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Friday, May 3, 2024

Oxford's Alfred Beland named Grand Marshal of Memorial Day parade



Alfred Beland

OXFORD — Memorial Day will be observed on May 27, the last Monday in the month of May. On that day, the aging veterans will visit the decorated cemeteries throughout the towns of Webster and Dudley. The old soldiers will pay their respects, while silently remembering the defenders of our Country.

Alfred Beland, Grand Marshal, will be at the forefront of the marchers. He is a native of neighboring Oxford and a resident of Webster. He is a six-year veteran of the USAF. The Beland family lived on Main Street in Oxford. Al's father, Lorenzo, was a Guardsman, Mechanic, Policeman and a Canadian immigrant, and mother Gertrude was a Worcester girl and a stay at home mom.

Al, who was sometimes called 'Freddie,'

attended Oxford Grammar School before transferring to Worcester Boys Trade for four years of Vocational Training. It was during those years that Al and Lorenzo built a couple of 'Rods' and founded the 'HOT HEADS' Car Club. The organization remains active to this day. After graduation from vocational school, Al continued his education attending evening classes at Central N.E. College while working at Woodbury Engraving Company. Al, hungry for knowledge, saw an opportunity in 1958. He enlisted in the United States Air Force, opting for the 4 year 'hitch' beginning with basic training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas.

Because of his vocational experience and his high aptitude test scores, Al's specialty

would be Aircraft Engine Repair and Maintenance. Airman Beland's orders were to begin training in southwest Michigan at the re-activated Kincheloe AFB, an F102 Fighter Base. He continued taking extra courses during his off-duty hours.

After Airman Beland completed his training on Repair and Maintenance in Michigan he hopped on a flight to Spain, settling in at Zaragoza, a Spanish facility used by the United States as part of the Madrid Pact. Al was getting pretty familiar with the F-102's of the Red Devil Squadron while fulfilling his obligation to NATO, and the USAF.

Immediately after a personal tragedy back home, Al was transferred to Westover Field where he accepted a

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Two vie for selectman's seat in Webster

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — A one-year selectmen's race and several empty seats highlight this year's local election next Tuesday, May 7.

The only race on the ballot is between the well-connected and long-involved Elaine Davies and youthful newcomer Kaitlin Morin to fill what's left of Lisa Kontoes' term.

Kaitlin Morin, 26, has lived in town since January, but has worked in several town governments around the region over the last several years. To her, a primary motive for running is to help update "policy to deliver solutions ... in a constantly evolving computerized world." At least as important is to "get more young people involved in government," she said, noting most boards have few young members now.

That idea sprang in part from her Anna Maria graduate school project, which looked at voter participation in Oxford and Webster over the last 10 years. She said she found "mainly what you'd consider the senior population going out and voting," but not too many young people. She later described it as seeing "the same names over and over" in the register of town office-holders.

To encourage youth participation, Morin said she's trying to get Bartlett and Bay Path seniors to register (they can legally at 16 and 17), feeling that puts them "way ahead of the game" when they hit voting age at 18.

Beyond that, she sees "enhanc[ing] local business" as a key goal, believing that community events are the way to do that. Morin would like to emulate Putnam in that regard, with "taste of the town" events and other things that close down Main Street for a day occasionally. She noted the various murals already show "Main Street has come a long way."

She'd promote such changes by incorporating them into the Master Plan and adding those things to the town administrator's goals (for the most part, they already are).

"I've received a lot of criticism based solely on my age," she said. While she admits "I don't have the life experience" some others have, she argues she has the education and public-government experience to do the job.

"I want to keep the momentum going," Morin added. "This is not just a career for me. It's my passion, my bread and butter."

Elaine Davies, Davies, by contrast, grew up in town and is

Turn To **BALLOT** page **A14**

Landlords reject proposed housing regulations

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Health continued discussions concerning potential new housing regulations involving rental properties during a public hearing on April 16, where a room filled with landlords and tenants spoke against the initial proposals.

The hearing followed up a discussion from earlier in the year where Health Agent Patrick Hannon recommended new inspections and related fees for properties in Dudley which he said would better protect both the landlords and the tenants by documenting the conditions of the homes before and after being occupied. His recommendation came after the discovery of illegal heating accommodations in a multi-unit building which Hannon referenced once again during the April 16 hearing. Hannon also noted situations he has seen in other communities where a tenant would damage property to report their landlord and avoid paying rent. The proposed regulation would provide documentation on the town level that would confirm the living conditions of the unit preventing landlords from bringing tenants into negative situations and tenants from improperly accusing the landlord of failure to maintain the building.

Hannon described these intentions behind the proposed regulation and explained the concept would include a \$100 fee for registration and additional \$100 fees for fall and spring inspections respectively for any non-owner-occupied rental property of two or more units. Any owner-occupied unit would not be held to these requirements. Hannon also showed a willingness to eliminate the spring inspections from the proposal. Overall, Hannon felt the regulations would be a positive for the town.

"There's a reason to have a local code that's minimal, that requires a couple of inspections. I felt that (there should be) inspections for pre-heating season, to get in there and show that the heating is in good condition, the oil tank is not leaking, we know who is paying for the heat and that's been clearly decided. We won't be going out at 6 o'clock in the morning and 5 o'clock at night on holidays because someone has no heat, and the landlord says they're not responsible and the tenant says they're not responsible. We will already know," said Hannon.

While the full Board of Health was not present for the meeting, the members that were on hand pro-

Turn To **LANDLORDS** page **A14**

Oxford Finance Committee offers glimpse at how schools are funded

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — The Finance Committee gave the town detailed look at how school financing works last week, although almost all of those who attended were already town officials.

Speaker Brian Allen spent 31 years in municipal and school finance, mostly in Worcester. He started in 1994, when the Education Reform Act was being implemented. He's seen what's known as Chapter 70 from both sides, and has taught it for several years at Worcester State.

In a number-heavy presentation, Allen noted the state's formula for providing school aid is complex and still has some issues. The legislature tried to fix some of them with 2019's Student Opportunity Act, which is phasing in increased funding from both state and local sources until 2027.

State aid is based on what's called the foundation budget calculation, with specific base dollar figures assigned to kids in 13 enrollment categories based on age — pre-K and K, elementary school (grades 1-5), middle school (6-8) and high school (9-12), with extra for in-district tech schools (regional tech schools get their own calculation). Beyond that, "incrementals" are added for five levels of English learners, three categories of low-income, and special education. The latter is assumed to be 1 percent of the student body, but many districts have more, so he noted "the state didn't go far enough in addressing special ed costs in the [Act]."

The total number of students includes all kids of school age in the district as of Oct 1 of the previous school year, excluding vocational students. For Oxford, that means September 2024's

numbers are based on 1,569 kids — 1,466 in the public schools, 20 in charters, and 75 choosing-out to other public systems. The funding ranges hugely; he picked grade four as an example, noting the foundation budget amount differs from \$9,806 to \$19,348 per student depending on the factors noted above.

Later, Allen noted two districts with very close enrollment figures (Oxford's 1,569 and Masconomet's 1,576) can have very different state aid. Oxford gets \$23.9 million, but Masconomet (in Boxford) gets \$21 million.

How that's funded is a calculation called the "combined effort yield [CEY]," based on the town's property values and income, plus a municipal revenue growth factor and, for a very few towns, a wage-adjustment factor. This CEY maxes out at

Turn To **FUNDING** page **A14**



Courtesy

Dudley Middle School congratulates its Students of The Month. 5th Grade - Timothy King, Jack Joyce, Makayla Madee & Dante Defranc; 6th Grade - Taylor Laskowski, Gwen Boudreau, & Millani Hammel; 7th Grade - Wyatt Pelletier, Bridget Boyle, & Ava Cincotta; 8th Grade - Madison Boggio, Addyson Coutu, & Ryan Mason.

Please complete and mail the card in today's paper.

Nationally recognized agent hosts lunch for local first responders

WEBSTER — It was a fun-filled week of hosting “lunch and learn” opportunities for Homes for Heroes affiliate agent Diane Casey-Luong and her team. While Casey-Luong is a top producer at RE/MAX Vision, she was also recently named the Number One affiliate agent in Massachusetts for the Homes for Heroes Program and was also recognized as the Number Nine agent in the country.

Homes for Heroes is a nationwide real estate incentive program that rewards individuals who work in the following occupational categories: Healthcare, Teachers, Fire/EMS, Law Enforcement, and Military/Veterans. Recipients receive a cash reward of 25 percent of the commission during the buying, selling, and/or refinancing of

their property. In the last four years, Diane has rewarded her hero clients with nearly \$188,000 and has dedicated her career to working tirelessly to support this program.

As a thank you to local heroes, Casey-Luong visited the Dudley Fire Department this week and hosted a “cookout and learn” for firefighters, EMS, and police. Captain Erik Spahl of Dudley Fire graciously offered up his culinary skills and cooked a delicious spread that was provided by Diane. While staff were enjoying their lunch, she was able to educate staff about the program and spend time hearing their on-the-job stories, which is ultimately what fuels her passion for the program. Rebecca Hendrix, a Loan Officer at MBA Mortgage, and an affiliate lender of Homes for Heroes, also participated and was able to talk about the lending side of the home buying process.

Later in the week, Casey-Luong and her team visited the Webster Fire Department and hosted the Webster Police for their “lunch and learn,” which was sponsored by Delray Doc’s Fruit and Deli. Participants were given the opportunity to not only learn about the Homes for Heroes program, but also hear valuable insights from her about the real estate market and current trends. Hendrix was also on hand to answer questions about the mortgage process and even spoke with a couple of staff about important things to consider when buying their first property.

To end the afternoon, the team even had the opportunity to meet Murphy, the Webster Police Department’s newest (and very cute) member.



Department of Revenue conducting a financial management audit of Dudley

DUDLEY — Following its annual independent audit, the Town of Dudley’s FY2023 financials were deemed to be free of red flags and compliant with U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), by financial auditing firm Scanlon & Assoc. Tom Scanlon discussed the results of his auditing team’s findings, detailed in a 74-page report, with the Board of Selectmen on November 13. Mr. Scanlon reported that he saw no red flags or variances.

At this meeting, selectmen noted a handful of residents were calling for a forensic financial audit of the town, which Scanlon said could cost as much as \$700,000.

Instead, the Board of Selectmen pursued free assistance from the state. The Inspector General’s Office directed selectmen to the state Department of Revenue’s Division of Local Mandates. On Jan. 26, the town made a formal request for the state Department of Revenue to conduct a financial management review of the town. The audit began on March 14, and it is expected to finish by mid-summer 2024.

The scope of the audit is focused on the town’s financial offices and the practices, procedures and the policies that guide municipal decisions. The audit team examines the duties and responsibilities of finance officers and the degree of coordination and communication that exists among the various boards, committees, and officials involved in financial management.

The state inspectors evaluate the effectiveness of financial checks and balances and compliance with state laws and regulations that govern fiscal matters. The process includes interviews with selectmen, independent auditors, collector/treasurer, information technology director, and assessors.

Also undergoing examination are documents from various documents, including the Tax Recapitulation Sheet, Schedule A, balance sheet, the town’s annual budget, warrants payable, revenue and expenditure reports, and reconciliation reports.

This voluntary, independent audit comes at no cost to the town. The anticipated report and audit findings will be shared with residents upon receipt.

Dudley Democratic Town Committee announces May meeting

DUDLEY — The Dudley Democratic Town Committee (DDTC) will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 9 at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

This time we will go back to the basics of organizing and planning for the future. Of particular importance is how we go about recruiting new members. In order to continue DDTC’s mission, we are asking that you and other like-minded Dudley Democrats join us in this endeavor. We are excited by the possibilities of getting more of you involved. Please join us!

