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Friday, August 21, 2020

Booklovers' Gourmet reopens in new home



Deb Horan shows off the new children's section, in the center of the new store's back room.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER – After 25 years in its rather cramped but friendly old home just down the street, Booklovers' Gourmet has new, more spacious and brightly-lit

digs at 72 East Main St. Technically, Deb Horan and a caravan of friends moved everything at the end of March, but the pandemic closed things down for a while afterward. She's been open again for a few

weeks. "It gave me more time and took a level of stress off. I could make sure I wasn't missing anything and set it up as I wanted to," she recalled of that time. Regular customer Bob Crowther of Auburn visits daily and describes the store as "my mental health treat to myself." He and at least a dozen other people helped Horan pack and move countless boxes of books, postcards, jewelry and other objects; paint and organize the new space; lay flooring; provide bookshelves and do many of the other things needed to start in a new place. Horan and Crowther also give a lot of the credit to new landlord Ed Keegan, also a long-time store customer, for making things happen by coordinating work on the various utilities. "It's really good when

your landlord wants you to succeed as much as you do," Horan said. "She has so many supporters, and so many people volunteered their time at critical times," Crowther added. Horan said she always wanted to run a bookstore that's more of a "cultural center" than just a store. While the old location had many of those features – art shows, music, book groups, politics, people just talking over coffee – she said she wants to add a few things to the new space. Among them are a small back room for private readings and similar activities, more space for live music and speakers, expansion of product lines to include more local crafts and jewelry, journals, candles and other items, and will eventually open a couple evenings a week. She also recently started her own



Judy Ferrara points out details of one of the pieces in her July art show "Bibelots."

Turn To **BOOKLOVERS** page **A7**

Nichols receives grant to prepare for remote learning

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – As Nichols College prepares for what promises to be a unique and challenging return to operation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the college has received some financial support to allow it to adjust to remote learning which is expected to be at least partially embraced this fall.

The school recently announced it has received a \$25,000 Presidential Grant for Alternative Academic Delivery from the David Education Foundation which will be used to enhance training in the digital classroom. The college had already been utilizing an education model called HyFlex in its graduation programs allowing students to attend class either in person or remotely. This

approach will now be utilized for undergraduates as well with the grant helping train educators in blending the two models. Heather Richards, an academic instructional designer at Nichols College, designed the modules that will serve as the basis for the instruction. The training will first provide faculty

Turn To **NICHOLS** page **A6**

Dudley Charlton District lays out plan for fall

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – After weeks of deliberation, several meetings and much public input the Dudley Charlton Regional School District has decided to embrace a hybrid learning plan for the new school year. The School Committee voted in a 4-3 decision to support a reentry strategy for students on August 10 which proposes the first two weeks of learning be handled remotely before transitioning to a hybrid format that includes both n-class and online learning. The full plan was made available for parents and citizens on the school district's website following the vote. Remote student learning is expected to begin September 16 and move to a hybrid format on October 1 for PreK

through 4th grade. The remaining grades will move to a hybrid format on Thursday, Oct. 15. Superintendent Steven Lamarche released an email discussing the reentry strategy where he acknowledge that the "decision weighted heavily on the (school) committee" and called it merely a starting point. "Our goal is to get to full in-person learning as soon as we can. The entire process is imperfect, and our work was centered on the health, safety and well-being of staff and students," Lamarche said. The district hosts nearly 4,000 students in seven buildings including the shared Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley. Parents and educators have made their concerns and opinions heard in several forums

over the last few months as a decision approached. According to the plan students will be broken up into cohorts labeled A, B, C, and D with differing scheduled for in-person learning, remote learning, and independent learning. Cohorts A and B will consist of general education students, cohort C will consist of special education students, and cohort D will consist of high-needs special education students. Lamarche estimates about 10% of the student population will make up cohort C while another 5% will be included in cohort D. Wednesday will be a universal independent learning day for all students to learn from home. As the start of school approached, Superintendent Lamarche said the dis-

Turn To **FALL** page **A7**

More chickens coming to Oxford?



Several young chicks seek warmth under a floodlamp.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – Rachel Perez wants to make owning chickens and ducks easier. Although she was not present (and could not be reached for comment after the fact), the last Board of Selectmen's meeting briefly discussed her proposal. In brief, she sought to have them sponsor a Fall Town Meeting article to exempt some chickens and ducks from the requirement to get a special permit. The board reached a consensus, but did not vote, against doing so, recommending Perez try it via the citizen petition route. Currently, the town zoning bylaw does not clearly define what it

means by "agriculture," nor does it specify backyard poultry per se, but states agriculture is a "permitted by right" use in all four residential districts. In the five commercial districts, it's also "permitted by right," but there it clearly states "on parcels of more than five acres." That acreage is designated in state law, where Chapter 40A, Sec. 3 exempts any kind of "commercial agriculture" from zoning if the property is more than five acres or more than two acres and producing at least \$1000 per acre of income per year. It does not, however, specifically prohibit agriculture on smaller parcels, just allows towns to zone for

it. Many aspects of agriculture do have to meet other criteria as well. The concept of backyard chicken rearing has been growing for several years. But it jumped in popularity with the pandemic, which may feel has demonstrated the fragility of the nation's large-scale food-production and transport sectors when supermarkets started seeing bare shelves for various products. In most cases, those disparities have largely been filled since then, but prices are generally higher now for many of them. That sparked a run on several products early in the Covid-19 days, one of them being chicks. According to commentary by Chris Lesley, editor of Chickens and More magazine, recently published in some papers and online at msn.com, "some of the fears COVID-19 has generated — such as the fear of food scarcity or the fear of purchasing contaminated food products — can be eased by owning backyard chickens." By having chickens, he notes, he supplies his own family, but also helps the broader community. "By harvesting eggs from my backyard, I'm helping to make sure that those who cannot produce their own food have access to it in grocery stores."

Turn To **CHICKENS** page **A7**

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Officials tighten restrictions on social gatherings



Gov. Charlie Baker announces new regulations to slow the spread of COVID-19.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION – State officials are tightening regulations and enforcement policies in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19.

On Aug. 11, Gov. Charlie Baker announced a new set of initiatives aimed at curbing a recent statewide uptick in new cases. These include stricter rules for gatherings on both public and private properties.

Baker has expressed frustration in recent weeks over residents ignoring mask and social distancing guidelines at large gatherings. State officials are worried that many residents have become too complacent.

“The notable decline in COVID in Massachusetts, especially in comparison to many other states, has caused some residents to feel a bit too relaxed about the seriousness of this virus,” Baker said. “There have been several reports of big parties, illegal sports camps, and weddings.”

Effective Aug. 11, the limit on attendees at outdoor gatherings was reduced from 100 to 50 people (the indoor gatherings limit will remain at 25 people). These restrictions apply to all types of gatherings, including those on both public and private property.

Additionally, due to the recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases, step two of the Commonwealth’s third phase of reopening has been postponed indefinitely. The Baker Administration hopes to see a renewed statewide commitment toward slowing the spread.

“We have asked a lot from the people of Massachusetts since March. Businesses have been closed for months, and everyone continues to sacrifice to deal with this virus,” Baker said. “But we have to continue working hard to keep this virus out of our communities as we head into the fall.”

The Baker Administration also announced that, starting last week, additional town-by-town data will be published weekly to better illustrate the spread of COVID-19 at the community level.

Also, free COVID-19 testing sites in 17 communities have been extended through Sept. 12. Locations include Agawam, Brockton, Chelsea, Everett, Fall River, Framingham, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Marlborough, Methuen, New Bedford, Randolph, Revere, Springfield, Taunton, and Worcester.

Restaurant rules have also been updated as part of the Governor’s latest guidance. Effective Aug. 11, alcoholic beverages may only be served for on-site consumption if accompanied by orders for food prepared on-site.

State officials will also be stepping up enforcement to ensure compliance.

“The administration will be taking measures to ensure that bars masquerading as restaurants will be closed,” read a statement released by the Baker Administration. “Public safety officials, including state and local law enforcement, have the jurisdiction to enforce these orders. Event hosts in violation of these orders will be subject to fines or cease-and-desist orders.”

In addition to utilizing police resources, the Baker Administration has assembled a COVID Enforcement and Intervention Team that will be responsible for ensuring compliance. Members will receive and review complaints against businesses that aren’t following state regulations.

The COVID Enforcement and Intervention Team includes members of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security; the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency; the State Police; the Department of Labor Standards; the Division of Professional Licensure; the Department of Public Health; and the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC), among several others.

The intervention team will work closely with the ABCC and local licensing boards to identify and fine noncompliant restaurants. The suspension or revocation of liquor licenses is also possible for businesses that do not comply with safety regulations.

For more information about the Governor’s latest regulations, visit www.mass.gov.

Massasoit Art Guild issues call for art

REGION — The Massasoit Art Guild Announces its 17th Annual 2020 Art Show and Sale Oct. 17. This year’s show will be held virtually on the website at www.massasoitartguild.com from Oct. 17 through Jan. 1, 2021. There will be an exciting display of artwork exhibited from members in all categories. New artists of any level are always welcome.

This year’s judge is Nancy Cooke Bunnell, an award winning artist and teacher. Nancy Cooke Bunnell is a professional artist whose is best known for her pastels. NC Bunnell Studio offers existing paintings, pastels and photography as well as t-shirts, prints and commission paintings in her studio and on the web. As a certified art teacher, she teaches throughout the state.

Nancy Cooke Bunnell’s pastels are infused with light, color, and energy. She is an award winning artist and won ‘Best in Show’ at the Connecticut Pastel Society(CPS), 2012, 2nd place in 2011 at CPS and Vernon Art Center in 2013. Her work won first Place at Mansfield Art Show, 2012. and placed honorary mention at the CPS Show, 2013. She won the Great American Art Award at CPS in 2015. Her work can be seen at www.ncbunnellstudio.com.

