He was a member of Saint Joseph Basilica and a golden member of both the PACC and the TSKK in Webster.

John was a sports fan of the New England Patriots, and enjoyed going to Red Sox games. He attended the Woodstock Music Festival in Woodstock, NY in 1969 and liked Rock n Roll, Jazz and the Blues. He was “a mild, gentle giant” who liked conversing with people on a variety of subjects.

His funeral was held on Saturday, December 19, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 10:00 AM in Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. There was a time of visitation from 8:30 to 9:30 AM in the funeral home prior to the Mass. Current health guidelines will be in place and everyone is required to wear a mask. Donations in his name may be made to Saint Joseph Elementary School, 47 Whitcomb Street, Webster, MA 01570.

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

COATS

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and delivering beautiful winter jackets, masks and warm socks. So many folks have been hit hard

by this pandemic, these items are in need and will certainly go a long way,” said Webster -Dudley Food Share Director A.J. Alkire.

“It has been a challenging year for so many.

With the donation of brand new winter jackets and warm socks we are happy to help the Webster community in this way,” said Evangelidis.

SEARCH

continued from page A1

stint as an interim here but cannot hold the reins long-term because she’s a retiree. She ran the district for several months before the committee hired Elizabeth Zeilinski in late 2018, and came back again when Zeilinski resigned a few months later.

Coonan praised her work, especially in dealing with Covid, as “pure devotion.”

Both consultants said they could meet that timeline, and had generally similar approaches to getting there. Each said they’d work with the board and the search committee to draft the advertising, get input from the community, interview candidates via Zoom, do site visits and negotiate a contract with the final selection.

The primary difference was in their backgrounds.

Collins comes from the superintendent’s side of the table, with 30 years in that role, mostly in Waterford, Conn. He said he’d briefly looked at Oxford’s Web site, but admitted he did not know too much about the town, at one point saying he thought it similar to Franklin.

Novick and her organization, Mass Association of School Committees, come solely from the School Committee side. She is Oxford’s field director and works out of Worcester, where she was on the school committee from 2011-15.

A secondary difference came in how they see site visits. While both supported having candidates come to Oxford, Novick said she feels having committee members visit finalists’ home districts is “valuable.” Collins did not, but both would help Oxford do them.

“Regardless of what the positive spin is, you get a

perspective on the candidates you simply can’t get through an interview,” Novick said. Although he agreed with Collins that the candidates often pick people they have positive relationships with for such visits, even those people and the general circumstances can tell a lot about the candidate’s communication, budgeting and other skills.

Collins, by contrast, said he “find[s] them fairly useless, because they’re all set up for you. You don’t get to wander at will.” He noted, however, that Oxford “has had an experience where you wished you had done a site visit.”

The funds will come from a “contingency” budget item often used in case of retirements and the like, Business Manager Justin Ledoux said.

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

WATER

continued from page A1

keeping Christmas trees watered, calling 911, and various things to do in event of smelling smoke in your home.

“We’re trying to come up with ways to get kids involved in public education ... and Kevin the Elf just showed up on our doorstep one day,” she said. “... [This has] gone farther than I thought it would; he’s kind of blown up” by being posted on various Facebook pages

around the region.

“It’s definitely put a smile on my face,” Chairman Dennis Lamarche said. “This just shows what you guys do.”

As they usually do, the fire department also recently provided Santa’s transport to the annual tree lighting on the Common Dec. 6. On the 20th, residents were also invited to drop off “letters to Santa” in a designated box set up there by the Lions Club, who was also doing a fundraiser for the Oxford Food Shelf at that

time (after our deadline).

In other business, selectmen approved a \$2,500 Curaleaf donation to the animal shelter plus donations in the name of Flora Stevens and a very long list of annual license renewals. Town Manager Jen Callahan also noted the planned tax title auction of Jan. 7 is being delayed until the spring for Covid reasons.

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

PLANNING

continued from page A1

down from the entryway to Lyons Estates,” Revane said. “I don’t want to make it look like a Walmart parking lot. It’s very dark. It’s going to be a nice neighborhood.”