To join our Zoom meeting, please email us at dudleydemsma@gmail.com for the link.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 273 SPRING YARD SALE

Saturday, May 25th

Universal Tag Parking Lot, 36 Hall Road, Dudley
Early Birds (8am to 9am) \$10.00 per person fee
9am until 3pm FREE We accept CREDIT CARDS!
24,000 sq.ft. of yard sale items ONE DAY ONLY
Pick your items and Make an offer!

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



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Friday's Child



Destiny
Age 11

Hi! My name is Destiny and I love art and music!

Destiny is a charming, compassionate, and creative girl. She is described as very sociable and enjoys making new friends. Destiny takes pride in being an older sister and loves caring for others. Her creative side has inspired a love of art and music, which includes dancing and coloring. Destiny has developed a new interest in reading and enjoys reading

to others. Her favorite sport is basketball which she plays with her friends, and she wants play for a team in the future. Destiny also enjoys hanging with friends whether she is going shopping, going to trampoline parks, or making TikTok videos. She also loves dogs.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8937>

If you're at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won't have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with.

To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org. Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.



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A story behind a street name

BY HELEN POIRIER
AUBURN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUBURN — While driving along the streets of Auburn, one could start wondering how a street got its name. For those who are familiar with Auburn town history, several names jump out as founding fathers, Bancroft, Stone, and Boyden Streets to name a few. There are others that are not so well known such as Prentice Ave. This street is located between Sharon and Central Street somewhat behind #262 Central St., which was the home of John Prentice. It was built between 1763-1765, and four generations of the Prentice family lived in the house. The house started out as a half salt-box with an end chimney. Across from his house, which is now Camp Gleason, John built the first sawmill in town. He created a dam on a nearby stream to power the mill.

There is a local legend that this house was once a stop on the Underground

Railroad and another that prisoners were held in the basement at one time. Although there has been no documentation found to support either statement, they're not out of the realm of possibility.

Anyway, John Prentice was born Feb. 24, 1738, in Middlesex County to Solomon and Sarah Prentice. Some time before 1763, he came to this area and married his first wife, Sarah and they had five children between 1765 and 1779, Elijah, Josiah-Sartel, Lucy, Sarah and Rhoda. Sarah was 35 when she died March 13, 1779.

John then married Rebekah Richardson in November 1779 in Worcester. They had two children, John, who died April 1785 at 14 months, and then John who was born in 1786. Rebekah died in 1838 at the age of 97, out lasting her husband by 26 years. John Sr. died March 26, 1812. Many of the family members are buried in the Center Burial Ground in town.

John Sr. was among

the original incorporators of South Parish of Worcester and of Ward. He served as the town clerk from 1778 - 1784 and was the first clerk for the town of Ward at the May 4, 1778, town meeting. He was a representative to the General Court in Worcester. Other town jobs that included being a member of the Committee of Supply, which was sending aid to the colonial troops. In 1779, he was also a selectman and school squadron (committee man) for area #3 school. In 1780, he held the jobs of assessor, school committee, moderator, and inspector of the grain for the preacher.

1781 he was on the town Committee of Correspondence which functioned mainly as a means of spreading news and information about the Patriot cause and mobilizing opposition to British policies in cities, towns and rural communities throughout the colonies. In accordance with the Massachusetts Militia Law of 1781, John Prentice was elected the first captain of the

Auburn Militia Company on July 1. The militia was part of the 7th Division, 1st Brigade, and 1st Regiment of the Massachusetts Militia.

In 1783, he was just the town clerk. 1784 saw John as the town assessor, inspector committee, preacher committee, and general court representative. 1785 town clerk, tax inquiry committee, school examiner, school squadron, tax collector and general court rep. 1787, John resigned his commission in the Auburn militia in September. 1808 he was listed as a justice of the peace and a representative to the State Legislature.

John Prentice certainly did his share of work in the early stages of establishing the town of Ward to merit at least a street bearing his name.

This article was written by Helen Poirier and is provided by the Auburn Historical Society and Museum, 41 South St. The Museum

is open and free to the public on Tuesday and Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Nichols College welcomes "The College Tour" TV series to campus

DUDLEY — Nichols College is pleased to announce that The College Tour, an Amazon Prime and Apple TV show about college life, is filming on the Nichols College campus from April 29 through May 3.

The show, now in its 12th season, is hosted by Massachusetts native and Executive Producer Alex Boylan, who won the CBS series The Amazing Race in 2002. Boylan's interest in creating an educational reality show stemmed from an experience he had while taking his niece on college tours. Knowing that many students don't have the financial means to travel far from their hometowns, Boylan aspired to create a show that promotes an accurate depiction of campus life through academics, career preparation, research, student activities, and intercollegiate sports.

"We are excited to showcase Nichols College and our extraordinary students to prospective students, their families and other viewers across the nation," said Nichols College President William C. Pieczynski. "The students selected for the episode have taken full advantage of all Nichols offers, including experiential learning opportunities, NCAA Division III athletics, student government,

and leadership of clubs and organizations. They are our best ambassadors, and we look forward to showing others the significant value of a Nichols education."

About Nichols
Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

Gladys E. Kelly Library hosts "Horse 101" program

WEBSTER — On Saturday, April 20, the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library featured a program dedicated to a better understanding and appreciation of horses. Lindsay from the Winterberry Homestead in upstate New York shared with her audience some of the do's and don'ts when approaching a horse.

Several of the adults and children had an opportunity to introduce themselves to Katie (a miniature Shetland pony) and to stroke her side. In addition to the thrill of meeting a real live horse, the audience had a chance to view and inspect some horse grooming tools and riding equipment. Lindsay used Katie to give a demonstration on the use of the grooming tools and the riding equipment.

This is just one event leading up to the visit of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks on June 6. Keeping with the horse theme of Brooks' novel "Horse," the Library will be hosting Jean Walker for another extremely popular paint night. Attendees will be painting a horse-themed landscape on May 30th. Registration opens on May 16. These programs are generously funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

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Looking for a slip on Webster Lake for a pontoon boat.

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P.E.T. of the Week
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Loki

Hello there lovely people! My name is Loki, and I'm here to introduce you to the joy and love that I bring into every room I enter. ?? Despite being a senior, I've still got the heart of a puppy and the energy to match!

You see, I've got a playful spirit that just won't quit. Whether it's chasing after a ball, going for a brisk walk, or curling up for some cuddles, I'm always ready for some fun and affection. Age is just a number, right?

Now, I'll admit it -- I can be a bit nervous around men. But with patience, understanding, and gentle care, I know I can overcome my fears and learn to trust again. All I need is someone who's willing to take the time to earn my trust and show me that there's nothing to be afraid of.

So, if you're ready to open your heart and home to a sweet senior like me, please consider giving me a chance. I promise to fill your life with love, laughter, and unforgettable adventures. Let's make each day an exciting new journey together!

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PET of the WEEK

BAYPATH HUMANE SOCIETY OF HOPKINTON
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Meet : Stevie

Sweet Stevie is a shy gal with lots of love to share! Although it takes her a little while to warm up, her silly personality is worth the wait. She loves to hop around with her canine friends and eat yummy snacks (cheese is her favorite). We also catch Stevie playing with her favorite toys (plush stuffedies that squeak!)

Here is Stevie's Wishlist for her new home: - a fenced in yard (she doesn't know how to walk on a leash yet!) - a confident canine sibling to help show her how to be a dog - someone with shy dog experience who can help acclimate Stevie to a home environment - a home with teenagers or older who understand how scary loud sounds and quick movements can be, - someone who loves to train and can help Stevie build confidence and learn how to be a dog

If you think you'd like to give Stevie a chance, please start the process today!
* With this dog, there is a training requirement at time of adoption
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May is for mothers and flowers at Dudley Senior Center

DUDLEY — Wednesday, May 1, a group trip to eat at Bill's Bread and Breakfast in Putnam, Conn. We are meeting at the Dudley Senior Center to carpool. Reservations are required. Lunch is 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP by calling 508-949-8015.

Thursday, May 2, the Dudley Senior Center will be celebrating May Birthdays. After the Tri-Valley lunch we will be having cake and ice cream. Please call if interested in a Tri-Valley meal, or bring your own lunch, have cake, and ice cream with us.

Wednesday, May 8 is Brown Bag Lunch; your choice is ham or egg salad sandwiches. The cost of this is \$3 per person. Please RSVP for this event by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up at the Dudley Senior Center.

Thursday, May 16 is Memory Cafe from noon – 2 p.m. Please come and celebrate Mother's Day with us. The Dudley Cultural Council has given us a grant to have Tim Van Egmond Folksinger and Storyteller coming to "Celebrate Moms." We will have a Mother's Day Brunch with a variety of lunch and breakfast foods. The cost for this event is \$5 p.m. Please RSVP for this event by calling 508-949-8015 to RSVP or sign up at the Dudley Senior Center.

Wednesday, May 22, we will have a Potluck Lunch serving a variety of sliders at noon. The cost for this event is \$5 p.m. Please RSVP by calling 508-949-8015 or sign up at the Dudley Senior Center.

Activities at Dudley Senior Center: Tuesdays at 1 p.m. – Pitch League; Wednesday at 1 p.m. – The Dudley Senior Center Knitting group; Tri-Valley lunches are served Monday and Thursday.

May 30, AmeriCorps Senior Squad Players will be here to entertain and inform us on various frauds and scams that target the elderly.

Please note the Dudley Senior Center is closed on Monday, May 27 for Memorial Day.

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845
Open Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov

Like the Webster Senior Center Facebook page to view our photographs, news and announcements. Please stop by to pick up our monthly newsletter for a complete list of activities, upcoming events and our monthly lunch menu. You may also join our email list to view our newsletter online. You do not have to be a resident of Webster to participate in our activities and programs. ALL Seniors are welcome!

Webster Senior Center will be closed on Monday, May 6th for the election and will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least 48-hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 5/7 Greek Chicken, white rice, roasted broccoli. Wednesday, 5/8 Meatloaf with gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, corn. Thursday, 5/9 Chicken Royale with gravy, mashed sweet potatoes & carrots, roasted cauliflower. Friday, 5/10 Lasagna with meatballs, marinara sauce, green beans.

Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least 2 business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays – Fridays 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

A SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) Counselor is available at the Webster Senior Center. Please call (508) 949-3845 to schedule an appointment.

Come on down to the Bomba Beauty Salon at the Webster Senior Center! Call 508-341-8724 for an appointment. Bomba Beauty Salon is open for walk in appointments on Wednesdays from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, by appointment only from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.

Join the Friends of the Webster Senior Center "Let's Celebrate Mother's" Coffee and Tea party on Monday, May 13th at 1:00 pm. Live music and refreshments. Please sign up at the front desk.

Free Blood Pressure Screenings at the Webster Senior Center on Friday, May 17th from 9:30 – 11:30 am. Sign in when you arrive.

Our second Genealogy

Workshop, "Working With Census Reports" by Seema Kenney will be held on Friday, May 24th at 9:30 am. Please sign up at the Senior Center front desk or by calling (508) 949-3845.

The REC Farmer's Market is on pause for the month of May and will return in June.

Mondays and Wednesdays: Exercise Classes with Forty Arroyo – Chair Dancing – the perfect workout for any fitness ability! Cost: \$3.00 per class.

Mondays: Knitting/Crochet Social 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Bingo: Every Tuesday, starts promptly at 1:00 pm. Please plan to arrive by 12:30 pm to allow time to buy your bingo sheets. Bingo sheets are not sold after 12:45 pm.

Do you like to play cribbage? Our weekly cribbage group meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm – feel free to join us!

Calling card players or interested persons to the Webster Senior Center – come join us for 6-card or 13-card pitch! Six card pitch meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Thirteen-card pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

Mahjongg group meets every Friday at 1:00 pm – beginners welcome!