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Sally Buffum of Dudley receives Fidelity Bank’s Mission Accomplished Award



Sally Buffum

LEOMINSTER — Fidelity Bank Senior Vice President, Business Banking Officer Sally Buffum of Dudley was among those being virtually honored by Fidelity Bank for their contributions during a year that has been unlike any other due to COVID-19. Buffum received the bank’s prestigious Client Facing Mission Accomplished award in recognition of having what bank officials say is the biggest production year ever in the history of the bank, closing more than \$40 million in new loans.

“Sally Buffum lives the LifeDesign culture and provides clarity to her clients so they can move forward with confidence,” says Edward F. Manzi Jr., Fidelity Bank Chairman and CEO. “She puts her heart and her head into her work. Her clients embrace her, and she represents Fidelity Bank so well in the

community.”

Bank officials also cited Buffum for her leadership role in the bank’s response to the COVID-19 crisis by preparing care packages for women at the YWCA in Worcester as well as her work with the March of Dimes.

IT Technician Damian Scott of Leominster received the Mission Accomplished award representing the support departments of the bank. Five staff members were given Role Model Awards. They are Phillis Johnson of Gardner for Continuous Learning and Improvement; Alexandria Morrissey of Hubbardston for Pursuing Excellence; Ridge Markeseines of Winchendon for Maintaining a Positive and Fun Work Environment; Dan Ramos of Baldwinville for Treating Everyone with Care and Respect; and Brittany Robergeof Rutland for Making Sound and Ethical Professional Decisions.

The awards were given out virtually this year due to the pandemic. Fidelity Bank is a community bank headquartered in Leominster with 14 full-service offices in central Massachusetts. The annual awards recognize Fidelity Bank role models who exemplify the bank’s caring culture and LifeDesign approach of providing the clarity needed to help clients make informed decisions and

move forward with confidence.

About Fidelity Bank

Founded in 1888, Fidelity Bank is one of the strongest independent community banks in Central and Eastern Massachusetts. Fidelity Bank’s unique LifeDesign approach to banking provides the care and clarity needed to make informed decisions with confidence. The Bank offers a range of personal and business banking solutions to clients in 14 full-service offices in Leominster, Worcester, Fitchburg, Needham, Gardner, Stow, Shirley, Barre, Millbury, Paxton, Princeton, and Winchendon. The Bank has consistently earned a “5 Star” rating from BauerFinancial, Inc., the nation’s leading independent bank rating and research firm. Fidelity Bank has been voted Worcester Telegram & Gazette Best Bank in Central Massachusetts and Best Financial Services, Best Bank by both Leominster Champion and Baystate Parent, and it has been recognized by the Worcester Business Journal as a Top Workplace. In 2019 Fidelity Bank was named to the Boston Globe’s Top Places to Work list for the fifth time. As of June 30, the bank had total assets of approximately \$1.15 billion. For more information, visit www.fidelitybankonline.com or www.facebook.com/fidelitybankma

WEBSTER TIMES

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

Dudley resident named to Southern Maine Dean’s List

DUDLEY — Brittney Bond of Dudley has been named to the Spring 2020 Dean’s List of the University of Southern Maine. The faculty and staff of the College of Science, Technology and Health congratulate Brittney on her grade point average of 4.0. This level of academic performance places her among the top undergraduate students.

Brittney is the daughter of Tara D’Ambra Bond of Dudley and Joshua and Elaine Bond of Charlton. She is a 2018 graduate of Shepherd Hill High School.

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This section reaches 47,000 households in 7 Massachusetts newspapers.



Photo Courtesy

Gardener's Supply Company Wooden orchard racks maximize storage space, while allowing air to reach each layer of produce.

All your hard work is paying off with a bountiful harvest. Fresh produce is filling your garden, countertops, and refrigerator while the garden keeps producing more. Preserve some of your harvest to enjoy throughout the winter with some tried-and-true or updated variation of food preservation techniques.

Hanging bundles of herbs to dry is a long-time practice that works. Harvest herbs in the morning just after the dew has dried off the leaves. Rinse, allow them to dry, and remove any damaged or dried leaves.

Gather the dry herbs into small bundles and secure with a rubber band. Use a spring-type clothespin to hang the bundles from a clothesline or hanger in a warm, dry, airy place out of direct sunlight.

A modern twist on this tradition is the space-saving Stack!t Herb Drying Rack (gardeners.com) hung from the ceiling. You will be able to dry large quantities of herbs in any narrow, out-of-the-way space.

Preserve your garden produce for delicious winter meals

Extend the life, flavor, and nutritional value of squash with proper harvesting and storage. Only store blemish- and damage-free fruits and vegetables to reduce the risk of mold and decay developing during storage.

Harvest zucchini when the fruit is six to eight inches long and scalloped squash when three to six inches in diameter. Store these in a plastic bag inside the vegetable crisper drawer in your refrigerator for several days.

Wait to harvest winter squash when the fruit is full-sized, and the rinds are firm and glossy. The portion touching the ground turns from cream to orange when the fruit is ripe. Use a pruner to harvest the fruit, leaving a one-inch stem on each fruit. Cure all winter squash, except for acorn, in a warm, humid location. Then move to a cool, dry, well-ventilated area to store for several months. In the past, gardeners stored these, potatoes, onions, and fruit in wooden racks that maximized storage space and allowed air to reach each layer of produce. An updated version, Gardener's Supply Orchard Rack, adds convenient drawers to this traditional storage system.

Boost your cabbage harvest with this trick. Remove firm full-sized heads but leave the lower ring of leaves and roots intact. The plant will form several smaller heads.

Harvest cucumbers based on how you plan to use them. Pick the fruit when it is 1 ½ to 2 ½ inches long if you plan on making sweet pickles. Allow the cucumbers to grow a bit bigger, three to four inches, if dill pickles are on the menu. Harvest those for slicing when the skin is firm, bright green and the fruit is six to nine inches long.

Turn a portion of your harvest into

something delicious. Fermentation is a relatively easy preservation technique used for thousands of years. Preserve some of your cucumbers as pickles, cabbage as sauerkraut, and berries as preserves with fermentation. Store fermented fruits and vegetables in a cool, dark place or extend their shelf life by canning the finished product. For most projects, you just need the fruit or vegetables, water, salt, and spices. The desired ingredients are placed in a covered vessel, like Gardener's Supply three-gallon Fermentation Crock. Weights are used to keep the fruit and vegetables submerged in water throughout the fermentation process.

If your garden is still producing when frost is in the forecast, extend the harvest season. Cold frames and cloches are tried-and-true techniques used for extending the growing season. A

modern method employs floating row covers. These spun fabrics allow air, light, and water through while protecting plants from frosty conditions. Cover the plantings and anchor the fabric in place. Lift to harvest and enjoy several more weeks and even months of garden-fresh produce.

Select the storage and preservation methods that work best for your garden produce, growing location, and lifestyle. Once you enjoy home-grown produce in winter meals, you will start growing more produce to eat fresh, share and preserve.

Melinda Myers is the author of numerous gardening books, including Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio segments. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Gardener's Supply for her expertise to write this article. Her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

NICHOLS

continued from page A1

a look into the student experience and also learn how to increase their own social presence in the process.

"At Nichols, we are used to face to face. Our faculty are 'present,' very engaged, and the students love them," Richards said in a press release. "The modality of the digital realm is more challenging in terms of connectedness. It takes effort and intention on the part of the faculty. Students need to see them as real people."

The training is designed to provide educators with tools and techniques to synchronize their teaching methods to accommodate both in-person and online learners. After learning the student perspective and how to expand their social presence participants will then partake in a series of one-hour courses led by

members of the faculty based on individual interests and feedback from the first lessons covering such topics as assessments, project-based courses and adapting to the new learning environment.

"This grant, as well as the others Nichols has received from the Davis Educational Foundation, will decidedly enhance teaching and the professional development of our students," said Mauri Pelto Ph.D., the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Nichols College. "In particular, it will advance the strides we have already made in alternate academic delivery with our graduate programs and allow us to expand and invigorate our HyFlex model for undergraduate students."

Nichols plans to package and publish the sessions once the training is complete.



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BOOKLOVERS

continued from page A1

YouTube channel for store events.

“It’s a lot more feasible to do [those things] here than in the old space,” she noted. “... I kept feeling more and more cramped [there]. It was time, even though it was hard to make the final decision to move after 25 years.”

For now, though, Horan said she’s “not really planning that far ahead for any big events” because of the pandemic. She’s just glad to be seeing “people I haven’t seen in a while.”

The new space makes it a lot easier to see everything. Not only is it bigger, the wide expanse of glass along the western wall and much of the northern one lets afternoon sunlight in. While Horan noted that has already proven to be very warm in summer – making her glad she added some blinds – it’ll be particularly welcome in winter.

“This place has been an absolute oasis,” Crowther said. “I just enjoy the community who come in here. It’s a very conge-

nial environment.”

At the time, he was sitting and talking to another pretty regular customer, Joan Bernard of Thompson.

“I love supporting her and think it’s great she reaches out,” Bernard said. “Leave it to Deb to do this in the middle of a pandemic and make it work. ... [During the shutdown,] many people were placing web orders and told her she wouldn’t make it. She defies all the negative projections.”

Judy Ferrara of New York said she’s “awestruck by it.” She’s July’s artist, and has been involved in several group shows at the old Booklovers’ Gourmet.