Planning Board members agreed that six lights might be too many, but also believed having only one light was not enough especially since, unlike Eisenhower Road, there are sidewalks in the Lyons Estates. Revane noted that many of the homes will have lamp lighting installed at the end of the driveways

but seeing as this is not required Planning Board members still felt more than one light was necessary.

Board member Steve Watroba said he wanted at least three lights, one at each end of the road and one in the middle.

“Personally, I would not support elimination of all the streetlights. In my mind, especially with the cul-de-sac at the very end, I would think that you’d want a light at the cul-de-sac, up near the road intersection obviously, and then possibly one halfway. I’d be in favor of reduction from six proposed to three,” Watroba said.

His fellow Planning Board members agreed and even Revane said he wasn’t to the idea. He simply felt six was too many.

“We want to make it nice for people buying in there to want to live in there,” said Revane. “I agree a light at the end of the cul-de-sac is probably a nice thing – I’m not opposed to anything. I’m just trying to eliminate making it look like a big parking lot.”

The Planning Board ultimately voted in favor of reducing the required light installations to three without much further debate on the matter.

DOT renumbering highway exits

**BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER**

REGION – If you find yourself lost on familiar highways over the next few months, there’s no need to get a new GPS program or consult a map. As part of a statewide project, highway exits across the Commonwealth are in the process of being renumbered.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is converting all exit numbers on freeways to a mile-based numbering system. The project is a requirement of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Currently, interstates and freeways in Massachusetts utilize a sequential exit numbering method. Under the new mile-based system, exits will now be marked based on the number of miles from the origin of the route. For example, the Sturbridge exit on the Mass. Turnpike – formerly Exit 9 – will now be Exit 78 (there are roughly 78 miles from the New York border to Sturbridge).

Exit numbers for Route 213, I-291, I-391, and the Lowell Connector will not be changing. Meanwhile, MassDOT is continuing the I-395 numbering along I-290 to replicate the present exit numbering, which is continuous from Webster to Marlborough. As part of this project, the existing mileposts on I-290 will be replaced with dual mile markers showing mileage for both I-395 and I-290.

The \$2.8 million project is being funded through the Federal Highway Safety Improvement Program. Over the next year, MassDOT crews will update all highway signage to reflect the exit numbering changes. Local businesses and organizations are encouraged to make updates as well, especially on websites featuring travel information and other materials.

“Businesses that reference existing numbers in their advertising or marketing materials will need to revise these materials,” read a statement released by the MassDOT. “Old exit signs will remain in place for a minimum of two years, giving businesses time to adjust to the new exit numbers during this transition period.”

Several public meetings and virtual events were held throughout the state over the past year to provide residents with additional information on the project. The MassDOT will continue the renumbering project throughout the winter and spring.

For more information on the new exit numbering system, as well as a list of local highways and exit numbers, visit www.NewMassExits.com.

Dudley resident graduates from University of Wisconsin

MILWAUKEE, Wisc. — Eileen Kane of Dudley was among the 2,050 prospective candidates for degree attending University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee virtual commencement exercises Sunday, Dec. 20 in Milwaukee.

UWM is the second largest university in the State of Wisconsin, with more than 23,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

Kane received a Doctorate in Philosophy.

If it's important to you,

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StonebridgePress.com

My First Christmas in Heaven

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below,
With tiny lights like Heaven's stars reflecting the snow.
The sight is so spectacular- please wipe away the tear,
For I'm spending Christmas with Jesus this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
But the sound of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you the joys their voices bring,
For it's beyond description to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart,
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.

So be happy for me dear ones you know I hold you dear,
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I sent you each a special gift for my heavenly home above,
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.

After all love is a gift more precious than pure gold,
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.

Please love and keep each other
as my Father said to do,
For I can't count the blessing of love
he has for each of you.

So have a Merry Christmas
and wipe away that tear,
Remember I am spending Christmas
with Jesus Christ this year.

Author unknown.