Webster Senior Center Trips are back! Trip 1: Ricky Nelson Remembered, performed by Matthew & Gunnar Nelson at Lake Pearl, Wrentham, MA on Wednesday, May 22, 2024. Cost: \$131.00 per person includes transportation, plated luncheon, meal tax & gratuity, and show ticket. Trip price does not include bus driver gratuity. Trip 2: Jimmy Buffett Tribute & Maine Lobster Bake at Foster's on Monday, July 15th. Cost: \$137.00 per person includes show ticket, transportation, luncheon, meal taxes & gratuity. Trip price does not include bus driver gratuity. For more information call (508) 949-3845.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office House Numbering Program will create a custom wooden sign with your house number free of charge. One sign per senior household. Please contact the Webster Senior Center if you are interested in having a house number sign made for you. (508) 949-3845.

Senior SAFE is a program that supports fire and life safety education for seniors. The Webster Fire Dept. will do a home visit to ensure that you

have the correct smoke and CO2 alarms and that they are working properly, at no cost to you! All you have to do is give them a call at (508) 949-3875.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$540,000, 28 Coolidge St, Tran Luu Diep & Q Diep Rt, and Diep, Tran L, to Flasher, Jonathan, and Ferastoaru, Jessica.

\$450,000, 33 Wellman St, Watt Lt, and Finizza, Donna M, to Genatossio, Patrick A, and Genatossio, Janna P.

\$400,000, 1202 Forest Park Dr #1202, Morrison, Damien, and Ferrante, Lisa, to Laplante, Nancy.

\$350,000, 1 Lady Slipper Ln #3, Bohanan, Elizabeth M, and Matson, Karen L, to Johnson, Robert, and Johnson, Dorothy K.

\$345,000, 102 Heritage Ln #102, Ciccolo, Suzanne A, and Ciccolo, Larry, to Couture, Carissa A.

\$321,150, 8 Tuck Farm Rd #2, Johnson, Robert K, and Johnson, Dorothy K, to Smith, Christopher.

DUDLEY

\$425,000, 4 Franks Ln, Orourke Lt, and Opatka, Mary, to Gromelski, Maryellen.

\$325,000, 11 Dudley Hill Rd, Medeiros, Sandra J, and Plante, Roger W, to Medeiros, Lucas.

\$209,690, 12 Lynn Ln, Stanley Barbara M Est, and Urbano, Cheryl, to Rvz Investments Inc.

OXFORD

\$587,000, 256 Main St, Kozaczka Sophie Est, and Kozaczka, Chris S, to 256 Oxford LLC.

\$541,450, 67 Depot Rd #67, Depot Road Rt, and Gavin, Suzann, to Blatt, Keenan, and Galusha, Tara E.

\$510,000, 4 Pine Ridge Dr, Champagne Jr, Daniel R, to McDonald, Donna I, and Navedo, Christian A.

\$500,000, 155 Leicester St, Hillcrest Worship Ctr Inc, to World Mission Socie Chrch.

\$291,000, 8 Bartlett St, Skeeane, Nancy, and Skeeane, Earl W, to Skeeane, Shawn, and Diaz, Laurie.

\$150,000, 8 Cathys Way, Umana, Alexis M, and Umana, Jonathan D, to Breneman, Marie L.

WEBSTER

\$251,000, 32 Brookside Ave, Walsh, Kevin, to Hunt, Thomas, and Stevens, Leslie.

The Town of North Brookfield Highway Department is hiring for a full-time position

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DUDLEY

DUDLEY TOWN HALL (508) 949-8000 Monday: 8:00 AM-6:30 PM (second floor offices), Tuesday-Thursday: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Friday: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM.

DUDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-4411) Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040) Monday-Sunday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OXFORD

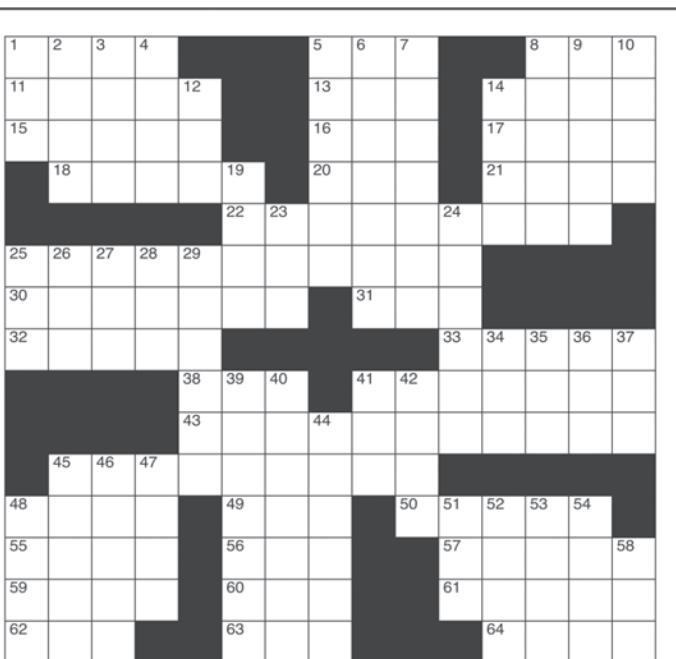
OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027 Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours! Monday, Tues., Thurs..... 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156) For emergencies, call 911 OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012) Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WEBSTER

WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850 Office Hours: Monday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-1212) For emergencies, call 911 WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875) Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

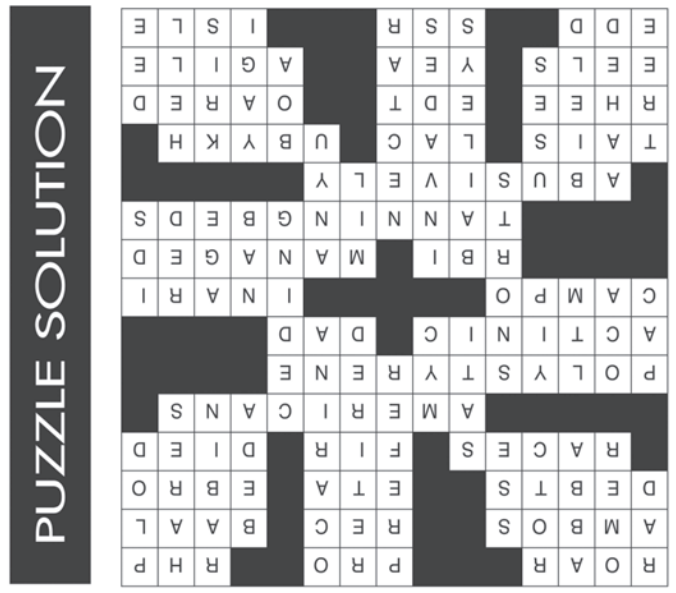


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Lions do it
5. In favor of
8. Rest here please (abbr.)
11. Pulpits
13. Leisure activity
14. Fertility god
15. Financial obligations
16. When you anticipate getting somewhere
17. Spanish river
18. Sporting events
20. Type of tree
21. Ceased to be
22. Persons
25. Synthetic resin
30. Relates to photochemical reactions
31. Father
32. Former Cowboys coach
33. City in Finland
38. Run batted in
41. Got through
43. They darken skin
45. In a harmful way
48. Form of weaving
49. City of Angels hoopster
50. Caucasian language
55. Syngman __, Korean president
56. Sun up in New York
57. Paddled
59. Fishes
60. Affirmative
61. Nimble
62. Doctor of Education
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. A small island

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Cool!
2. Hebrew unit of measure
3. Swedish rock group
4. College army
5. Favor over another
6. Called it a career
7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
8. Israeli statesman
9. Hurries
10. Slog
12. Midway between south and southeast
14. Benedictine monk
19. Self-immolation by fire ritual
23. Family of regulator genes
24. Surrendering
25. Political action committee
26. S. American plant
27. Long-term memory
28. Bark
29. Breathes in
34. Take hold of
35. Everyone has one
36. Valentine's Day color
37. Drivers' licenses and passports
39. Outer walls of castles
40. Enters with force
41. One thousandth of an inch
42. Deceased Chinese politician
44. Sugary secretion of plants
45. Expressed pleasure
46. Shelter
47. Utilizes
48. Forest resident
51. Fashion accessory
52. A sharply directional antenna
53. __ Kristofferson, actor
54. A bad place to end up
58. MLBer Gordon



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OR send to Webster Times P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

E-MAIL: news@stonebridgepress.news OR send to Webster Times P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550



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Library Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs:
9 a.m.-8 p.m., Wed: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fri: 9
a.m.-5 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website or contacting our Program Coordinator Randa Cox at rcox@cwmmars.org.

No Spice club this month, but check out our Geraldine Brooks display in the lobby!

Are you spring cleaning your crafting materials? Bring in any yarn, fabric and other crafting materials. Then on May 6th come in and find new supplies to take home.

Adult Programming

YOGA – Saturday May 4th, 11th and 18th at 9:30 AM (May 11th class will start at 9:15 AM)

Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the “uniting of movement with breath”. A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP— May 20th at 6:30 PM

This month’s book discussion will be in the Library’s Community Room. The Group will be discussing West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcox@cwmmars.org for inquiries.

ADULT BOARDGAME NIGHT-- April 29th at 6:00 PM

Come in and play games with other board game enthusiasts. Learn a new one, or play one you know and help others learn!

COOKBOOK CLUB—May 14th at 6:00 PM

Every month there will be a new cookbook and you will choose a delicious recipe to make! You can choose anything out of the cookbook to bring and share. Whether you like to cook or bake there will always be something for you! We will eat and discuss our favorite and our least favorite things of the cooking adventure. You can pick up your copy from behind the circulation desk.

FRIENDS CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS: Sally Roger--- May 9th at 6:30 PM

Sally Rogers performs an evening of traditional, contemporary and original ballads and song, interwoven with stories taken from her life as a performer, a wife and a mother. Throughout her concerts, she accompanies herself on guitar and Appalachian dulcimer, or performs without accompaniment in a voice that needs no further enhancement.

Children’s and Young Adult Programming

Scavenger Hunt--- All Month Long

What’s more exciting than a scavenger hunt? Come upstairs to the Children’s room to pick up a list of things to find all around the library. Once you’ve completed the scavenger hunt, check in with the Children’s Librarian to redeem a prize.

TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT-- All month long

Take and Make craft kits are now available for pick up upstairs in the Children’s Room. Each month will feature a different craft to create and instructions will be provided with the supplies. New Take and Make kits will be available for pick up on the 1st of every month, while supplies last, and are limited to one per patron.

MAKER MONDAYS – Mondays from 3:30-4:30 PM

Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Every month we will rotate our craft material, stop in to see what we’re making this month!

LEGO CLUB-- First two Tuesdays of the month at 3:30 PM

Come play with the library’s Legos. If you like, we can put your work on display!

No registration Required

BUILD TUESDAYS - from 3:30-4:30 PM

Join us for the last two Tuesday for a self-guided STEM-based building challenge, appropriate for all ages. Younger kids should bring a parent. Instruction sheets will be provided. Contact Andrew at 508-949-3880, or atai@cwmmars.org for more details.

STORYTIME-- May 14th 21st, and 28th at 10:00 AM

Mornings will be filled with fun stories, songs, and activities perfect for ages 2-5. Siblings are welcome to join.

STUFFED ANIMAL STORYTIME --- May 8th and 22nd at 10:00 AM

Join Library Director Sondra Murphy for stories, songs, and fun with our plush pals! This story time is geared toward ages birth to 3, but siblings are welcome.

MUSIC TOGETHER--- Saturdays May 4th, 18th, and 25th at 11:00 AM

Fun, fabulous, uplifting, magical early childhood music class! For ages 0 to 6 and their families. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

SENSORY BIN EXPLORATION--- May 6th, 13th and 20th at 10:00 AM

Join us for open sensory bin exploration. Bins will be filled up with sand, rice, dirt, dry pasta, and more! This program is geared towards ages 2 to 5, but siblings are welcome.