This month, she’s displaying 31 small, square box-like pieces she’s collectively calling “Bibelots,” a French word she said means “small objects, curiosity, beauty and rarity.” They feature “intense patterns” in black and white laden with MC Escher-inspired imagery that reflect what she’s been affected by in the world. She picked out two specifically – one entitled “immigration” and the other “Josephine Baker Makes and Appearance.” The former’s her

look at the immigration issue; the latter’s an abstract visual biography of the only woman to speak at Martin Luther King’s famous “I Have a Dream” rally.

Ferrara said her goal is to “invite viewers to come in close to examien the patterns.” It’s her “fourth version of working in this material,” a process that began in 2009 when she took an afternoon workshop on “zentangle drawing.”

“I didn’t know it’d ultimately change my art for the next 11 years,” she added.

“This is a great venue because we make art. We do it because we love it, and we love it when it can be seen,” she said. “...I don’t know if people understand what it takes to put up a new show every month. It’s a very complicated job on top of all your other jobs.”

Horan said having art shows was one of the things she “really wanted to continue.”

“I feel like I’m at home in this space,” she added. “I like spending time here. It’s a change, but it’s a good change.”

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



Above: Deb Horan cashes out a customer. As anyone who'd been to the old store can see, there's a lot more space to move around.



At right Even the sign is new at the new Booklovers' Gourmet location.

CHICKENS

continued from page A1

Even AARP Magazine online reported on the trend early last month, noting that some firms will rent chickens and coops, some of them shipping across the country. They advise three things before joining the flock of owners: Check local bylaws, talk to your neighbors, and do some homework on chickens themselves.

“Make sure to consider your overall budget and what your lifestyle

looks like both pre- and post-pandemic,” the site states.

In our area, bylaws vary somewhat regarding how much space, what kind of housing, and other features backyard chickens must have. But most of them prohibit roosters (due to noise).

That’s not a problem for personal food supply. Unlike many species, chicken hens routinely lay eggs without fertilization. Most breeds lay pretty close to daily when mature, although production can be affected by weather, usually

slows down as the bird ages and during winter, and won’t begin for several months while they’re growing. Most hens also have periods where they go “broody” (some breeds much more often than others); during such times, they don’t lay much, but want to sit on eggs. That’s ideal if you can get fertilized eggs, but there’s no way to tell if a chick will be male or female until well after hatching.

Town Manager Jen Callahan said the town had not yet seen any language for such a change.

Chair Dennis Lamarche said he didn’t favor such a change, arguing the special permit process is there to protect neighbors. But if Perez takes the petition route, he said, “then we’re leaving it up to the people.”

Other selectmen generally agreed or wanted more information. John Saad said he saw the idea of “changing the special permit process” as being different from “deviat[ing] from what we already have.” He said he feels the latter is “a mistake” and Oxford needs

“rigid laws” to address such issues.

“There’s a big deal about people wanting chickens in their backyard ... but it can get out

of hand,” he said.

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

FALL

continued from page A1

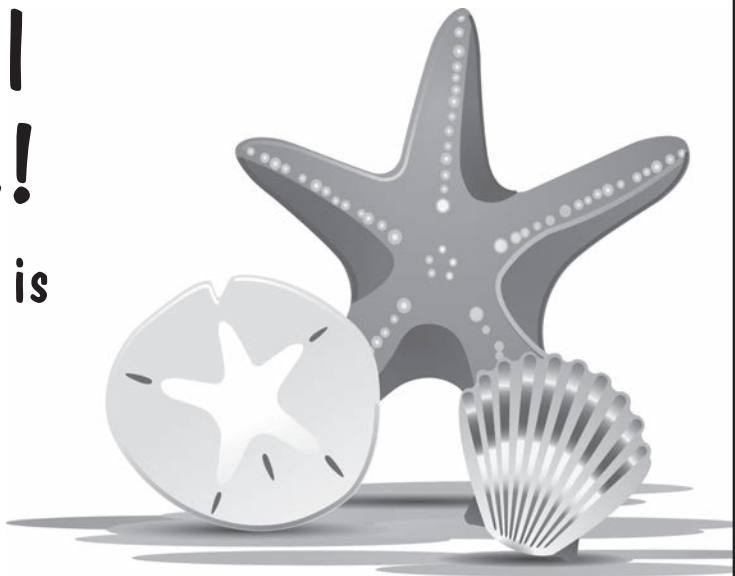
trict remains diligent and continues to work towards a safe reentry for students during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“With our established reentry strategy much work needs to be done. Our principals are continuing the heavy lifting this week and then will begin all forms of family communication,” said Lamarche. “We continue to appreciate your patience.”

The full copy of the 28-page reentry plan can be accessed on the Dudley Charlton Regional School District Web site.

Welcome to our 2nd Annual ABC's of Summer Scramble!

The Winner of a random drawing of all entries is
Julie Caron of West Brookfield
Thank you to all who entered our Scramble Contest
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Hope you will join us again in the Fall!



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A change of opinion signals growth

As the world turns, so do people’s opinions — even moreso now that it’s an election year. Further, there has been so much civil unrest currently, in addition to the fact that we are all living through a global pandemic. We are all constantly being bombarded with opinions. You see them on social media, the radio, television, newspapers, and even on signs in people’s yards.

As overwhelming, and sometimes unsettling, as this can be, it is actually quite healthy to have and share your opinions. Some individuals have no issue sharing their opinions, while others tend to shy away. Perhaps the latter is on to something but we digress. As we write this, and as you read it, somewhere, two people are in the midst of a debate.

When we share opinions, it’s a sign that we are yearning to be more educated and more knowledgeable about the world we live in. The problem arises when a person will insult, lie and attack to turn their opinion into truth. It’s important during a debate or heated discussion to remain open minded, as hard as that can be at times. When harsh words are exchanged, they are here for good.

There’s also a difference between facts and opinions. When an uninformed person tosses out talking points with misinformation, the point of the conversation goes right out the window. Likewise, both facts and opinions can and do change. Sometimes a person will have a light bulb moment that changes everything they thought they once knew, leading to a change in their mindset. A researcher can find new discoveries, which can alter something that prior, was fact.

A person’s viewpoint on something can change over the course of their lifetime. Growth happens every day with all of us. What we once thought when we were 17, could be and is likely vastly different than how we think at 50.

With that said, it’s also important to not hold an individual to past statements or actions that may have been troubling. When we hold people accountable to things they did and said in the distant past, they are less likely to share their opinions, and that would be a bad thing.

Opinions are important to share, but that doesn’t mean they are right. Backing up an opinion with facts is crucial and responsible. We can all agree that when it comes to personal choices that don’t hurt anyone else, other’s opinions are irrelevant.

We must also remember that as individuals, our life experiences have brought us each to a unique place, unlike anyone else we encounter, therefore nothing is ever cut and dry. We are seeing this too much in today’s politics. Instead of looking at things issue by issue, people are automatically jumping behind one party and calling it a day. The fact remains that we are living in a complicated world, and our thoughts are naturally all over the place, and that’s a good thing. Rejecting labels is refreshing.

As we grow our opinions evolve and shape who we are. So while we all have opinions, (on more than just politics) it’s important to be flexible with them. Changing how we think does not make us weak, it’s a sign of maturity and intelligence.

VIEWPOINT

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you, United Way

To the Editor:
The St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to express their sincere Thanks to the United Way of South Central Massachusetts for their generous grant, which will assist in providing emergency fuel to the disadvantaged of Webster and Dudley. It is our hope that with these funds we will reach more families who have been directly affected by the virus to overcome hardships due to

illness or unemployment. The United Way’s generous support allows SVdP to continue God’s work in helping those less fortunate than ourselves.
Sincerely

MERIBETH BROMAGE
PRESIDENT
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL OF SACRED
HEART PARISH

Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Library say thank you to the Janet Masler Trusts

To the Editor:
On behalf of all of the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Library, Inc. I would like to thank the Janet Masler Humanities Trust for awarding our organization two grants.

The first grant will be used to fund musician fees for free concerts open to the public that are held at the library. The spring and fall concert series have become very popular with several performances being standing room only. The concerts provide a broad mix of music from traditional Celtic Folk and Halloween themed music to a holiday community sing along for families. During the pandemic the library has had to suspend this offering to the community, but hope to begin concerts again in 2021.

The second grant will be used to improve concert lighting and to create a defined performance space for the musicians. With the success of the concert program a need was created to make the community room more conducive to live music. The improvements will allow the audience to have better viewing opportunities of the musicians as well as to enjoy the music.

The Janet Masler Humanities Trust generous support will allow the Friends to continue to offer these new and improved concerts free of charge to the public to be enjoyed by all, young and old. We are very grateful.

PATRICIA NECTOW
TREASURER
FRIENDS OF THE GLADYS E. KELLY
LIBRARY, INC.
WEBSTER

Today you will be with me in paradise

The first person to enter paradise – who was he? The Virgin Mary? Saint Paul or Saint Peter? One of the other great saints of history? Who was the first person to enter into paradise?

Imagine, it was a criminal! Someone being crucified next to Christ, who admitted that he was getting what he deserved. We don’t know his crime. We don’t know much about the man. But we do know that in his last moments of life, this criminal turned to Jesus and after admitting that he was guilty for his crime, he asks in humility and repentance, “Lord, remember me in your kingdom.” And Jesus responded without hesitation, “Today you will be with me in paradise.”

Think about this outrageous response to a criminal. Someone is being punished to death for a crime they admit doing, and yet, Jesus still accepts this person, in his last moment of life, and opens up the gates of paradise for him.

What would we think of that, if we knew someone on death row today being punished for a crime that the law say deserved death, and then we have Jesus saying to them, “Today you will be with me in paradise.”

I don’t think there can be a greater example of the extreme and excessive love and mercy of God! This is who God is. Throughout the Old Testament we hear the description that “God is compassionate and gracious; slow to anger and abundant in loving mercy.”