Merry Christmas



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LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO20P1584EA
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE
BY PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR
Estate of:
Anthony Francis Aubertin
Date of Death: 11/06/2019

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Sale of Real Estate has been filed by:
Anthony J. Salvadio, II of Worcester, MA
requesting that court authorize the Public Administrator to sell the decedent's real estate at a private sale.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/05/2021.** This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 03, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 25, 2020

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
WATERWAYS REGULATION
PROGRAM

Notice of License Application
pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 91
Waterways License Application
Number X287118
DOCK
NOTIFICATION DATE:
December 25, 2020

Public notice is hereby given of the application by Patricia Norton-Gatto to maintain an existing dock at 76 Killdeer Road, Webster, MA 01570.
The Department will consider all written comments on this Waterways application received by within 30 days subsequent to the "Notification Date". Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten citizens or more to submit written comments to the Waterways Regulation Program by the Public Comments Deadline will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 310 CMR 9.13(4) (c). The group of citizens must include no less than five citizens who are residents of the municipality in which the proposed project is located.
Additional information regarding this application may be obtained by contacting the Waterways Regulation Program at 617-292-5929. Project plans

and documents for this application are on file with the Waterways Regulation Program for public viewing, by appointment only, at the address below. Written comments must be addressed to: MassDEP's Waterways Regulation Program Boston, One Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108.
December 25, 2020

NOTICE OF
MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 8 Oak Drive, North Oxford (Oxford), MA 01537
By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Raymond P. Wentworth to Fleet National Bank, and now held by U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the CertificateHolders of the Banc of America Funding Corporation, 2008-FT1 Trust, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2008-FT1, said mortgage dated February 24, 2003 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 30655, Page 344, said mortgage was assigned from Bank of America, National Association, successor by merger to Fleet National Bank to U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the CertificateHolders of the Banc of America Funding Corporation 2008-FT1 Trust, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2008-FT1 by assignment dated April 21, 2014 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 52260, Page 354; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on January 20, 2021, at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
THE LAND SITUATED ON THE WESTERLY SIDE OF OAK DRIVE, SO CALLED, IN SAID OXFORD, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWESTERLY CORNER THEREOF AT AN IRON PIN ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF WILFRED BOUTILLETTE, SAID IRON PIN BEING AT THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF GENO CAMOSSE, WHICH IS ALSO THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF LOT #4 AS SHOWN ON PLAN RECORDED IN WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS, PLAN BOOK 163, PLAN 40; THENCE NORTH 74° 21' EAST, BY LAND OF SAID CAMOSSE, FOR A DISTANCE OF TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT AND 8/10 (278.8) FEET TO A STAKE ON THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID OAK DRIVE; THENCE SOUTH 13° 15' EAST BY THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID OAK DRIVE FOR A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED (100) FEET TO A STAKE AT LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF JOHN J. WHITE; THENCE SOUTH 76° 09' WEST BY LAND OF SAID WHITE FOR A DISTANCE OF THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE AND 8/10

(325.8) FEET TO A STAKE ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF LAND OF SAID WILFRED BOUTILLETTE; THENCE NORTH 13° 55' EAST BY LAND OF SAID BOUTILLETTE FOR A DISTANCE OF ONE HUNDRED (100) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING THAT CERTAIN PIECE OF PARCEL OF LAND, AND THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, KNOWN AS 8 OAK DRIVE IN THE TOWN OF N OXFORD COUNTY OF WORCESTER AND STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN A DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 5106 PAGE 148.
The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.
For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated March 4, 1971 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 5106, Page 148.
TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described. FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
1080 Main Street, Suite 200
Pawtucket, RI 02860
Attorney for U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for the CertificateHolders of the Banc of America Funding Corporation, 2008-FT1 Trust, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2008-FT1
Present Holder of the Mortgage
401-217-8701

December 12, 2020
January 1, 2021
January 8, 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. WO20C0372CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Jason Alan Roark

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Jason Alan Roark of Webster MA
requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Jason Alan Arnold Roark

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester

Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/26/2021. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 11, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
December 25, 2020

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. WO20P3460EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Maria Stom
Date of Death: 08/28/2019

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Savannah Dumont of Quinebaug CT requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that Savannah Dumont of Quinebaug CT 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 01/12/2021.** 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: December 08, 2020
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
December 25, 2020