STEAM MUSEUM ---- May 7th at 3:30, 4:15 and 5:00 PM

A state-of-the-art, hands-on children’s museum focused on STEAM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math). Stations kids can experience include robots, virtual reality, 3D printing, art, engineering, and more! For kids grades K to 6. Please register for only one session. This program is funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.



Courtesy

Lizzy Gunsalus, a native of Dudley, was recognized during Marian University’s 2024 Clayton Family Circle of Honor event, an annual award dinner celebrating Marian University athletics and raising hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to provide scholarships for student-athletes. Gunsalus was recognized as winner of the Elite U23 National Championship at the 2023 Cyclocross National Championship.

Fattman announces \$11,900 FRESH grant for Webster Public Schools

BOSTON — State Sen. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) announced that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has awarded the Webster School District \$11,900 through its FY24 MA Farming Reinforces Education and Student Health (FRESH) Grant.

“Programs like the FRESH grant allows school districts to engage their students, staff, and community in food and nutrition education,” Fattman said, adding, “I’m glad to see that Webster Public Schools can continued their remarkable efforts

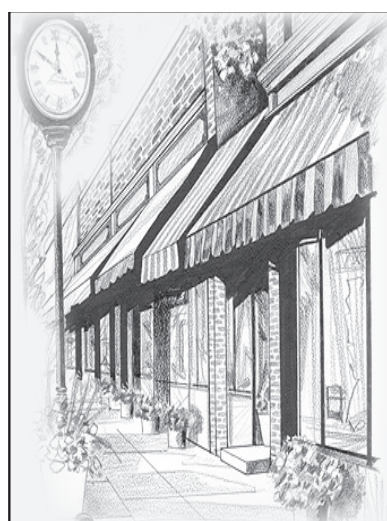
in this area with this funding.”

“The Webster Public Schools have always been ahead of the curve in assuring adequate nutrition for its students so they are able to learn and thrive in the classroom,” said Rep. McKenna. “I am thrilled that this state grant will allow the Webster Schools to continue to build on its track record of exemplary nutritional services across the district.”

The purpose of this state funded competitive grant program is to encourage National School Lunch Program

(NSLP) and Child Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) sponsors to build new or expand current capacity to grow or procure locally grown and produced ingredients, educate students, staff, teachers and food service professionals about the food system and connect food system education to the availability of nutritious, locally sourced meals made from unprocessed or minimally processed ingredients and served at schools or early education programs.

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Unwind and savor

In a world where the pace of life seems to quicken with each passing day, it's becoming crucial to pause and appreciate the beauty in life's simplest moments. We're bombarded with messages that tell us success is synonymous with constant activity and productivity, but in our relentless pursuit, we often overlook the joy that can be found in slowing down and simply chilling out.

Think about it—how often do we rush through our days, barely taking the time to notice the world around us? We grab our morning coffee on the go, scroll through our phones during moments of downtime, and fill our schedules to the brim with commitments and obligations. But what if we took a step back and savored the little things?

There's something incredibly powerful about embracing simplicity in a world that seems to value excess. Whether it's enjoying a quiet moment with a good book, taking a leisurely walk in nature, or sharing a meal with loved ones without the distraction of technology, these small acts can have a profound impact on our well-being.

Research has shown that practicing mindfulness and engaging in simple activities can help reduce stress, improve focus, and cultivate a greater sense of contentment. By slowing down and being present in the moment, we can find peace amidst the chaos and rediscover the beauty that surrounds us.

Living more simply isn't about depriving ourselves or giving up on our goals—it's about finding balance and prioritizing the things that truly matter. It's about recognizing that true happiness isn't found in material possessions or external achievements, but rather in the connections we form, the experiences we cherish, and the moments of quiet reflection that nourish our souls.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

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

Our journey of faith

"We do not reach the Kingdom of God going from victory to victory but more often we have to journey from defeat to defeat," notes St. Tikhon of Zadonsk. "After each defeat, however, we don't bewail our misery but we get back up and continue the battle. We go forward in repentance and humility." This is the tension between our worldly, earthly defeats and our spiritual victory. We are engaged in spiritual warfare and it's a struggle to go forward toward our goal of union with Jesus Christ.

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim reminds us of this battle and tension between defeat and victory. He reminds us of our serious spiritual struggle. In his prayer he asks God to "take from me the spirit of laziness, idle curiosity, lust for power and vain talk." Here are four of the primary vices that constantly attack us, and from which we are constantly falling – into laziness, a lack of sobriety and seriously in our pursuit for the kingdom of heaven; into idle curiosity, wasting our time on superficial things which lead to a superficial, surface level life which then easily falls into despondency; into a lust for power, where we allow our pride and ego to control our lives, falling into our own self-deluded arrogance which leads to self-righteousness; and into vain talk, idle, meaningless chatter.

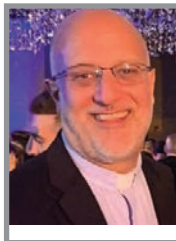
"We do not reach the Kingdom of God going from victory to victory but more often we have to journey from defeat to defeat."

Yet, after each defeat, how do we respond? Are we reflective and repentant? Do we realize and confess our sins and then turn to Christ for healing and forgiveness, for renewal and new life? Yes, every day we fail. Yes, every day we fall. The sober Christian life, however, is one where every day we repent, we get back up, we keep our vision on Jesus Christ, and we turn back toward Him.

Our spiritual victory comes when we keep our eyes set on the goal, and don't get confused to what our goal of life actually is. It is union with God. It is becoming a new creation through Jesus Christ. It is tasting and living in the Kingdom of Heaven here and now in our daily life.

Again, Saint Ephraim not only offers to us the warning of our struggle, but he gives us a vision of what we strive for: "Give to me the spirit of purity, humility, patience and love." If we are journeying with Christ daily, we will be crucifying our own ego and making space for our Lord to live in us. His Spirit is one of purity, not simply sexual purity but purity of heart to pursue the one thing needful in life. His Spirit is one of humility, remembering who we truly are and who God truly is. We reject all our facades and masks we pretend to be and know who we truly are – the first among sinners before God but also a beloved child created in His image and likeness. His Spirit is one where patience reigns. We wait and trust on the Lord in every circumstance, waiting on His timing, not on ours. His Spirit is one which will inspire us to live in love, divine love. We strive to do all in love, for love, with love.

"After each defeat, we don't bewail our misery but we get back up and continue the battle. We go forward striving



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

for these virtues that lead us closer to Christ."

Our spiritual battle is a fierce one if we take the spiritual life seriously. And because we are defeated every day, it may seem impossible at times. There is a beautiful Gospel story that offers a paradigm, a model and a way to follow.

A desperate father approaches Christ's disciples, and then Jesus Himself, asking for help for his epileptic son. All his life the son and father have suffered. Even after the father approached the disciples, there seemed to be little hope for healing. Yet the Father cries out to Jesus, "if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us."

To which Christ responds, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." The Father immediately cries out, "I believe. Help my unbelief." And our Lord sees the faith of the Father and heals the son. Later, the disciples ask Jesus why they themselves couldn't heal the son and our Lord teaches them that some healings can only happen through prayer and fasting.

All things are possible if you believe. I believe. Help my unbelief.

This kind of healing and miracle can only happen through prayer and fasting.

In these three statements lie the paradigm which can help us in our spiritual struggles. Yes, we are tempted and defeated every day by the passions and vices which attack us. Yet, we know that we progress down our spiritual path through continual repentance and turning toward Christ for help and healing. But HOW do we turn to Christ to cultivate the virtues we want to flourish in our lives?

We believe that all things are possible with Jesus Christ. We can overcome all our bad habits and addictive behavior. With Christ, we can control and crucify our passions and vices!

We need the humility of the epileptic's father and cry out daily, "Lord I believe. Help my unbelief." We acknowledge our doubts and questions and skepticism but express our faith and trust in Him. I believe. Help my unbelief.

And then we remember that to nourish and nurture our faith, the two greatest spiritual tools that we see repeated again and again in Scripture are prayer and fasting. We are called to use these spiritual tools of prayer and fasting in a proper manner so that we can open our hearts to Christ, push aside through our fasting all that hinders us from approaching the Lord, and encounter Him in a living, life-changing manner.

We are in the middle of spiritual warfare. We are striving to climb up the Ladder of Divine Ascent. In the war, we will have many defeats. Yet, we persevere. We continue to go forward. Every time we fall, we get back up and remember the paradigm of this Gospel story.

All things are possible if you believe. I believe. Help my unbelief.

Our spiritual life will progress only through increased prayer and fasting.

Invasion of the stripers



Courtesy

John Gareri with his first striped bass of the season from the Providence River!

Stripers are starting to invade coastal waters in both Mass. & Rhode Island. This week's picture shows John Gareri with his first striper of the season caught in the Providence River last week! The pair of anglers reported no sightings of Menhaden, but the fish were feeding on some small fish near the surface.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

RALPH TRUE

The one striped that they caught was on a surface plug.

Tautog fishing was also hot last

week, with Captain Mel of FishNet Charters reporting limits of tautog for his clients. Seabass will open on May 18 in Mass.! Black seabass will open on May 17 in Rhode Island with a two fish daily limit? Summer flounder open on May 3, in Rhode Island with a four fish daily limit, and an 18 inch size limit.

The black bugs exploded with their annual hatching last week, and made it uncomfortable just trying to sit in the backyard. Wild turkey hunting opened this past Monday and hunters were hoping that the black bugs were gone by then.

The wild rabbit population continues to grow which is good news for sportsmen that own a good beagle, and love to hunt the rabbits. This past week, I observed five rabbits that were killed by cars near my home. It is a sure sign that the rabbits are making a big comeback, and are here to stay. Unfortunately, they are a nuisance to gardeners trying to grow some fresh vegetables for the family. Woodchuck populations are also abundant in the valley area, and can mow down a garden almost overnight.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun club will stock their club pond with trout this Friday in anticipation of their annual kids fishing derby next Saturday, May 4. Breakfast will be served starting at 7 a.m., and the derby will start at 8 a.m.! Fish chairman Matt Fontaine is hoping for a good turnout, with plenty of prizes being awarded for the largest trout caught.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Davies has it all

To the Editor:

Experience. Dedication. Integrity.

These three words appear in Elaine Fitzback Davies' campaign literature.

I could not think of three better words to describe this wonderful person, nor to begin this letter of endorsement for her candidacy for the office of the Webster Board of Selectmen.

I have known Elaine for many years now, through my association with the Webster Veteran's community, the Building Bridges program, the Church of Reconciliation, and the Town Administrator Candidate Screening Committee two years ago.

In all of these endeavors, Elaine has demonstrated her deep intelligence, her complete dedication to the Town, and her vast experience that allows her to provide guidance to other people's efforts...and to make other people's contribution to any endeavor stronger because of her unique ability to draw out the best in others!

Elaine always elevates any endeavor or conversation!

If you have seen and read Elaine's campaign material, you will easily see that she possesses a vast store of experience in government, business, and education.

She worked for the EPA for 30 years, and has served on innumerable Town of Webster boards, committees, and commissions. She has strong connections to the business community, and she has absolutely dedicated her life to serving the larger Webster community through her church, the schools, the Library, and so many, many other endeavors.

It can truly be said, without the slightest exaggeration, that

Elaine has dedicated her life to the people of Webster.

In my own career, I have worked as a Mass. Town Manager and have served with hundreds of Selectmen in several communities. I have seen the full gamut of people who occupy the Office of the Board of Selectmen and have become well-acquainted with the skills and attributes of both good and great Selectmen.

Elaine will clearly be a great selectman.

She could simply not be more dedicated to the Webster community, she possesses substantial directly relevant experience, and I have known very few people in my 45 years of public life who so clearly demonstrate the real meaning of integrity – the deep caring for place, purpose, and people that drives every action, every decision, that she HAS made for Webster, and that she will make as one of our selectmen.