Saint Paul says it in different words, “God desires everyone to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Tim 2:4)

Saint John the Evangelist put it this way, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but will have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order for the world to be saved through him.” (John 3:16-17)

And the Apostle Paul goes on to explain, “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us... when we were enemies God reconciled us through the death of His Son.” (Romans 5:8,10)

Here we focus on the most fundamental characteristics that describe God - His unconditional love and boundless mercy, for all people, including even those whom the world says deserve imprisonment and death.

Too often, we in the world focus on punishment, on retribution, on what we consider justice. In fact, we put justice far above mercy and love. Maybe that’s why we in the United States now have the largest prison population in the world. We have gone from incarcerating 300,000 people in 1970 to almost 2.3 million of our own citizens today. Imagine, China has four times our population, and yet we incarcerate 600,000 more people than they do. In fact, we have almost the equivalent number of prisoners than the next two highest countries, China and Russia combined.

BEYOND THE PEWS

.....

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

There are so many shocking statistics when it comes to our prison system. Can you believe that more than half a million people sit in county jails without having been convicted of a crime. They’ve been arrested, but simply can’t pay bail as they wait for their trial.

The median average bail is \$10,000, so these men and women just can sit in prison for months, waiting their trial. Their families left helpless, waiting for their parent to come out and go to trial. Can you believe that half million people are incarcerated for non-violent drug offenses. They may have problems with addiction, but prisons are not the place to help drug addicts find healing. And here’s one more stat - It’s simply shocking to think that one in every 50 Americans is under some type of control by the Correction Industry. One out of 50!

We are a society that wants to be tough on crime, and we want to punish those we think deserve it, yet, putting so many people into prison negatively impacts not only the prisoners themselves for the rest of their lives, and this surely includes some who haven’t even committed crimes, but also it severely impacts the lives of the children and families of prisoners. Prison and judicial reform, and a new understanding on punishment, rehabilitation, and restoration are desperately needed in our country.

We should remember our Lord’s words at the Last Judgment, “I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me... Whatever you did to the least of my brothers and sisters, you did to me.”

Archbishop Mark of the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministries said, “In prison, the simple acts of kindness are magnified: writing a letter to someone in prison, offering a Bible Study in the local jail, making the wife or family member of a prisoner feel welcome in church. These are the acts of proactive mercy our Lord calls us to.”

I remember when I went into a prison in Framingham every Monday night for three years, leading a Bible Study to a small group of anywhere from three to 10 men. These prisoners were in for all kinds of crimes. One was serving a life sentence without parole. Another ended up serving 25 years before getting out. Others served much shorter times. What I learned during my visits there was that even though these men committed terrible crimes, they were still children of God. The divine image in which they were created may have been hidden, it may have become distorted, it may have been covered up by either the hurt and abuse that they themselves received sometime in their lives, or by the violence and crimes they themselves committed on others,

Turn To **BEYOND** page **A9**

Are radar detectors legal?



CHIEF’S CORNER

STEVE WOJNAR

The question of radar detectors was brought up to me recently. These are devices used to detect transmissions from a radar unit used by police to check the speed of vehicles. The question was, are these devices illegal to use in Massachusetts? Radar detectors are still legal in Massachusetts.

There are some states where their use is prohibited. Other places restrict the placement of these devices, for example, they cannot be mounted on the windshield. Some states ban them for commercial vehicles and federal law prohibits their use in many places, such as military bases. If you have one of these devices, and plan to travel out of state, it is important to check the locations where you will be going. These detectors are not fool proof and may work only when the police “radar gun” is activated. The radar units used by police can be left on or may be operated on demand. In the case of the latter, the radar detector may sound only briefly.

These units could be a distraction for drivers, and they cannot be placed in any area which obstructs the clear view of the road. The rules for locating these devices are the same as GPS Units, cell phone mounts, ornaments, and other objects. They must not be in a location that interferes with the safe operation of a vehicle. Impeded operation falls under MGL Chapter 90 Section 13 and a violation can carries a civil fine.

The most important thing to remember is to watch your speed. If you use a radar detector, do not treat it as an open invitation to violate the law. Drivers are always encouraged to take extra time to travel to their destination, drive at safe speeds, minimize distractions, and exercise caution. The goal is to prevent accidents and injuries.

In addition to the Coronavirus Pandemic, there is a great deal of turmoil taking place in our state and around the country. We continue to serve the people of Dudley and work with the community to improve the quality of life for everyone. With so much discussion around police reform taking place, there are several documents posted on our Facebook page which can serve as a source of information for people. I continue to thank the men and women from my department for their continued dedicated service to the Town of Dudley during these trying times. Thanks also go out to the many Police Officers, Fire and Emergency Services members, public works, government and all other “essential” personnel for their continued hard work and service. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

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

Dudley police log

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 7-14.

Christopher Sean Walsh, age 23, of Holland was arrested on Aug. 8 for driving with No Inspection Sticker, Failure to Stop for Police, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Speeding in Violation of a Special Regulation, Failure to Stop or Yield, Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Kasandra Morales, age 25, of Southbridge was arrested on Aug. 9 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Edward R. Beaudoin, age 45, of Dudley was arrested on Aug. 9 in connection with multiple warrants.

Devin Paul Dejesus, Jr., age 23, of Charlton was arrested on Aug. 12 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

DON'T MISS A BEAT

CHECK OUT THE SPORTS ACTION!



Saltwater fishing opportunities



THE GREAT
OUTDOORS

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Fly fishermen are ready to enjoy some great fishing on saltwater in the coming weeks. Bonito and False Albacore migrate to numerous saltwater bays and estuaries in both Massachusetts & Rhode Island during the month of August. They provide the angler with some great exciting fly fishing, and they are edible table fare, although many anglers release their catch because of the somewhat strong taste of the fish.

They travel in somewhat large schools, and are often spotted by their constant feeding habits on or near the surface of the water, similar to bluefish. They also are caught on small lures and plastic baits ,and provide a lot of

fun catching them on light spin cast rods. It can become a bit crazy on the water, as anglers chase after the schools of bonito and false albacore with their boats, trying to stay with a school of active feeding fish.

Many of the fly-fishing public take their fishing seriously and become quite agitated with “GOGANS” (weekend warriors) as they plow through an actively feeding school of fish with their boats, driving the fish away from the area. I find it best just to sit and wait for a school of bonito to resurface and start feeding right around the boat. The areas around Galilee RI provide a lot of action every year for this hard fighting fish.

Fluke and seabass fishing around Carpenters Beach area to the Charlestown Breachway area is best during a high tide. The outgoing tide seem to provide the best action. Fishing for seabass around the “Hooter”

is also providing some great seabass fishing. The seabass limit in Rhode Island increases to six fish on Sept. 1. Hopefully, no major storms like tropical depressions will be heading up our coastline in the coming weeks. It sure can negatively impact the fishing for a week or more

Massachusetts has decided to extend their seabass season for anglers fishing on charter boats only? The season was slated to end on Sept. 9, but because of the Covid-19 pandemic, their season was started late, and will now be extended to Oct. 9 of this year. “The extra days should result in the same harvest ,if they had started the season on time,” the report stated.

The extra 31 days will not include anglers fishing from shore or in there privately owned vessel, which will end on September 8 of this year. “Because black Seabass catch rates are at their peak in the spring when the fish are near shore,

aggregated, and aggressively feeding and interest in the fishery, it is at its highest,” the report stated.

Donotforgettogoonline at “MASSFISHHUNT” and check out the status of your antlerless deer permit application. It is quick and easy!

Local bass anglers are enjoying some great freshwater fishing ,with numerous largemouth bass being caught almost every week. Releasing the fish to fight another day is extremely important and will provide another angler with the thrill of catching it again. Many anglers are taking the opportunity of entering the fish into the MF&W freshwater fishing awards program. The catch and release program only require you to submit a photo of the fish, along with some other simple requirements necessary to win a pin. Check it out on page 13 of your 2020 hunting and fishing abstracts.

Joe Gareri recently



took a trip to Maine to do a little freshwater bass fishing, and was rewarded with a five pound, 11 ounce largemouth bass, as shown in this week’s picture.Nice fish!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

How can you prepare for the “New Retirement?”

A generation or so ago, people didn’t just retire from work – many of them also withdrew from a whole range of social and communal activities. But now, it’s different: The large Baby Boom cohort, and no doubt future ones, are insisting on an active lifestyle and continued involvement in their communities and world. So, what should you know about this “new retirement?” And how can you prepare for it?

For starters, consider what it means to be a retiree today. The 2020 Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study has identified these four interrelated, key ingredients, along with the connected statistics, for



FINANCIAL
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ANTONOPOULOS

living well in the new retirement:

Health – While physical health may decline with age, emotional intelligence – the ability to use emotions in positive ways – actually improves, according to a well-known study from the University of California, among others. However, not surprisingly, retirees fear Alzheimer’s and other types of dementia more than any physical ailment, including cancer or infectious diseases, according to the “Four

Pillars” study.

Family – Retirees get their greatest emotional nourishment from family relationships – and they’ll do anything it takes to help support those family members, even if it means sacrificing their own financial security.

Conversely, retirees lacking close connections with family and friends are at risk for all the negative consequences resulting from physical and social isolation.

Purpose – Nearly 90 percent of Americans feel that there should be more ways for retirees to use their talents and knowledge for the benefit of their communities and society at large. Retirees want to spend their time in useful, rewarding ways – and they’re well

capable of doing so, given their decades of life experience. Retirees with a strong sense of purpose have happier, healthier lives and report a higher quality of life.