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WEBSTER – 20 Kunkel Ave! **SUNNY SHORES!** First Time Offered! 8 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath Colonial! Featuring an Appliance Eat-in Cabinet Packed Kitchen! Formal Dining Room! 1st Floor Family Room w/Hardwood Floor! 1st Floor Half Bath w/Laundry! Gleaming Hardwood Staircase to the 2nd Floor w/4 Bedrooms! Master w/ Master Bath & Walk-in Closet! Many Recent Updates including Roof, Central Air, Hot Water Heater, Dishwasher & Refrigerator! Back Deck Overlooks Large Paved Yard! 7 Zone Irrigation System! Farmer's Porch! Shed! 2 Car Garage w/Openers! This Home has Everything You Need and Then Some! Expandable Basement! Desirable Neighborhood w/Webster Lake Beach & Boat Ramp Access Nearby! Convenient to Route 395! **\$369,900.00**

CHARLTON – 64 Bond Rd! Gorgeous 2,800' 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Contemporary Ranch set on a Professionally Landscaped 1.49 Acres w/Natural Stone Walls! Quality Craftsmanship Throughout! Featuring a Spacious Granite Kitchen w/Cherry Cabinets & Hardwood Floors! Formal Dining Room! Spacious Family Room w/Cathedral Ceilings, Built-in Bookcases, an Open Flr Plan for All Your Entertaining Needs! Capacious Master Bdrm Suite w/Master Bath & Huge Office! Mostly Finished Walk-out Lower Level Featuring a Large Exercise Rm, Bar Area, Plenty of Storage & 3rd Garage! Unfinished Bonus Rm Over the 2 Car Attached Garage! Private Back Yard for Entertaining w/Multi Level Decks and New Patio! Listed by Another, SOLD by C21 Lake Realty! **\$535,000.00**

WEBSTER – 9 Lake Parkway! **Newly Remodeled** 6 Rm Cape Conveniently Located! 3 Bdrms & 1.5 Baths! New Granite Kit w/SS Appliances, Siding, Gutters, Windows, Ext. Doors, Oil Tank, 1/2 Bath, Plumbing, Electrical, Lighting! Oak Hrdwds! Recent Steam Boiler & Roof! Enclosed Porch! Deck! Garage w/Openers! Private Back Yard! **\$279,900.00**

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

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

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

SHREWSBURY – Waterfront – Flint Pond w/Direct Boating Access to Lake Quinsigamond! The Quiet of Flint, All the Action of Quinsig! Privacy Galore on Sargents Island – 4.27 Acres – 2,000' Waterfront! Beautiful Sunrises & Sunsets! Looking for a Getaway, Principal Residence or Second Home, Winters in Florida, Summers on the Island! Tons of Potential, Do a Little or Do a Lot! 4+ Rm, 1 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath "A" Frame with the Ability to Finish the Walk-out Lower Level, add a Family Rm, Bdrm, Bathroom! Nature Abounds, Visited by Deer, Fox, Eagles & More! In Time for Summer! **\$579,900.00**

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

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

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Featured Property!

OXFORD - 12 WINTER STREET

Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof ~ Updated Electrical ~ New Heating System! 3 Bedrooms, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home in Nice Neighborhood! Dead-End St. w/ only 4 other Properties! Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside -Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character! **\$281,000.**

WOODSTOCK CT - 110 JOY RD

ON DEPOSIT

Quisential Woodstock Farmhouse w/Spectacular views of Pond. Detached Studio Building! 2.5 Acres. Prof. Landscaped. 5 Bedrooms. Fireplaced Dining, library/Music room. Master Bedroom, 2 Full Baths! Renovated Kitchen. Upstairs, 4 Bedrooms w/Full Bath. **New Price \$399,900.**

WEBSTER - 21 3RD STREET UNIT: B

SORRY, SOLD!

Condominium - Living leisurely! 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath (including master suite) home. Freshly painted! Recessed lighting, gas fireplace, and sliding doors, to beautiful balcony. Walkout basement! built-in outdoor grilling spot. Easy access to 1395. **\$224,900**

N. ATTLEBORO - 523 KELLY BLVD.

SORRY, SOLD!