As a resident of Webster, I cannot think of a better person to join our Board of Selectmen and to assist that Board, both to continue its excellent record of service and to help our Selectmen to make even greater achievements on behalf of we, the citizens.

Experience. Dedication. Integrity. Elaine has it all.

Please consider her candidacy, and together, let us ensure that we all enjoy the many gifts of this marvelous person and long term resident of Webster, and enjoy the benefits that she will give us as a character-driven Webster selectman!

Respectfully submitted,

KEVIN E. PAICOS
WEBSTER

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Spring Garden Roundup

It's finally May, and the promise of a warm weather and a bountiful gardening season awaits. For many in New England, the highly anticipated spring season brings with it the excitement of "getting out in the garden" again.



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

A new season of gardening chores has begun, and in recognition of the 2024 planting season, the following guide, geared toward planning your garden tasks, is offered - as well as some tried and true garden tips.

MAY
May Stats: Monthly Averages: Average temperature (Worcester, MA): High: 66 degrees; Low: 47 degrees; Precipitation: 4.19"; Rainy Days: 15 days US Climate Data, 2024

May is the month to:
Obtain a soil test
Add lime to "sweeten" soil as necessary
Complete indoor sowing of tomatoes, herbs, broccoli, cauliflower
Set out cool season varieties such as peas.
Turn gardens over
Compost or fertilize

garden beds six to eight inches deep
Dig and transplant many perennials before new growth advances too far.

Fertilize your trees, shrubs and perennials. As these plants emerge from the dormant state, their need for nutrients is great.

Plant your bareroot rose stock this month.
Transplant crops that were sown in April.

Transfer crops to larger containers until ready to plant

Fertilize spring bulbs which are actively growing

Plant your summer flowering bulbs later in the month such as gladiola, dahlia and canna.

Prune shrubs such as forsythia, witch hazel, and weigela right after blooming. Fertilize soon

after for lush growth this season

Harden off plants to prepare for planting

Pinch back early blossoms of annuals now and you'll be rewarded with more blooms later. Also Pinch off early blossoms of established strawberries for a more bountiful harvest later.

Control your lawn weeds now before the heat of summer to avoid burning grass.

Green Thumb Growing Tips

Hard shelled seeds do not always germinate properly. But you can aid the germination process by making an x cut in the hard seed with a sharp knife.

Or, to speed germination in without breaking the surface, try soaking hard shelled seeds overnight in water.

To get a fast start on germinating corn, try this old trick. Place the corn seeds on a moist paper towel, leaving it overnight. Then fold the damp towel over.

Corn seed that has been pre-sprouted will jump-start your crop and is less likely to rot in cold soil.

When planting your garden, sink a small jar or can in the middle of a row. This way, you can gauge exactly how much water your garden is getting from both irrigation and rainfall.

To stop vigorous mint from spreading and taking over the garden, keep it corralled by planting it in a plastic bucket with the bottom cut out.

Pepper plants thrive on heat, so it helps to place large rocks next to your green pepper plants to attract the sunlight

Plants that grow best in alkaline soil such as geraniums and hydrangea, will thank you with better blooms if you water them with a mild mixture of baking soda and water occasionally.

When buying flowers, the general rule is to choose the largest bulbs because they usually result in larger flowers.

When buying annuals, you'll have the best luck transplanting them if you choose short, stocky, dark green plants with no flowers on them.

When removing the plants from their containers, don't be afraid to break the root mass apart. It will stimulate these small starters into better, stronger growth.

For cost effective mulch, use three sheets of newspaper under bark mulch. You'll save money on bark and the newspaper decomposes, enriching the soil.

Did you know that approximately seven pounds of human hair contain as much nitrogen as 200 pounds of manure? Save hair from home trims to toss in the garden.

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

American folk art

I've had the pleasure of seeing and handling a wide variety of antiques and collectibles and one of the things I enjoy seeing most is folk art. Folk art follows traditional forms of style, theme, and craftsmanship. Items were made from whatever resources were available to the craftsman at the time. Folk art pieces often have a utilitarian purpose but are also aesthetically pleasing.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

with a fruit basket and their cat. A painting in Colonial Williamsburg shows nine children in an outdoor setting. One of the boys has a stick and hoop that was a popular toy at the time. An older girl is holding a baby. Other paintings of the time depict boys with fishing poles and a sea captain with a ship beside him. Given the high mortality rate for children during that time period, many paintings of children were painted posthumously.

Another type of folk art is quilting. European colonists were skilled in working with wool and linen. Quilting was born out of necessity, though. When imported textiles weren't available or when people didn't have the money to buy them, they repurposed material. Block printing and printing on copper plates were used to create designs on fabric, according to the

Metropolitan Museum of Art. These fabric pieces were often incorporated in quilts. Basic designs consisted of squares, diamonds, and hexagons. There were other styles of quilts, but the patchwork quilt is a popular style that used small pieces of cloth to create something that not only kept people warm but looked great in their homes.

There are many other types of folk art, including weathervanes, whirligigs, cigar-store figures, trade signs, ship's carvings, stoneware face jugs, game boards, carnival game wheels of chance, and scrimshaw. Most definitions describe a whirligig as a toy that spins like a top or pinwheel. The folk art whirligigs often depict people with paddle-like arms that twist in the wind or cause a character to saw wood or perform another task.

Some of the more interesting types of folk art we've handled were trade signs. We sold a painted zinc sign that had painted eyes inside the frame to let people know they could find an optometrist there. That piece sold in

the mid-thousands. We've sold multiple weathervanes, but an old banner (directional arrow design) with great patina (natural aging) went for over \$4,000. A pair of beautifully painted leather fire buckets with a connection to Sutton, MA sold for nearly \$20,000. We've sold two 19th century wooden barber poles that brought figures in the thousands. One pole had a sign attached advertising haircuts, shaves, and baths. Up until the 1700s, barbers also performed surgery, dental work, and bloodletting. The red and white design that's still being used symbolized blood and bandages. In the 18th century, you had to be very clear when telling a barber to "take a little off the top."

We are accepting folk art consignments for our summer auction, along with historical items, fine jewelry, sterling silver, art, coins, and other antiques and collectibles. It was nice discussing antiques with the large group who came to the Holden Senior Center last week. Thank you to the readers of this column who attended the event.



I'll be at a Learning in Retirement event in Danielson, Conn. on May 6 discussing downsizing. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to other upcoming events.

Contact us to consign items or for auction

information at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique, Collectibles Auctions and Appraisal Services info@centralmassauctions.com or (508-612-6111).

Attract success, don't chase it

So many of us yearn to be successful, driven by an unrelenting desire to achieve. We work tirelessly, struggle against all odds, and clock in long hours, yet often find ourselves falling short of our goals.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

Sometimes, it seems we're chasing after success like a mirage in a vast desert, seemingly within reach yet perpetually out of grasp, like trying to catch smoke with our bare hands. It can be like running a marathon with no finish line in sight. This relentless pursuit can feel like chasing the horizon — the closer you get, the further it seems to stretch away. Success, when pursued directly, often proves elusive, darting away like a startled deer the moment you think you've cor-

nered it. If you persist in chasing success and consistently fall short, you will encounter a series of deep disappointments. These are not just mere setbacks; they are soul-wrenching disappointments that penetrate to the core of your being. Like sharp thorns on a seemingly beautiful rose, they prick at your spirit each time you reach out, leaving emotional scars that linger. Each failure feels like a personal betrayal, a dream deferred that saps your enthusiasm and dims the light of hope within you. These profound letdowns can hollow you out, leaving a feeling of emptiness where your passion once thrived. Imagine sitting quietly in a park, lost in

thought, when Jim Rohn, a white-haired man with twinkling, wise eyes, sits beside you. He carries the quiet authority of someone who has experienced much in life and who, during his lifetime, was celebrated for his insightful approach to personal development.

After a moment of comfortable silence, he turns to you and asks gently, "Well, how come you haven't achieved success yet?" His voice is soft but carries a weight that suggests deep understanding.

You find yourself opening up more than you intended, sharing, "I've tried for many years, but Success has always eluded me. I put in the hours, worked relentlessly, and at the end of the day, I watched as everyone else got their slice of the pie, but I never got mine." The

older man nods thoughtfully as if he knows this story all too well.

His response is both shocking and eye-opening. He responds with serene confidence, "Success is something you attract, not something you pursue. It's something you attract by becoming attractive."

You can't help but chuckle to yourself, misinterpreting his words, and reply, "Well, there are plenty of successful people who aren't traditionally attractive, and unfortunately, we're born with the looks we have."

He flashes a gentle, knowing smile and clarifies, "Not that kind of attractive. I'm talking about becoming someone who naturally draws opportunities. It's about being a person of value, character, and action—qualities that magnetize

success."

Encouraged by his insight, you lean in, intrigued, and ask, "So, how does one attract success then?"

His eyes light up with the question as if he's been waiting to share this secret.

He replies earnestly, "It's not about chasing external rewards; it's about personal development. You can have more than you've got right now because you can become more than what you are right now. If you multiply your value by three or by five, you can easily multiply your income by three, five, or even ten. But the key is to work on yourself. That's how you make yourself a magnet for Success."

His words resonate deeply, suggesting a shift from outward effort to inward growth and high-

lighting a pathway to better circumstances and a better self.

If you want to have a successful large business, you need to refine your leadership skills. If you aspire to be a renowned artist, enhance your innovative thinking and master new artistic techniques. For those aiming to excel in academia, strengthen your research abilities and cultivate critical thinking. Want to innovate in technology? Develop your technical expertise and learn to adapt quickly to new technological advancements.

By focusing on personal growth in these targeted ways, you make yourself a beacon for opportunities, naturally attracting the success you seek.

ALL WE KNOW IS LOCAL ~ StonebridgePress.com



Fundraiser supports Congdon Family



Jason Bleau

A popular feature of the benefit was an hour-long intense workout session with a room full of participants pushing themselves to the limit.



AJ Congdon and his family pose for a photo as they meet with guests at a benefit to help them with AJ's medical expenses.



A massive raffle filled with donated goods from local supporters and businesses served as the centerpiece of the fundraiser to help the Congdon family.

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — Supporters of AJ Congdon, a student of Dudley Elementary School who has been diagnosed with a brain tumor, came together for a day of fun, family, and community on April 27 with the proceeds helping pay for AJ's treatment. Building off of AJ's love of athletics, the event featured a variety of activities including sports demonstrations, a basketball free-throw, and an hour-long workout while also featuring more conventional fundraising activities including a massive raffle filled with donations from local businesses and supporters. Every penny from the event will help support the Congdons as they pursue treatment of AJ's condition. Supporters have also set up a GoFundMe page called AJ Congdon Strong which, as of this writing, was nearing \$80,000 of its \$85,000 goal.



The face painting booth was quite a popular part of the day with a line of children waiting for their turn.



A balloon artist goes to work on a hat for a young visitor.



Shepherd Hill athletes helped encourage local visitors to take part in athletics, one of AJ Congdon's passions. Here an athlete teaches kids about the sport of volleyball.



Probably the most popular treat of the day was cotton candy, which came in many flavors and was enjoyed by nearly every young visitor to the event.

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Courtesy

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as February Students of the Month at St. Joseph School. Pre-K 3-year-old (2-Day Program): Emilia Dziobak; Pre-K 3-year-old (5-Day Program): Milena Deptula; Pre-K 4-year-old: Dominik Kicilinski; Kindergarten: Ryder Johnson; Grade 1: Klaudia Piascik; Grade 2: Kenneth Maurer; Grade 3: Sophia Bengtson; Grade 4: Marina Szydlik; Grade 5: Amelia Potem; Grade 6: Avery Archambault; Grade 7: Alan Rubin; Grade 8: Max Podgorny. Students are awarded Student of the Month for their outstanding exemplification of Religion, Respect, and Responsibility. Keep up the great work!