Finances – Retirees are less interested in accumulating more wealth than they are in having sufficient resources to achieve the freedom to live their lives as they choose. Yet, retirees frequently find that managing money in retirement can be even more challenging than saving for it. And the “unknowns” can be scary: Almost 70 percent of those who plan to retire in the next 10 years say they have no idea what their healthcare and long-term care costs will be in retirement.

So, if you’re getting close to retirement, and

you’re considering these factors, how can you best integrate them into a fulfilling, meaningful way of life? You’ll want to take a “holistic” approach by asking yourself some key questions: What do you want to be able to do with your time and money? Are you building the resources necessary to enjoy the lifestyle you’ve envisioned? Are you prepared for the increasing costs of health care as you age? Have you taken the steps to maintain your financial independence, and avoid burdening your family, in case you need some type of long-term care? Have you created the estate plans necessary to leave the type of legacy you desire?

By addressing these and other issues, possibly with the help of a financial professional, you can

set yourself on the path toward the type of retirement that’s not really a retirement at all – but rather a new, invigorating chapter of your life.

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. Edward Jones Member SPIC

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BEYOND

continued from page A8

but still there was something good within them. In fact, I discovered and witnessed true beauty.

Metropolitan Anthony Bloom described it this way, “Every one of us is in the image of God, and every one of us is like a damaged icon. But if we were given an icon damaged by time, damaged by circumstances, or desecrated by human hatred, we would treat the icon with reverence, with tenderness, with broken-heartedness. We would not pay attention primarily to the fact that it is damaged, but to the tragedy of its being damaged. We would concentrate on what is left of its beauty, and not on what is lost of its beauty. And this is what we must learn to do with regard to each person as an individual, and this is not always easy. We must learn to look and look until we have seen the underlying beauty in others. Only then can we call out all the beauty that is there.”

We have a God of unconditional love. We have a God of boundless mercy. And with God’s love and mercy, there is always hope for everyone, hope to restore a damaged, distorted icon back to its original beauty, hope even for the most hardened criminal.

Never forget who the first person was who entered paradise. He was a criminal, being punished by death for the crimes he admitted. And yet, Jesus saw his inner beauty, and when the man asked, “Lord, remember me in your kingdom,” Christ gladly responded, “Today, you will be with me in paradise.”

Bay Path to embrace hybrid model for fall

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON – Like countless school across the country, Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School has been working hard to establish a plan for students’ return this fall that takes into consideration the safety and health of students and staff while also working to maintain an effective educational experience.

Superintendent-Director Kyle Brenner released details about the reopening plan on Aug. 14 along with a nearly 90-page document detailing the plan in full. Like many school Brenner said that Bay Path had considered several different options including a full return to classrooms, an online only option and a hybrid model combining the two. The school has decided the hybrid model will be their approach keeping in line with many educational institutions throughout the state.

“The administration recommended and the com-

mittee unanimously agreed that this plan provides us with the opportunity to provide students with a safe environment while traveling on our busses and while here at school due to the decreased numbers and the resulting ability for the implementation of plans and procedures that accommodate critical social distancing requirements. This plan will also increase the productivity of students as regular attendance at classes here at school will better hold them accountable for their work and better accommodate the needed application of theory and practice or ‘hands-on’ instruction in the vocational area,” Brenner said in a press release.

The hybrid plan will have half of the student body learning remotely during parts of the week while the other half learn in the classroom on any given day. The plan also includes a remote learning option with no in-person component in order to accommodate students not yet ready to return to in-person learning. This format will also be embraced for all students in the event of a surge in COVID-19 cases.

Bay Path’s new school year will start later than normal on Sept. 14. Teachers will report at the end of August to begin preparations to accept students. Full details of Bay Path’s hybrid model reopening plan can be found on the school’s Web site, www.baypath.net.

LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by S.H. Auto Repair LLC., 120 Schofield Ave, Dudley MA 01571 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39 A that on September 4, 2020 @ 5 PM at: S.H. Auto Repair, LLC 120 Schofield Ave Dudley, MA 01571 The following motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles: Description of vehicles: Vehicle: VIN # KMHDH4AE-5DU656507; 2013 Hyundai Elantra, REG # 1JAA61 Owner: Biadasz Jeffrey T, 9 Elm Street, Apt # 1R, Webster MA 01570 This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39 A August 14, 2020 August 21, 2020 August 28, 2020

Department of Environmental Protection Waterways Regulation Program

Notice of License Application pursuant to M. G. L. Chapter 91 Waterways License Application Number: X286552 Maintain an existing pre-1984 dock in Webster Lake, Webster MA NOTIFICATION DATE: August 21st, 2020 Public notice is hereby given of the application by Jackie Lloyd to maintain an existing dock at 22 Black Point Road, Webster MA 01570, Worcester County. 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 of 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’s Central Regional Office located at 8 New Bond Street, Worcester MA 01606. August 21, 2020

Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle under G.L. c, 2551 Section 39A Notice is hereby given by: School St

Towing 17-31 School St., Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.c. 255, Section 39A, that on 22 Aug 2020 at 9AM the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle. Vehicle description: Year: 2006 Make: Toyota Model: Matrix Registration#/State: Unregistered Vin: 2T1KR32E36C586880 Name and address of vehicle owner: Jesse W Burdwood, 19 Robin Hood Drive Unit 2 Nottingham, NH 83290 by: Frank A Czechowski Dated: 3 August, 2020 This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L.c. 255, Section 39A. August 7, 2020 August 14, 2020 August 21, 2020

OBITUARIES

Ruth Evelyn Young, 78



WEBSTER – Ruth Evelyn (MacDonald) Young, 78, of Vine Street, died peacefully on Sunday, August 16, 2020, in her home surrounded by her family. She was predeceased by her husband of 44 years, John “Jack” A. Young who died in 2010; and her brother, Gerard O. MacDonald. She is survived by three daughters, Lorrie E. (Young) MacDonald of Shrewsbury, Allison M. (Young) Wendt and her husband Tim of Oxford, and Christen R. Young and her partner Troy Arpin of Woodstock, CT; her brother, Roger A. MacDonald of Tennessee; eleven grandchildren, D.J., Brittany, Charlie, Camden MacDonald, Matthew and Michael Moran, Andrew and Emma Wendt, Caitlin, Jack, and Lauren Young; three great-grandchildren, Peyton and Charleigh Moran, and Benjamin O’Donnell; two nephews, Charles and Gerard MacDonald; two nieces, Diane Wright and Kathy MacDonald; and her beloved dog, Diego. She was born in Newton, daughter of the late Charles and Evelyn (Duff) MacDonald, and lived in Newton, Hopkinton, and Holliston, before moving to Webster in 2002. She graduated from Newton High School in 1960 and attended Franklin College in Indiana.

Mrs. Young was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Newton. She worked in the accounting department at Filenes Basement in Newton, and at Walgreens for several years. She spent most of her life as a homemaker caring for her home and family. She was a member of the Palestine Chapter No. 114 Order of the Eastern Star in Newton. Mrs. Young enjoyed her time spent with the International Order of Rainbow for Girls Newton Assembly #60. Ruth was also a Majority Girl along with her three daughters and granddaughter. She was a past advisory board member of Hopkinton Assembly #108. She was an avid Red Sox fan and enjoyed puzzles and ice cream. She was a dedicated daughter, mother, grandmother, and aunt who was very involved with her grandchildren as they were growing up and enjoyed attending their school and sporting events. A funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2020, at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. Burial followed at Mount Zion Cemetery in Webster. A calling hour was held from 10-11 a.m. on Wednesday prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, P.O. Box 849168, Boston, MA 02284. paradisfuneralhome.com

Josephine M. “Jo Jo” Davis, 87



THOMPSON - Josephine M. “Jo Jo” (DeNardis) Davis, 87, passed away peacefully on Friday, August 7, 2020 in Day Kimball Hospital, Putnam, after a period of declining health. Her husband of 60 years, Harold F. Davis, Sr., died in 2013. She leaves 5 children, Harold F. “Buster” Davis, Jr. and his companion Laurie Bowman of Webster, MA, Josephine M. LaFlamme and her companion Bob Banks of Willington, CT, Thomas B. Davis and his companion Andrea Bach of Thompson, Elizabeth A. Beaudry and her husband Richard of Albuquerque, NM, and Kathleen G. Mayotte and her husband Jeffrey of Thompson; a sister, Mary Aldrich of Webster, MA; 10 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, cousins, and many dear friends. She was preceded in death by her daughter Norma J. Defilippo, her granddaughter, Jennifer A. Lehrer, her sisters Anna Tracey, Christina DeNardis, and Santina “Bella” Siekierski, and by her brother Thomas DeNardis. She was born in Webster on July 7, 1933, daughter of Thomas and Angela (Esposito) DeNardis and was raised on High Street in Webster and Brandon Road in Dudley. She graduated from Bartlett High School in Webster in 1951, where she played on the girls’ basketball team. She moved to Thompson in 1954, shortly after marrying Harold. Mrs. Davis first worked as a clerk at the former Godzik’s Market in Thompson and then at Bates Shoe Company in Webster. Jo Jo helped establish the Ladies Auxiliary for the East Thompson Volunteer Fire