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

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD

ON DEPOSIT

Estate Sale! LOCATION! Scenic Upper Gore Rd! Amazing View of Beautiful Webster Lake! Main level has 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Dining Rm, Common Bathroom, Master Bedroom & Master Bath ~ Fireplaced Living Room! In-door Resistance Swimming Pool, Hot Tub & Bthrm w/Steam Shower off Exercise Rm! Billiard Rm! Media Rm! Center Isl Granite Kit w/Viking Gas Range, Sub-Zero Frig, Pantry & Breakfast Bar! Open Flr Plan! Din Area, Fam Rm w/Entertainment Center w/Wet Bar! Formal Din Rm, Frplc Liv Rm & Atrium! Library w/Deck! Waterfront Master Suite w/Office, Bdrm w/Triple Glass Dr to Private Deck w/Lake Views, 3 Walk-in Closets, Bathroom w/Multi-Head Shower, Whirlpool, Dble Vanity, Separate Commode/Bidet/Sink Area! 16.2% of Updated Geothermal Heat/A/C! Recessed Lights & Fire Sprinklers Through Out! 3 Car Garage! Generator! Slate Roof! Reward Yourself! **\$319,900.**

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

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

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

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

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

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

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

OXFORD - 4 SPICEBUSH LANE

SORRY, SOLD!

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

SOUTHBRIDGE - 14 SERVANT WAY

SORRY, SOLD!

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

OXFORD - 115 CHARLTON ROAD

SORRY, SOLD!

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

WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY

SORRY, SOLD!

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

WEBSTER - 52 CUODWORTH ROAD

SORRY, SOLD!

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

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave

SORRY, SOLD!

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

Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd

SORRY, SOLD!

Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$1,040,000.**

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Gavitt Wire is looking to hire a machinist/millwright.

Person must be trained in running a manual lathe, Bridgeport milling machine, interpret blueprints, and have mechanical ability. You would be responsible for making tools and other machined parts to support production. Monday thru Friday, 7:00am - 3:30pm.

Any questions, please ask for Tom or Ray.
508-867-6476.

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Town of Douglas Meeting Minute Recorder

The Town of Douglas is seeking an individual to provide part-time (30 - 50 hrs/mo) assistance to the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Facilities Construction Committee, Board of Health and the Capital Improvements Committee by recording meeting minutes. Organizational, interpersonal skills, and proficiency in computers is essential. Ability to take shorthand is preferable. Availability to view remotely, online, up to 10 meetings per month is required. Upon demonstrated ability of efficiency, accuracy and reliability the possibility of transcribing some meetings from recordings may be possible. Compensation will be in the range of \$14.56 – \$15.22/hour, depending on qualifications.

Send resume to **Matthew J. Wojcik, Town Administrator, 29 Depot Street, Douglas, MA 01516.** Position will be open until filled.

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Merry Christmas ~ Happy New Year



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Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year from all of us at



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Novembers' Single Family Homes Real Estate Market

	November 2019	November 2020	Trend
OXFORD			
Median Price	\$260,00	\$2,311,250	▲
Market Volume	\$3,747,900	\$6,097,800	▲
# of Homes Sold	14	20	▲
Avg Days on Market	33	29	▼
WEBSTER			
Median Price	\$246,250	\$350,000	▲
Market Volume	\$5,746,900	\$4,055,100	▲
# of Homes Sold	20	11	▼
Avg Days on Market	52	51	▼


Contact us to find more about your neighborhood market & what your home is worth!
Happy Holidays from our family to yours!




Eve Patterson
508-341-4434




Nana Frimpongmaah
508-615-6149




Jeremiah Ochieng-Nyarko
774-253-2082




Ava Fantasia
508-323-8337



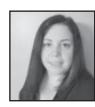
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11 Paglione Dr \$49,900




ON DEPOSIT
Oxford: Split, 3 bdrm, 1.5 Ba, 2 car garage, Family Rm
22 Whiting Rd \$38,900



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