Courtesy

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as March Students of the Month at St. Joseph School. Pre-K 3-year-old (3-Day Program): Joel Anobah; Pre-K 3-year-old (5-Day Program): Dylan Miller; Pre-K 4-year-old: Sienna Rucinski; Kindergarten: Gianna Dowd; Grade 1: Henryk Kosiorek; Grade 2: Olivia Perry; Grade 3: Rylan Shemansky; Grade 4: Kirolos Ibrahim; Grade 5: Evelyn Macko; Grade 6: Neli Kuznecki; Grade 7: Gianna Pigeon; Grade 8: Molly Hachigian. Students are awarded Student of the Month for their outstanding exemplification of Religion, Respect, and Responsibility. Keep up the great work!

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OBITUARIES

Diane B. Bourque, 79



FITCHBURG — Diane B. (Lussier) Bourque, 79, died Tuesday, April 23, 2024 in Leominster Hospital after a period of declining health. Her husband of 44 years, James R. Bourque, died in 2013.

She leaves 2 sons, Donald D. Bourque and his husband Paul J. Gould of Webster; and Jeffrey R. Bourque and his wife Dawn Mathieu of Lunenburg; a daughter, Robin I. Bourque and her companion Rejean J. "Reggie" Leblanc of Fitchburg; a sister, Linda M. Melanson and her husband Laurie, also of Fitchburg; her longtime companion Kenny DeCoteau with whom she lived; 4 grandchildren, Kaylee Hancock Murphy and her husband Derek Murphy, Nadine Bourque, Adrienne Bourque and Jonathan Joy and his wife Amanda; 3 great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister Jean J. Manning last year.

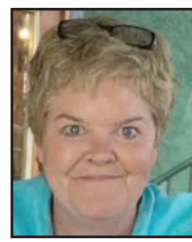
She was born on May 18, 1944 in Fitchburg, the first child of Raymond A. "Parnell" Lussier and Blanche M. (Nolette) Lussier and was a lifelong resident.

Mrs. Bourque worked at Anwelt Shoe Company in Fitchburg as a stitcher before retiring.

She was a lifelong member of Saint Joseph Church. She enjoyed crocheting.

Her funeral was held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, April 30, in the Pieta Chapel at Saint Joseph Cemetery, 487 Clarendon Street. Visitation was held on Monday, April 29, in the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM and again on Tuesday, April 30 from 10:00 to 11:00 AM in the Pieta Chapel, prior to the service. Burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery. Donations in her name may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

www.websterfunerals.com



Beloved Sister, Aunt, Colleague and Friend

June 17, 1956- April 26, 2024

Lynn Tierney, 67, passed peacefully at her home in Charlotte, North Carolina after courageously battling cancer with unwavering strength and grace. Her infectious laughter, compassionate heart, and boundless love touched all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Lynn was born June 17, 1956, to John J. Tierney and Ann Harrington in Burlington, Vermont. She spent her formative years in North Brookfield and Dudley. Lynn was in the first graduating class of 1974 at Shepherd Hill Regional High School in Dudley. She then studied international relations at Northeastern University in Boston with one year spent in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Lynn started at Shawmut Bank right out of college and quickly worked her way to being a top foreign currency broker. Lynn worked for banking institutions in Boston, Chicago, Birmingham, Atlanta and was eventually hired at Wachovia Bank based in Charlotte in 2002. She retired from Wells Fargo in 2018 after a long successful career.

Lynn will be remembered for her vibrant personality and passion for life, fine food, and adventure. She loved to

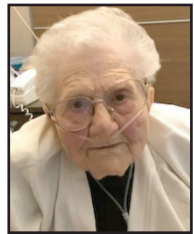
travel and often brought friends and family to share the experience with her. Lynn deeply enjoyed vacations at Cape Cod and in the mountains of North Carolina and Vermont. Whether she was exploring new places, or simply spending time with loved ones, she lived each moment to the fullest.

Lynn is survived by three brothers, John Tierney (Guylaine) of Hania, Greece, Joe Tierney (Ruth) of Dudley, Massachusetts, and Tim Tierney (Shellie) of St. Johnsbury, Vermont and her sister Martha Tierney of Charlton, Massachusetts. Lynn will be greatly missed by her nieces and nephews who she made her first priority: Amy, Matt (Kazumi); and Jon Achorn (Katy); Ellen, Mairin and Rose Tierney. She was so proud to be the Great Aunt of Marcus, Laney, Olivia, and Zara. Lynn also leaves behind lifelong friends Nancy Piscopo, Ingrid Erikson, and Kim Doane and many cousins, friends, and neighbors. Lynn's fur baby, her dog Nellie, will continue to be spoiled by friends and family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jack and Ann, stepfather Chester Kulisa, and her sister Margaret Achorn.

A celebration of Lynn's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made to Autism Charlotte (www.autismcharlotte.org) in honor of Lynn's memory.

Mary Wedda, 92



WEBSTER — Mary (Macuga) Wedda, 92, died Wednesday, April 24, 2024 in Care One, Millbury after a short illness. Her husband of 35 years, Edward J. Wedda, died in 2001.

She leaves nieces and nephews including her caregivers Frank A. Czechowski, Jr. and his wife Kathleen and their children Frank A. Czechowski III, Joseph Czechowski, Melissa Czechowski and Kimberly Czechowski; and great-nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by 4 brothers, Joseph, William, Stephen and "Butch" Macuga and by 2 sisters, Victoria Czechowski and Frances Robson.

She was born at home on December

3, 1931, the youngest of the 7 children of Albert and Mary (Yerka) Macuga and graduated from Douglas High School. She lived in Webster for over 60 years.

Mrs. Wedda was an assembler at the former Webster Shoe Company for many years before retiring.

She was a communicant of Saint Joseph Basilica. She loved and cared for Frank and Kathleen's children and especially their 9 grandchildren.

Her funeral was held Saturday, April 27, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. Visitation was held from 9:00 to 10:30 AM in the funeral home Saturday before the Mass

www.websterfunerals.com



Michael A. Wilson, 43

Michael A. Wilson, age 43, of Dudley, MA passed away after a brief illness on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, in Cancun Mexico. Mike was born on August 29, 1980 in Worcester, MA. He is the son of

Elise and Clifton Wilson of Dudley.

Mike is survived by his 9 year old daughter Olive Wilson, his parents Cliff and Elise Wilson of Dudley, his sister Amanda Wilson and her husband Alvaro Donaire of McAllen, Texas, and his significant other Andrea Brousseau. He also leaves his former wife Andrea Ausmus and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He is a 1999 graduate of St. John's

High School in Shrewsbury, MA and Worcester State College. He was employed as a corporate service manager at United Ag & Turf.

His greatest joy was spending time with Olive, who was the light of his life. He also loved his job, family vacations, cruising and spending time out with friends.

Memorial calling hours are Sunday May 5th at Bartel Funeral Home 33 Schofield Avenue Dudley from 1 to 3 pm with a prayer service at 3 pm

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in honor of Mike to provide a brighter future for Olive at the following website:

<https://everloved.com/life-of/michael-alexander-wilson/>
www.bartelfuneralhome.com

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Heat-tolerant beauties for gardens and containers

Boost the summer-long beauty and heat tolerance in your gardens and containers with new varieties of annual vinca (Catharanthus). The unique Soireea vinca varieties provide added appeal with their cute, double, and ruffled flowers.

Annual vincas, also known as Madagascar and Rose periwinkle, thrive in full sun and well-drained soil. Once established they are drought tolerant. Similar in growth habit as impatiens but these flowers thrive in hot sunny locations where impatiens struggle. Hardy in zones 10 and 11, vincas are grown as an annual in most parts of the country.

Include annual vincas in containers, hanging baskets, and garden beds. Mix them with other plants or allow them to shine on their own.

Soireea Kawaii vincas light up any garden with their vibrant mini flowers. You'll enjoy an abundance of flowers that cover the nine to 18 inch tall by 12 to 18 inch wide mound of glossy deep green foliage. No need to prune away long leggy branches as this plant maintains its compact habit all season long. Kawaii means cute in Japanese and these flowers certainly are just that.

Select from eight Soireea Kawaii (suntoryflowers.com) flower colors ranging from white to coral, purple, and red. Add some sizzle with Paprika Red, a patriot flare with the Lady Liberty Mix, or a harmonious mix of pinks and purple in the Berry Blast mix. Grow White Peppermint, Coral, or Coral Reef Soireea Kawaii if the disease phytophthora has been a problem in the past. These three are as resistant to this dis-



GARDEN

MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

ease as Cora XDR, the gold standard of phytophthora resistance.

Visitors to your garden will take a second look when you add Soireea Double and Flamenco vincas to the landscape. Their unique flowers don't look like a typical vinca, adding a bit more pizzazz to any planting and combination.

Soireea Doubles have two distinct layers of frilly petals and produce an abundance of blooms. They are more vigorous, with a larger growth habit than Soireea Kawaii. These plants have a larger leaf and body. You can select from white-, pink-, or orchid-colored flowers that bloom all season long. Don't be fooled by their delicate appearance, Soireea Doubles are as heat tolerant as other annual vincas.

Unlike any other vinca, the Soireea Flamenco puts on a display as fancy as that of a flamenco dancer. The ruffled petals may be solid or bicolor. This plant grows 8 to 12 inches tall and 15 to 20 inches wide. It has the same heat tolerance, glossy green foliage, and compact growth habit as the other Soireea vincas.

Senorita Pink Flamenco flowers have a dark pink eye surrounded by a lighter pink blending into the white outer edges of the frilly petals. Contrast that with the deep maroon ruffled petals with a bright terracotta edge of Salsa Red. Salmon Glow's white eye contrasts nicely with salmon peach. Pink Twist has the most curled flowers in a lovely pink, adding to its appeal.

Look for opportunities to add some unique flare to this



Courtesy — Suntory Flowers

Soireea vincas are drought tolerant, thrive in full sun, and add lots of color all summer with an abundance of flowers.

year's garden and containers. You'll enjoy their season-long beauty and the oohs and aahs they inspire.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD and instant video series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by Suntory Flowers for her expertise in writing this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL

HONOR ROLL

WEBSTER — Bartlett High School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Grade 9

High Honor: Zainab Abshir, Jayden Azu, Caden Case, Callie Castro, Cheyenne Grundel, Morgan Minor, Irelyn Pottle, Michael Stawiecki

Honor: Jared Archambault, Xavier Butler, Nathan Casper, Daysha Collins, Aiden Falke, Ethan Gomes, Libby Kokoszka, Darlene Macario, Anjeliz Mercado, Megan Milligan, Nadia Olivier, Dhyey Patel, Madalynn Velasquez, Cassidy White, Tyler Whiting

Grade 10

High Honor: Nathan Cole, Chloe Drisco, Niel Duszlak

Honor: Kenneth Arpin, Izayah Barjolo, Ivy Bucasas, Elijah Castro, Kiaralix Colon, Georgia Mingos, Naomie Orelie, Michael Pagan, Eryk Piwowarczyk, Travis Russell, Luis Shevchuk, Luigi Villegas

Grade 11

High Honor: Ess Keegan, Adam Phillips, Rafael Trivino

Honor: Jibril Abshir, Jizanie Alvarado, Evelina Bagdonaviciute, Savannah Bjork, Emiliano Calderon, Jayden Casey, Aiden Castillo, Hope Cooper, Caleb Cuenca Medina, Ayden Do, Jared Fallas, Sydney Fuller, Taryn Gerber, Ayden Heenan, Justin Ilarraza, Lexani Lewis, Evangeline Mayotte, Janlucas Mercedes Morales, Cayleb Mercure, Ian Mulbah, Htwa Peh, Isabella Richards, Milton Skerrett, Adam Urato, Odelis Valentin, Dakota Vaudreuil, Maya Wetherbee, Aiden Wolfram

Grade 12

High Honor: Frederick Cash
Honor: Peter Brandao, Leidy Cruz Guzman, NayJean Holley, Peter Lavache, Kaua Lima, Haideeliz Martinez, Isabella Rivera, Radames Rodriguez, Madisynn Segarra, Dezmin Zona

Local residents named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON — The following local residents were named to the 2023 fall semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

* Victoria Lavelle, Webster
* Ella Staltare, Oxford

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

About Simmons University Located in the heart of Boston, Simmons is a respected private university offering nearly 50 majors and programs for undergraduate women and graduate programs open to all on campus, in blended formats, or entirely

online in nursing and health sciences, liberal arts, business, communications, social work, public health, and library and information science. Founded in 1899, Simmons has established a model of higher education that other colleges and universities are only recently beginning to adapt: the combination of education for leadership in high-demand professional fields with the intellectual foundation of the liberal arts. The result is a Simmons graduate prepared not only to work, but to lead in professional, civic, and personal life - a vision of empowerment that Simmons calls preparation for life's work. Follow Simmons on Twitter at @SimmonsUniv, and on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/school/simmons-university/>.