Department and worked with other members to raise funds for the department and to ensure the firefighters were taken care of when responding to alarms. For many years, she was a salesperson for Stanley Home Products and after that she worked in the children’s department at Walmart in Putnam for several years, retiring in 2012. She enjoyed watching the children grow over the years as many of them came back to the store to say hi to the lady who hugged them and gave them coins for the vending machines when they were little. Jo Jo had such a beautiful and outgoing personality evidenced by the life-long friends she made over the years. She enjoyed playing the organ (and played it well – the accordion too!), crocheting doilies for family and friends, playing cards, bingo and visiting the casino. She also enjoyed watching the wildlife in her yard, especially the deer, birds, and her cats. Most of all, she enjoyed cooking and feeding her family. She was the epitome of the Italian mother/grandmother – you couldn’t visit without being fed, and fed well. Ask any family member or friend, and they’ll tell you she was a great cook and made THE best gravy and meatballs in the world! She was loved and will be missed by so many. A graveside service will be held in Westfield Cemetery, Danielson, at the convenience of the family. To respect Jo Jo’s wishes, there are no calling hours. Donations in her name may be made to The East Thompson Fire Department, East Thompson Road, Thompson, CT 06277 or a Veterans charity of your choice. Arrangements are under the direction of Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main St., Webster, MA. www.scanlonfs.com

Anthony J. “Jimmy” Jakubowski, 95



D U D L E Y - Anthony J. “Jimmy” Jakubowski, age 95, passed away Sunday, August 16, 2020 at his home. Jimmy is survived by his wife of forty five years Barbara (Clarke) Jakubowski; two sons: Michael Jakubowski of Kennebunk, ME and John Jakubowski of Dudley; two daughters: Ruth Oleksiak of Crystal River, FL and Jeanne Jakubowski of Webster; two step sons: Keith Sarano of Natick and Jay Sarano of Dudley; one stepdaughter: Dina Mallozzi of Cranston, RI; he also leaves a sister, Mary Brouillette of Dudley; eleven grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews; he was predeceased by a son James Jakubowski of Hernando, FL who passed away just a day before Jimmy on August 15, 2020; two brothers, Edward Kaczmarek and Hank Kaczmarek both of Dudley; four sisters: Magdalen Gromelski of Webster, Helen Ryznal of Webster, Irene Kroll of Milford, and Wanda Jarosz of North Grosvenordale, CT. Jimmy was born in Dudley, MA on June 15, 1925 son of the late Michael and Helen (Lazarowski) Jakubowski.

Jimmy lived in Dudley all his life; he served honorably in WWII as a member of the U.S. Navy; he also served the town of Dudley as a police officer for twenty-six years during which time he served as the interim chief of police, retiring from the force in 1975. Prior to joining the Dudley Police Department, Jimmy worked as a sales Representative for Deary Brothers Dairy of Dudley. Jimmy will be fondly remembered for his ability to tell a good story and his witty sense of humor; he was a longtime member of the Dudley PNA and the Sampson Naval Veteran’s Association. There will be no calling hours and services are private. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a memorial contribution to the Webster-Dudley Veteran’s Council, 4 Veterans Way Webster, MA 01570. The Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street Webster, MA is honored to have been entrusted with Jimmy’s funeral arrangements. A guest book is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may offer condolences or light a candle in remembrance of Jimmy.



Gayle Ann Gaboury, 64

Gayle Ann Gaboury, 64, of Putnam, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on August 9, 2020, at Day Kimball Hospital in Putnam. She was born April 23, 1956, in Webster, Massachusetts, daughter of the late Russell H. Sivret and Bernice L. (Raymond) Sivret. Gayle grew up on Webster Lake and then lived in Putnam, Connecticut for the past 20 years. She worked as a machinist for most of

her life. She loved crossword puzzles, Sudoku, and watching Jeopardy! She is survived by her brother, Kenneth Sivret, her daughter, Tracy Allen and husband Shawn Allen, and her three granddaughters, Lilly Allen, Olivia Allen, and Evelyn Allen. A private memorial service will be held at a later date. Funeral arrangements are with Tillinghast Funeral Home, 433 Main Street, Danielson, Connecticut.

Raymond Paul Stelmach, 85



Raymond Paul Stelmach, age 85, of Dudley died Saturday, August 8, 2020 at UMMC-University Campus, Worcester after a long illness. Raymond was born August 17, 1934 in Webster, MA, the son of the late Sylvester and Florence (Gerardin) Stelmach. He is survived by his former wife Marie Jeanne (Fournier) Stelmach of Oxford, MA and their seven children; Nancy, Michael, Sylvester, Kelley, Barbara, David, and John; 20 grand-children and 5 great grandchildren; two sisters, Barbara Orlowski of Dudley and Constance Marrier of Webster and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sisters Rita Kus, Anita Beardsley, and his brother Ronald Stelmach. Raymond was a Korean War veteran and honorably served in the U.S. Navy from 1951-1961 serving aboard the USS Melvin, USS Ingersoll, USS Haverfield, USS Higbee, and USS Frank E. Evans. He was a recipient of the National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service

Medal, and United-Nations Service Medal. Raymond worked as a mechanic, an electrician, and then as head of maintenance at Recycling Enterprises, Inc, in Oxford, MA for many years. He enjoyed working part time in his retirement and lived at Golden Heights in Webster for several years. He was an avid golfer and also loved playing cards, fishing, sweets, watching the NE Patriots, Boston Red Sox and Turner Classic Movies. A private Mass of Christian burial will be held on Friday, August 21 at 10 AM in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 16 East Main St., Webster, MA. The Webster-Dudley Veterans Council will provide Military honors after Mass at Sacred Heart of Jesus Cemetery Webster. Raymond will buried with his parents. Bartel Funeral Home & Chapel 33 Schofield Avenue Dudley is assisting the family. Online guestbook at www.bartelfuneralhome.com



Sandra M. Jewell, 77

OXFORD - Sandra M. (Harrington) Jewell, 77, passed away on August 15, 2020. Her husband of forty-nine years, Bryan H. Jewell, Sr., died in 2011. She leaves three sons, Bryan and wife Lisa of Oxford, Massachusetts, Roger and wife Rhonda of Springhill, Florida, and David and wife Sandi of Lake Villa, Illinois. She also leaves seven grandchildren; six great grandchildren; three brothers, Rick, Joe and Jim, and several nieces and nephews. Sandy was an outgoing and social person giving the gift of laughter to everyone around her. She so loved her family and life in general, always

putting others’ needs before her own. She loved being out in the sunshine but even in rain, snow, sleet or hail she went for her two mile walk everyday. Sandy enjoyed many winters in Florida with her husband and was an avid Nascar fan. A sincere thank to Brookdale of Eddy Pond where she had made many friends, Life Care Center of Auburn and New England Hospice. There are no calling hours. Burial will be at a later date. Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements. paradisfuneralhome.com

Webster police log

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 9-15. An adult male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Aug. 9 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member. An adult female from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Aug. 11 for Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon. An adult male, also from Webster, was arrested during the same incident for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Strangulation or Suffocation, Vandalization of Property, and Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official. Melissa Martinez, age 25, of Dudley was arrested on Aug. 11 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle and Failure to Stop for Police. An adult male from Webster whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Aug. 12 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Strangulation or Suffocation,

and two counts of Destruction of Property valued at less than \$1,200. Kristopher E. Couture, age 21, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 12 in connection with a warrant and for Possession of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense). Amanda E. Gorgodian, age 32, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 13 in connection with a warrant. David Francis Hallaman, age 29, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 14 for Home Invasion, multiple counts of Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, Disorderly Conduct, Disturbing the Peace, Carrying a Dangerous Weapon, and in connection with a warrant. A 47-year-old female from Oxford was issued a summons in connection with the same incident for multiple counts of drug possession. An adult male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Aug. 14 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon. Raymond Jankowski, age 43, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 15 in connection with a warrant.

In Loving Remembrance

Philip Petrello

3/9/1973 – 7/7/2020

I would like to mention some very important parts of Phil’s life, left out of his recent obituary.

He was predeceased by his Aunt Dar from Hyannis who died of cancer on 10-24-2014, whom Phil loved so much. He would go to the Cape when she was sick and take her to places she wanted to go. He leaves his Uncle Jeff Cramer and his wife Maria of E. Hartford. Jeff taught Phil a lot when he was young including fishing. He leaves Aunt Jackie from West Springfield whom he loved so much. Phil also leaves Uncle Bob who taught him that it isn’t polite to eat with your fingers or with a knife over the knuckles. He loved going there when he was young. He also leaves his cousins Debby, Barbara, and Nikki. They loved to come to my house on the weekend. I think they

had a lot of fun getting into mischief.

We have such great friends and neighbors... Sandy, Patti, Kim, and Bob... they were there for anything that was needed. I thank you guys! Luanne, the beautiful angel you made for him is something I will always cherish. Renee, just to see that smile and the beautiful light which will help me through the darkest days.

Those who knew Phil will always smile when they think of him. It meant a lot for me to see how many people’s lives he touched. You now have touched mine. My husband Doug, mother-in-law Joan, sister-in-law Kelli, and I thank you for being there when we needed you the most.

RIP Phil.
Always in my heart.
Love Mom



Tax Savings Event on windows!

We’re celebrating our **Tax Savings Event** all month long!

Through August 31st only, **save \$330 on every window** and **save \$725 on every patio and entry door**, and **get 6.25% off your entire project with \$0 down, 0 monthly payments and 0% interest for one year!**¹

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- This Tax Savings Event is **even better than last year’s!**



Must call by August 31st, 2020

1

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on every patio and entry door¹

Minimum purchase of four.

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6.25% OFF
your entire project¹

No minimum purchase required.

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¹DETAILS OF OFFER – Offer expires 9/19/2020. You must set your appointment by 8/31/2020 and purchase by 9/19/2020. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Get \$330 off each window and \$725 off each patio/entry door and 12 months \$0 down, 0 monthly payments, 0% interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio/entry doors between 8/1/2020 and 9/19/2020. Additional 6.25% off your entire project, no minimum purchase required, taken after initial discount(s), when you set your appointment by 8/31/2020 and purchase by 9/19/2020. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. ©2020 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2020 Lead Surge LLC. All rights reserved. *See limited warranty for details.