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LEGALS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS (SEAL)
 LAND COURT
 DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
 Docket No.24 SM 001649
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Bruce J. Grici Angela J. Grici
 and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
Nationstar Mortgage LLC
 claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Auburn, numbered 650 Oxford Street South**, given by **Bruce J. Grici and Angela J. Grici to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated December 5, 2006, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40314, Page 1, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated October 1, 2023, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 69663, Page 219**, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before 06/10/2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 4/25/2024
 May 3, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P1319EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
 Edmee Alberty
Also known as:
 Rachel E. Alberty
Date of Death: 03/14/2024

To all interested persons:
 A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Claribel Alves of Albion RI** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Claribel Alves of Albion RI** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/21/2024**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
 A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: April 22, 2024
 Stephanie K. Fattman,
 Register of Probate
 May 3, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
COMPLAINT TO FORECLOSE TAX LIEN
 [seal]
No. 19 TL 001124

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, and to any former stockholders, officers, creditors, and any other persons claiming any interest in Kaltsas Realty, Inc., a dissolved Massachusetts corporation formerly located in Worcester, Worcester County, and said Commonwealth; George Kaltsas, also known as George H. Kaltsas, as he was President, Treasurer, and a Director of said Kaltsas Realty, Inc., deceased, formerly of Worcester, Worcester County, and said Commonwealth; Nicholas Kaltsas, also known as Nicholas G. Kaltsas, as he is Secretary and a Director of said Kaltsas Realty, Inc., now or formerly of Worcester, Worcester County, and said Commonwealth; and as they are both officers and/or directors of said Kaltsas Realty, Inc.; Eugenia Sakellis, as she is the sole devisee under the will of said George Kaltsas, also known as George H. Kaltsas, now or formerly of Westbrook in the State of Connecticut; ExxonMobil Pipeline Company LLC, formerly known as ExxonMobil Pipeline Company, a duly existing corporation having a usual place of business in Spring in the State of Texas, in care of its Resident Agent Corporation Service Company, a duly existing corporation having a usual place of business in Boston, Suffolk County, and said Commonwealth; Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Office of the Attorney General); or their heirs, devisees, legal representatives, successors and assigns:

Whereas, a complaint has been presented by the Town of Oxford, Worcester County, said Commonwealth; to foreclose all rights of redemption from the tax lien proceeding described in said complaint in and concerning two parcels of land situate in the Town of Oxford in the County of Worcester and in said Commonwealth, bounded and described in said complaint as follows:

PARCEL I
 The land located on Huguenot Road, containing 10 acres more or less, which can be seen on the Oxford Assessor's Map 45 Parcel A01.

PARCEL II
 The land located on Huguenot Road, containing 29.36 acres, more or less, which can be found on the Oxford Assessor's Map 35 Parcel A02 and recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds Book 3228 Page 289
 May 3, 2024

If you desire to make any objection or defense to said complaint you or your attorney must file a written appearance and an answer, under oath, setting forth clearly and specifically your objections or defense to each part of said complaint, in the office of the Recorder of said Court in Boston (at the Courthouse located on Three Pemberton Square, Room 507 in Boston, MA 02108), on or before the Seventeenth day of May in the year two thousand and twenty-four. Unless an appearance is so filed by or for you, your default will be recorded, the said complaint will be taken as confessed and you will be forever barred from contesting said complaint or any judgment entered thereon.

And in addition to the usual service of this notice as required by law, it is ordered that the foregoing citation be published forthwith once in Webster Times a newspaper published in said Webster.
 Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Esquire, Chief Justice of said Court, this twenty-fourth day of April in the year two thousand and twenty-four.
 Attest with Seal of said Court.
 Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
 Plaintiff's Attorney: Peter Brown, Esq., Brown Legal PLLC, 10 Liberty Square, Boston, MA 02109 Tel: (617)463-9133
 May 3, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Melissa Glidden to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, dated May 25, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65266, Page 278, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, its successor and assigns to Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC, recorded on March 9, 2022, in Book No. 67240, at Page 3 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on May 28, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 10 Elm Street, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
 TO WIT:
 A certain parcel of land with the building thereon of every nature and description

and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in Town of Webster, Worcester county, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, further bounded and described as follows: Beginning at an iron pin in the ground on the Northerly side of Elm Street at the Southwest corner of the granted premises; Thence Northerly by land of one Daniel F. Casey, now or formerly, one hundred thirty-nine (139) feet, more or less, to a pin at wall on land of A.J. Bates Company, now or formerly; (by field survey 129 feet); Thence Easterly by said wall fifty (50) feet to an iron pin; Thence Southerly by land of said Daniel F. Casey, now or formerly, one hundred forty-five (145) feet to said Elm Street at an iron pin: (by field survey 134 feet); Thence by said Elm Street Westerly fifty (50) feet to the point of beginning.
 For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65266, Page 275.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.
TERMS OF SALE:
 A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC
 Present holder of said mortgage
 By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
 150 California St.
 Newton, MA 02458
 (617)558-0500
 24650
 April 26, 2024
 May 3, 2024
 May 10, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO24P1254EA
Estate of:
Manuela Adelson
Also Known As:
Manuela O. Adelson
Date Of Death:
February 11, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner
Taylor Adelson of Cleveland OH
Taylor Adelson of Cleveland OH has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
 May 3, 2024

(SEAL)
 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
 LAND COURT
 DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
 Docket 24 SM 001586
ORDER OF NOTICE
 To:
 Ricardo Lopez Ayala
 and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
 Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 12 Railroad Avenue, given by Ricardo Lopez Ayala to Mortgage

Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, its successors and assigns, dated July 28, 2020, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62896, Page 303, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before June 3, 2024, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
 Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of this Court on April 22, 2024.
 Attest:
 Deborah J. Patterson
 Recorder
 24-004014
 May 3, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. WO24C0172CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

In the matter of:
Linda Ann Ives
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by
Linda Ann Ives of East Douglas MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Lin Ann Ives

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 05/07/24. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
 WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: April 16, 2024
 Stephanie Fattman,
 Register of Probate
 May 3, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P1346EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
 Edward L. Richard
Also known as:
 Edward Lorenz Richard
Date of Death: 05/03/2022

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
 You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/28/2024**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
 A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
 Date: April 23, 2024
 Stephanie K. Fattman,
 Register of Probate
 May 3, 2024

William C. Pieczynski named ninth president of Nichols College

DUDLEY — William C. Pieczynski, current interim president at Nichols College, has been named the ninth president of the nationally ranked business school. The appointment was announced by the Nichols College Board of Trustees and is effective May 1.

“We are thrilled that Bill has accepted our invitation to assume the presidency of Nichols College,” said Randall V. Becker '83, MBA '96, chair of the Board of Trustees. “Bill has led Nichols through a period of transition with deft skill and unquestionable success. He is a natural leader, a man of great character, and cares deeply about Nichols and its extended community. He is uniquely qualified

to harness the College's recent momentum and continue the upward trajectory that now ranks Nichols among the national leaders in salary potential and return on investment.”

President Pieczynski has a long and distinguished career at Nichols, working closely with faculty, staff and students across academic disciplines and campus-wide departments. He joined the College as director of the Nichols Fund in 2006, where he was charged with expanding the President's Society, generating annual funds and overseeing alumni relations. President Pieczynski was named vice president for advancement in 2010 when he oversaw the

successful completion of the College's bicentennial campaign, Securing a Legacy of Leadership, which raised \$66 million to support capital projects, endowment and brand-elevating curricular and co-curricular initiatives. The campaign was the largest in the College's history, generating a record number of multimillion-dollar gifts, and far surpassed the campaign's initial goal of \$45 million.

Under President Pieczynski's leadership, Nichols has set new standards for overall giving, President's Society giving, giving percentage and number of donors. During his tenure, he has been instrumental in securing contributions to support new building proj-

ects. Among them are the Fels Student Center, Nichols Innovation Center and major renovations and upgrades to athletic facilities and Lombard Dining Hall. The number of endowed scholarships rose from 16 to 98. In addition, the College has received numerous major gifts for new experiential learning programs such as the Nichols Consulting Group, the student-managed Thunder Fund, the Center for Intelligent Process Automation and co-curricular initiatives such as the Susan West Engelkemeyer, Ph.D., Institute for Women's Leadership and the Emerging Leaders Program.

“To lead Nichols College is a tremendous honor and I am excited

to assume the presidency at such a pivotal time in this institution's long and storied history,” said President Pieczynski. “We offer something special at Nichols—a highly relevant, hands-on education that prepares students for lives of meaning, purpose and success after graduation. As a member of this community for the past 18 years, I care deeply about Nichols and its people, and am confident of the role I can play in fostering a campus culture that reflects our values, takes advantage of our unique strengths and advances the College's mission.”

About Nichols
Nichols College has earned business accreditation from the prestigious Association to

Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools and the largest business education network connecting learners, educators, and businesses worldwide. Founded in 1815, Nichols College transforms today's students into tomorrow's leaders through a dynamic, career-focused business and professional education. Nichols offers real-world learning focused on professional depth - combined with vibrant living, competitive athletics, and an unmatched alumni advantage - equipping students to exceed their own expectations. www.nichols.edu

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jessica Figueroa Rodriguez to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Envoy Mortgage, LTD, dated December 17, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66778, Page 280, as modified by a certain modification agreement dated April 26, 2023, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 69158, Page 249, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Envoy Mortgage, LTD, its successors and assigns to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, recorded on March 24, 2023, in Book No. 68949, at Page 326 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on May 21, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 8 Pine Street, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

Two common tracts of land, together with the buildings thereon, situated in Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts and described as follows:

TRACT I

The land with the buildings thereon of every nature and description and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging situated in the easterly part of said Dudley and bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner thereof, at a point on the northerly line of Pine Street, two hundred ninety-eight (298) feet from the westerly line of Oxford Avenue;

THENCE northerly by land now or formerly of Henry Roomer, and parallel with said Oxford Avenue one hundred thirty-two (132) feet;

THENCE westerly by land formerly of Stevens Linen Works and parallel with said Pine Street sixty-six (66) feet;

THENCE southerly by land of said Works and parallel with said Roomer's line, one hundred thirty-two (132) feet to Pine Street;

THENCE easterly by said Pine Street sixty-six (66) feet to point of beginning. Containing 8,712 square feet.

Excepting from the above described tract a piece of land sold to the Southern New England railroad Company on October 22, 1912, by deed recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 2009, Page 102 bounded and described as follows:

A Little triangle beginning at the south-westerly corner; thence northerly forty-eight (48) feet, thence easterly twenty-six feet; thence southwesterly fifty-six (56) feet to the point of beginning.