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

WEBSTER – 10 Wyman St! Webster Lake Neighborhood Access at Lakeside Beach & State Boat Ramp Near-by! 10,000' Lot! 1 Level Living! 11 Rooms, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths! Room for the Extended Family! 2 Complete Living Quarters! A/C! 12 Gas Heat! Town Services! 2 Driveways! Fenced Back Yard! 2 Sheds! **\$189,900.00**

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/Lk Hrdwd Flr! Full Bath in the Hall! 2nd Flr w/Full Dble Vanity Bthrm & 3 Comfortable Bdrms, all w/Beautiful Wood Laminate Flrs! Master w/Cathedral Ceiling, Skylight, Ceiling Fan, Bay Window overlooking the Back Yard and a Master Bath! Lower Level w/2 Finished Rms, Utility Rm w/Laundry and Half Bath! 3.5 Baths Total! Recent C/Air, Heat & Roof! 2x26 2 Car Detached Garage! Huge Shed! Nearby Nature Trails & Wallum Lake Beach! **\$379,900.00**

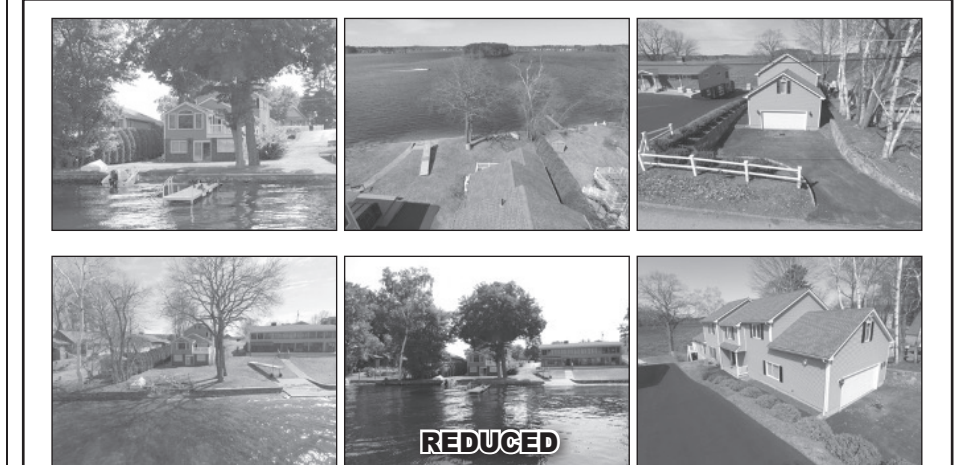


WEBSTER LAKE – 112 Gore Rd! NORTH POND! Sucker Brook Cove! 8 Rm, 3 Bdrm, 1.5 Bath Ranch is Ready for You! Southwestern Exposure! Gorgeous Sunsets! Unique Waterfront! An Open Floor Plan! Lake Views from Nearly All Rooms! 2x6 Construction! Energy Efficient Blinds in Every Room! 4 Oil Tanks – Fill Up Once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

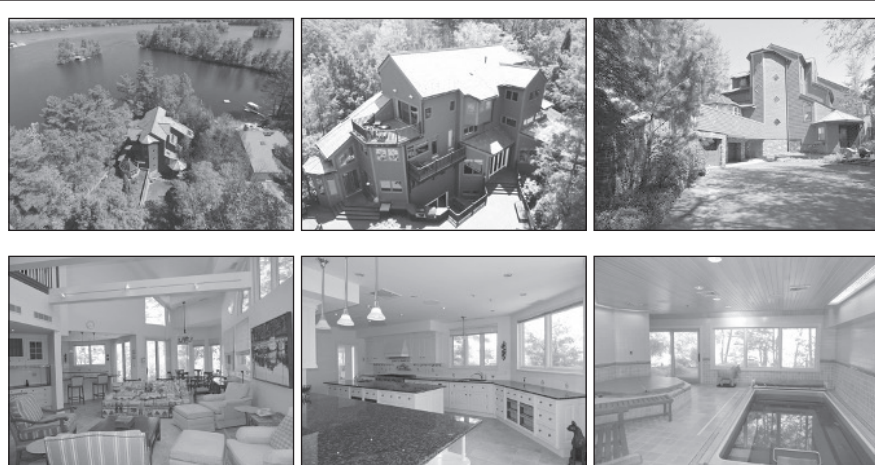
WEBSTER – 4 Jeffrey St! 5 Rm, 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath Ranch! 1/4 Acre Lot! Liv Rm w/Cathedrals & Bay Window! Eat-In Kit w/Is! Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath! Hall Bath w/Laundry! Freshly Painted Int! Front & Rear Decks! Partially Fenced Yard! Oil Heat! Town Services! Garage! Lakeside Beach & Boat Ramp Near! **\$249,900.00**

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

GRAFTON – 168 Brigham Hill Rd! 8 Rm Garrison Colonial set on 1.3 Acres! 4 Comfortable Bdrms & 2 Full Bthrms! Freshly Painted, Floors Recently Refinished! Spacious Kit w/Launch Counter! SS Appliances w/Gas Cook-Top! Grand Dining Rm for Family Gatherings! 18x26 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! New Roof on Garage & Breezeway! New Well Water Tank Installed! Tile V in-hand! Property Abuts Grafton Land Trust – Hiking Trails Right Out Your Back Door! Convenient to Routes 90, 9 & 20! Immediate Occupancy! **\$449,900.00**



WEBSTER LAKE – 62 Bates Point Rd! Middle Pond! Absolute Prime 51' Level Waterfront Lot w/Western Expo! Beautiful Sunsets! Fantastic Panoramic Lake Views! 11 Rms, 6 Bdrms, 4 Bathrooms, 3,269' A/C'd Colonial! Custom SS Applianced 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! Frplcd Lower Level Fam Rm! 1st & 2nd Flr Laundries! 2 Car Garage! **\$949,900.00**



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



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WEBSTER - 195-199 THOMPSON RD



3 ACRE COMMERCIAL SITE! APPROX. 550 FT ROAD FRONTAGE ON STATE HIGHWAY RTE 193 A/K/A THOMPSON ROAD. STRATEGICALLY NESTLED BETWEEN TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) ON-RAMPS & TWO (2) I-395 (NORTH & SOUTH) OFF-RAMPS! PROPERTY DIRECTLY ABUTS I-395! 48'x80' CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING, 7,680 SF TOTAL! FULL LOWER LEVEL USE & DRIVE IN GARAGE DOOR! HIGH TRAFFIC – HIGH EXPOSURE! WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED?? **\$600,000.**

OXFORD - 4 LEICESTER ST



LAND Great Opportunity for Developer! Total 8.47 +/- Acres. 6.54 Acres on Tract I, 1.93 Acres for Tract II. Excellent location for quick commuter access to several State Highways. Nice scenic nature views. Town water & Sewer in the street. Wetland Delineation. **\$89,900.**

WEBSTER - 36 PARK AVENUE



SORRY, SOLD!
Well cared for Colonial on Park Avenue! Hardwoods! Formal dining room, eat in kitchen, 3 bedrooms! Hollywood Bath. 1-1/2 baths total. deck! Garage! Freshly Painted! **\$264,900.**

DUDLEY - G & S DRIVE



SORRY, SOLD!
Great location! Painted and ready to move in! Hardwood floors! Brick fireplace & cathedral ceiling! Open floor plan! rear covered porch. 2 large bedrooms. 1 & 1/2 baths! Recent roof in Yr. 2019. assisted sale **\$260,000.**

LAND WEBSTER/OXFORD/DUDLEY/DOUGLAS

Dudley - Marshall Terrace 12,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Potential for a 2 family to be built! Town Water, Sewer. **SORRY SOLD \$70,000**

Webster - 85 Upper Gore w/View of the Lake. 1+ acre! Much work done! Artesian well, Septic Design, & Conservation. **NEW PRICE \$115,000**

Webster - Cooper Rd 2 Buildable Lots! Water/Sewer Access, Zoned Lake Residential! **\$49,000. ON DEPOSIT**

Douglas-Mount Daniels Lot #2 2.5 Acres of flat land that abuts Douglas State Forest **\$132,900**

Oxford - 4 Leicester St. approx. 8.47 acres! River frontage! Possible to be subdivided. **NEW PRICE \$89,900**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

WEBSTER LAKE - 28 BLACK POINT RD



BOATER'S & FISHERMAN'S PARADISE! 2019 custom cape! New 28 ft poly dock on a 4ft plus deep channel in quiet lower cedar cove" move to end after central AC! The benefits of Lake Living! Enjoy Sunrise Lake Views from an Expansive Back Deck & Sunset Views from your Farmer's Porch. Open Floor Plan, Cathedral Ceilings, Stone Fireplace, Upscale Gourmet Kitchen w/Huge Island, Sunny Breakfast Area w/Built In Beverage Nook, Vaulted Loft, Formal Dining, Office, Laundry Room, Oversized 2 Car Garage & 2 BRs with 1 Full Bath. 2nd FL Features, Very Private Master BR Suite, Lg Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/ double vanity, Private W/C, large Walk-in Tile Shower! 1,500 SF+ Basement for FUTURE ENTERTAINMENT or Possible IN-LAW AREA w/ INSIDE & OUTSIDE ACCESS. Rough Plumbed for Full Bath and Kit.. Central A/C! Check out our Video Too! **NEW PRICE \$625,000.**

WEBSTER LAKE - 100 LAKESIDE AVE



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, wind sound system, radiant floors, oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House! assisted sale **\$859,000.**



REAL ESTATE

Tips to Preserve Harvest’s Bounty the Old Fashioned Way

The pleasures of the New England harvest season are truly bountiful. Whether plucked from your own backyard or purchased fresh from local gardens or farmers markets, preserving the “just picked” flavor of the New England harvest is a seasonal quest.

While freezing has long been a favorite form of “keeping” crops and traditional canning is enjoying a comeback, the old fashioned method of drying garden vegetables often gets overlooked by home gardeners. A modern dehydrator isn’t necessary, as all it takes is an oven, some trays and a bit of time to maintain all the flavor, integrity and wholesomeness of the season’s harvest.

Dry to Preserve Garden’s Bounty

Drying is one of the oldest forms of food preservation, and a reliable technique that can be easily employed to stretch the goodness of home grown vegetables. Dehydrating removes moisture and therefore halts the growth of bacteria and molds, extending the life of precious garden crops.

Proper preparation of vegetables to dry is very important. Pick produce at peak of ripeness and rinse in cool water to remove dirt and debris. Dry thoroughly and cut into uniform thicknesses to ensure even drying time. Some vegetables, such as tomatoes, corn, carrots and potatoes should be blanched before drying to kill potential bacteria and enzymes that can decrease flavor and color during storage. Common foods that do not require pre blanching include mushrooms, peppers, onions, garlic and herbs. Blanch vegetables by boiling or steaming. Immediately drop into cold water briefly to stop cooking and drain and dry vegetables while still warm. (The warmth will aid the drying process.)

Place vegetables in a food dehydrator, or if drying in oven, arrange in a single layer on a wire cake cooling rack set on top of a sheet tray to allow air circulation. The optimum temperature for successful drying is 140 degrees. This low temperature ensures moisture has completely evaporated, therefore lowering the risk of mold from any trapped moisture. If your oven doesn’t have as low a setting, try the “warm” setting checking the temperature with a thermometer to avoid cooking the vegetables. Check



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

temperature periodically to ensure oven maintains an even 140 degrees.

It can take several hours for garden produce to be properly dried. Sufficiently dehydrated vegetables and herbs will be crisp and brittle. Vegetables cut in thicker slices such as tomatoes should be dry but not hard (a bit pliable). Dried goods must be cooled completely before storing. Air tight containers such as zipper lock bags, glass mason jars and plastic freezer tubs are all good candidates for storage of dehydrated vegetables. Dried produce should be stored in a cool, dark place and can last from a few months up to a year, depending upon the vegetable. Refrigeration can extend the life of some dried vegetables, just be sure they are stored in an air tight container and always use within one year of packing. To ensure the product remains dehydrated, it is very important to check the contents periodically and discard any food that has become rehydrated, smells “off”, or is moldy or tainted in any way.

From Décor to Diet: Garlic Braids and Pepper Wreaths

Garlic braids dangling from kitchen rafters and colorful hot pepper wreaths hung near the chopping block offer not only homegrown décor, but a handy “pick as you use” year round supply of garden produce. Storing garden garlic and dried peppers in a creative way is not only satisfying for the home gardener, but the finished products serve as ideal “garden gifts” throughout the seasons.

Garlic Braid: Give Bountiful Bulbs a “Twist.” Garlic is easy to grow, and even a novice gardener can produce enough garlic bulbs to store for use all year round via a well constructed garlic braid.

To do: Gather up about a dozen of fresh garlic bulbs with greens attached. Begin braiding greens of three garlic bulbs, and then begin adding more bulbs as you continue up the braid. Add a new bulb on the right and work it into the braid, then a new one in the middle and do the same, then add a bulb on the left, layering the bulbs in an attractive braid as you move up the length. At this point the braid technique resembles “French braiding” of hair. For larger bulbs bring greens in from the outer edges (forming an x

with the other greens) for an attractive French braiding rope. Continue braiding until all bulbs are used.

To finish off your garlic rope, wind a length of twine or raffia around the greens close to the top bulb. Tie off and tie ends together to form a loop to hang the rope. Hang in a well ventilated, warm area to dry for two to three weeks. When dry, simply snip off desired bulbs. For long term storage, hang braid in a cool storage area or root cellar.

Pepper Wreath: Pick Perfect Peppers

Note: Before stringing hot peppers be sure to wear gloves to ensure safety while handling. Texas A & M University advises using waxed dental floss to string and dry hot peppers like jalapenos, as the strength of their oils can dissolve normal thread.

Wreath: To make a pepper wreath with slim peppers, you’ll need to wash and dry a generous amount of fresh peppers. With a sharp knife, make two slits at the top of each pepper, under the cap. Using 12 gauge wires form a sturdy round circle (for larger wreaths double the wire or use a heavier gauge. To form circle, stretch wire over a bucket or clay flower pot. Make a loop at one end. Thread peppers onto the wire through the slits, pushing them together at different angles until the wreath is full and looks attractive. Make a hook at the end of the wire and hook onto the loop. Hang up to dry for about two weeks.

Swag: To string a swag of peppers, wash and dry thoroughly. Thread a heavy duty needle with fishing line or unflavored wax dental floss. Tie a knot at the end of the line and thread through the stem of the pepper, pushing peppers close together and off to each side as you form the swag. For decorative effect, alternate red and green peppers. Continue stringing until swag is desired size. Tie off and loop top and hang to dry.

Mock “Sun” Dried Tomatoes

What could be better than freshly picked tomatoes? How about enjoying the rich flavor of garden grown tomatoes throughout the year? Sun dried tomatoes offer a delicious way to preserve the unique tastes of the season.

The heat of an ordinary oven is a safe and reliable alternative to drying tomatoes in the sun. To make approximately one pint of sun dried tomatoes, you’ll need about five pounds garden ripe toma-

atoes, a sprinkling of herbs, salt, black pepper, sugar, and good quality olive oil for packing.

To do: Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Slice tomatoes about a half inch thick. If you slice them thinner, they will dry sooner, but for best results cut at least 1/3” thick to prevent hard, tough tomatoes. Lay tomatoes out in a single layer on a baking sheet lined with paper towels, sprinkle with salt and allow to set for up to an hour to draw out the natural juices. Drain moisture, discard paper towels and place tomatoes on a tinfoil lined baking sheet. Bake for several hours, turning over at least twice until tomatoes have shrunk and dried but are pliable (think raisins). Allow to cool on wire cake racks.

To pack sun dried tomatoes, mix together a good quality olive oil, black pepper, salt, a dash of sugar (optional), and add herbs of choice and garlic cloves to taste. Pack tomatoes in sterilized jars and cover with olive oil mixture. Store in the refrigerator or tomatoes can be frozen for longer storage.

References:

Colorado State University Extension; Cooperative Extension, The University of Georgia; Michigan Cooperative Extension Food Preservation

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

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Kim Beatson at k.beatson@valleyviewschool.org

Mechanic / Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO):

The Town of Spencer seeks qualified applicants to fill the HEO/ Mechanic position in the Highway Department. This position is responsible for the repair, retrofit and service of Highway Equipment and Vehicles, including welding and fabricating steel components. The position also is responsible for operating of heavy and light equipment, plowing and salting, repairing and maintaining stormwater systems, repairing streets and sidewalks, debris removal and other tasks assigned by the Foreman or Superintendent. The position is expected to perform skilled labor duties, be able to lead the repair activities and be the OSHA Competent Person on site. This highly responsible position is subject to emergency call-ins to respond to emergencies. High School diploma or GED, plus five years of related experience in operating heavy equipment, a Mass CDL Class B, and Hoisting 2A are required, additional license and certifications beneficial. Base pay for this position ranges from \$23.12 to \$28.49 and includes a generous benefits package, including clothing allowance, continuing education, and license cost reimbursement.

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Tips for effective remote learning

An increased reliance on virtual home instruction has many students rethinking their organizational strategies and daily school schedules. Learning at home is different from being in a traditional classroom environment, but with some effective strategies, students can persevere without missing a beat.

Stick to a schedule

Many students are successful because they follow a schedule. The Center for Social and Emotional Foundations of Early Learning says that routines and schedules are important because they influence a child's emotional and cognitive development. Children feel secure with schedules, which may help them recognize what's expected of them.

When learning at home, students

should strive to maintain as consistent a schedule as possible, including bedtimes, wake times, hours devoted to learning, and time to get outside or engage in downtime activities.

Connect live if possible

There are many free tools and resources available that enable teachers to provide live video lessons or to record them so students can watch them later. Similarly, social networking apps and virtual meeting programs enable students to connect digitally. This can be helpful for collaborative learning assignments or just to see a familiar face.

Stick to tools that work

Once students find apps or systems that

work, they should stick with them, offers Khan Academy, an educational tutoring resource. There are many factors outside of one's control during virtual instruction, but maintaining consistency with tools and schedules is one way to feel more confident and secure.

Check student accounts frequently

Just like students, teachers may be learning as they go in regard to remote learning strategies. Students should be sure to check school email accounts or other places where teachers post assignments a few times per day so that they stay on top of all assignments and are aware of due dates.

Reach out to instruc-

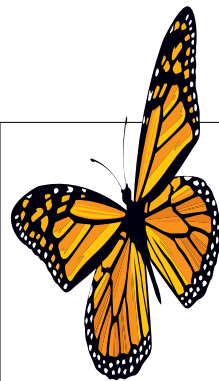
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Allegheny College suggests students contact their teachers if they are unsure of how to participate in remote learning environments. Ask questions about assignments, get clarification on key topics and be sure to tune into any remote chats or virtual "office hours."

Stay in touch with guidance, if needed

Remote learning is a new experience for many students, and there may be certain struggles or road blocks. It can be easy to grow frustrated with equipment failures or lack of in-person interaction. Schools employ qualified therapists and guidance counselors who are just a click, call or email away if issues need to be talked through. Students should utilize all resources made available to them.

Virtual home instruction can be made even easier with some extra assistance and guidance.



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