TRACT II

The land in the easterly part of said Dudley, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at southeasterly corner of land to be conveyed, on the northerly side of Pine Street and being the southwesterly corner of land of Kazimierz Hajec, o/k/a Charles Hazec, now or formerly shown as Lot No. 26, on Plat of Stevens Linen Works; THENCE running northerly on westerly line of said Lot No. 26, for a distance of about eighty-four (84) feet to a point

forty (40) feet distant easterly at right angles from center line of location of the Southern New England Railroad Corporation;

THENCE running and turning north-easterly on line parallel to and forty (40) feet distant from said center line for a distance of about fifty-six (56) feet to the northerly line of said Lot No. 26; THENCE turning and running easterly along said northerly line for a distance of about forty (40) feet to the northeast corner of said Lot No. 26;

THENCE turning and running northerly on easterly line of Lot No.43 of said Plat for a distance of thirty (30) feet;

THENCE turning and running westerly on line parallel to northerly line of Pine Street for a distance of thirty-seven (37) feet to a point;

THENCE turning and running south-westerly by direct line about one hundred eighty (180) feet to a point in the northerly line of Pine Street that is fifty (50) feet westerly from the point of beginning.

THENCE turner and running easterly by Pine Street fifty (50) feet to the point of beginning.

CONTAINING 4,257 square feet of land, more or less, and comprising parts of Lots No. 26, 43 and 27 of said Plat of Steven's Linen Works.

This conveyance is made subject to an easement of Webster and Southbridge Gas & Electric Company as of record in Book 2585, page 541, Worcester district Registry of Deeds and to any restrictions and easements of record.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 66778, Page 275.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
25175
April 19, 2024
April 26, 2024
May 3, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Shawn W. Cierpich to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., dated February 3, 2006 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38497, Page 289 (the "Mortgage"), as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated August 28, 2012, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 50089, Page 62 of which mortgage US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust is the present holder by Assignment from JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage LLC dated February 10, 2015 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 53443, Page 107, and Assignment from Nationstar Mortgage LLC to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. dated November 19, 2019 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 61450, Page 81, and Assignment from Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. to US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust dated March 22, 2022 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 67505, Page 389, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 180 Ramshorn Road, Dudley, MA 01571 will be sold at a Public Auction at 12:00 PM on May 21, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land situated in Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:
LOT #4

BEGINNING at an iron pin at the northwest corner of tract herein described on the Easterly sideline of the 1936 Worcester County Highway layout of Ramshorn Road at the Southwest corner of Lot #3; THENCE S 70° 15 minutes 20 seconds E along said Lot 3 a distance of one hundred one and ten hundredths (101.10) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE N 87° 38 minutes 47 seconds E along said Lot 3 a distance of two hundred fifty and no hundredths (250.00) feet to a drill hole in a stonewall; THENCE S 14° 34 minutes 09 seconds E along a stonewall and land of Charles J. and Annabelle Moninski, now or formerly, a distance of five hundred forty-nine and fifty-seven hundredths (549.57) feet to a point in said stonewall; THENCE S 15° 43 minutes 48 seconds W along a stonewall and said Moninski land a distance of one hundred and ninety-seven hundredths (100.97) feet to an iron pipe in a corner of walls; THENCE S 79° 09 minutes 14 seconds W mostly along a stonewall and said Cierpich land a distance of one hundred forty-nine and seventy-four hundredths (149.74) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE S 78° 14 minutes 58 seconds W mostly along a stonewall and said Cierpich land a distance of two hundred forty-one and forty-one hundredths (241.41) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE N 17° 20 minutes 48 seconds W along said Cierpich land a distance of one hundred sixty and nineteen hundredths (160.19) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE N 12° 09 minutes 48 seconds W along said Cierpich land a distance of one hundred eighty-three and thirty-five

hundreds (183.35) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE N 23° 50 minutes 04 seconds W along said Cierpich land a distance of one hundred forty-four and three hundredths (144.03) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE N 83° 25 minutes 32 seconds W along said Cierpich land a distance of one hundred fifty-six and forty-nine hundredths (156.49) feet to a point; THENCE N 26° 52 minutes 29 seconds E along said Cierpich land a distance of sixty and forty-one hundreds (60.41) feet to an iron pipe on the easterly sideline of Ramshorn, Road; THENCE running northerly along the easterly sideline and said Ramshorn Road on a curve to the left having a radius of 530.00 feet and a length of 245.23 feet to the point of beginning. The above described tract contains an area of 6.5734 acres. BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO SHAWN W. CIERPICH, UNSTATED BY DEED FROM SHAWN W. CIERPICH AND LESLIE J. CIERPICH RECORDED 09/15/2000 IN DEED BOOK 23002 PAGE 127. IN THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS PLAN FOR WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 23002, Page 127.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Cierpich, Shawn W., 16-027448
April 26, 2024
May 3, 2024
May 10, 2024

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LANDLORDS

continued from page A1

vided mixed responses to the regulations, especially the fees. Board of Health member Jennifer Cournoyer said charging landlords what could amount to \$300 worth of annual fees was excessive, a sentiment later echoed by actual landlords present for the discussion.

“First, we’re Dudley, we’re a smaller town. Second, this is something new so I think we should start on a smaller scale,” said Cournoyer who felt lowering one or all of the fees to \$25 was a better option. “I like the idea of a common area inspection because I think a good percentage, over

50 percent of the complaints, are from the common areas be it no locks on the doors, no posting of landlord information or property manager information, no lights in the common area or the lights are being paid for by another apartment, no lights in the laundry area in the basement. These should all be taken care of by the landlord. I think when you do a common area inspection, you’re also going to do a visual inspection of the outside. So, you see the trash, you see if screens are there or not. Also, if you’re in the basement you see the oil tank and then you know.”

The proposals received a much stronger response from landlords and tenants alike who felt the

proposal was an invasion of their privacy among other issues. Local landlord Jim Ciprari was strongly opposed to the regulations.

“If you impose anything on landlords and don’t give them a break, like you would normally do with taxes, you’re not going to find a developer, so the Economic Development Committee is kind of useless because no one is going to want to come into our community,” said Ciprari, who proposed the possibility of an opt-out feature which Hannon felt was a good idea.

Another landlord Mark Marzeotti, who also sits on the Economic Development Commission, was one of

several speakers who felt the proposed inspections and fees would inconvenience responsible landlords and felt the town should instead create rules that apply to those who have a history of violations.

“I don’t expect a bad landlord to be here, but I think it’s important to know the facts don’t lie. Unfortunately, the tenants who are being treated poorly are being treated poorly by the same landlord - Why impose something on the entire community if you know we’re doing a good job? It just doesn’t feel right,” Marzeotti said.

While most of the public feedback came from landlords, at least one tenant did present their

perspective. Kaitlyn Auger said she feels the inspections would be invasive and that she trusts her landlord to do the right thing.

“I understand the importance of health conditions and sanitary conditions in apartments. However, my landlord is welcome to come into my home anytime in accordance with our lease and I don’t think the government, the Board of Health, needs to step in there. I do have a child and I don’t feel that’s safe. It’s a blatant invasion of privacy. I think biannual inspections disregards the privacy and autonomy of residential landlords to maintain the residences diligently. The other part of this is

I know there’s language to prevent the cost falling on tenants, however when rent raises come it’s no surprise what it’s going to be for, even if that’s not what it states,” said Auger. “My landlord can come anytime. He can put in the lease to do his own inspections, but I don’t think the state needs to be at my home.”

The Board of Health did not make a motion on the proposal during the meeting. At the recommendation of the Health Agent, the board continued the discussion until their May 21 meeting when they are expected to present a re-drafted recommendation taking into consideration the public’s feedback from the hearing.

BELAND

continued from page A1

Compassionate Change of Assignment. The remainder of his enlistment plus an extension ordered by the President because of the Vietnam War, was served at Westover AFB, 99th, B-52 Bomber Wing, Strategic Air Command.

Alc Beland was separated from the service in 1963 besides his ‘at home’ machine shop on Dresser Street, he maintained employment at several locations, settling into Packard Mills space in ‘67. Nine years later he opened a new building in the Oxford Industrial Park when AJEC Eng. Inc was founded. The business now employs the Beland Family plus 16 others, with Al at the controls there has been steady growth.

Al’s credentials are impressive: Thirty year member of the Police Dept., member of the Planning and Finance Boards, Conservation Comm. and Trustees of Soldiers Monuments. He is in his twentieth year as a member of the Bay Path School Committee. Al has met the requirements for the position of Harbor Master. The lake is patrolled in a boat designed and built by AJEC ENG. The Corporation also supports the Men’s Softball League, The Joe Namath Football Camp, and finances the BHS Math Team. Al is also a certified E.M.T. This is only a part of Al Beland’s impressive resume. He is a member of the Veterans Council and Funeral Squad Honor Guard...and he also fixes jet engines!

BALLOT

continued from page A1

one of those names you see repeatedly in the records. Among other things, she’s been on the Historical Commission, Personnel Board, Town Administrator Search Committee, and recently helped write the library’s strategic plan.

She describes that work as being “the next phase of her retirement here,” after three decades working for the federal government’s Environmental Protection Agency. She sees that experience as particularly useful in dealing with the town’s PFAS and emergency preparation issues, among other things. She still keeps abreast of EPA changes as part of the agency’s alumni association.

To Davies, the key need in town government now is having people who know how “to deal with very senior people,” not in the age sense, but in the experience and

authority sense.

“To lead in Webster, you really have to have read first and acted in Webster,” she said.

Despite their difference, Davies agreed with Morin on the need for updating the Master Plan, which she noted is 10 years old. She said “a lot of the pieces are already available” in other documents. To her, a big part of it should include expanding Webster’s green spaces, including the French Riverwalk. One specific goal would be to create an art center in one of the older buildings, and otherwise “reuse historic buildings better.”

Davies also agreed on the need to ask “are we reaching all the citizens we should?” and getting more people involved by reaching out to various nonprofits and churches and seeing what skills the town board need. She specifically cited Webster’s “vibrant” Spanish and Polish communities, noting “we have such a rich history.”

FUNDING

continued from page A1

82.5 percent of the foundation budget for very wealthy towns, but the target for local contribution is 59 percent. Allen noted that first number was simply chosen as the mid point between what the two branches of the legislature wanted – 80 and 85 percent.

In Oxford, those figures were \$1.7 billion in property, which accounts for a \$6.7 million share of the CEY, and \$439 million in income, which accounts for \$7.1 million of the CEY, including Bay Path. Based on the formula, that makes Oxford’s maximum local share \$22.2 million, but the actual local payment for fiscal 2025 is \$13.15 million (including Bay Path) when other factors

are included.

“All communities have the ability to spend more than foundation,” Allen noted, and many do so. Oxford is among them, with its budget this year in the second highest group of towns by spending 108.9 percent of what the state expects. Allen said the state average is 126.7 percent, but 235 communities (including Worcester) “are [still] below target. It’s because of the phase in of the Student Opportunity Act, to be clear.”

Those figures go toward “net schools spending,” but that also includes other things that are often budgeted on the town side of the ledger, termed “indirect costs.” Among them are insurance, accounting, educational media for the library, school security, maintenance, char-

ter tuitions (which are only partly offset) and staff benefits (by far the largest category, usually). But they do not include such things as debt (even for school-specific projects, like the \$10 million Oxford approved for repairs last year) or transportation.

Several audience members had detailed questions, some of them slightly off-topic. A few surrounded the issue of what responsibilities the towns and schools have to each other and how to document them.

As Palmina Griffin noted, the last written agreement she could find was nine years ago, but various things have changed since then.

“We just never memorialized these things” despite often “work[ing] very collaboratively” to get there, she said.

he feels the town has “done a pretty good job with spending. I can’t think of anything I’d say ‘We should never have done that.’”

Like the other two, he wants to make Main Street businesses “a little less empty,” something he believes requires “work[ing] as a group.” Finding the “right mix” down there is crucial, but particularly figuring out how to retain businesses by seeing what they need.

“It’d be good to look at what kinds of hoops they had to jump through ... and make things a little easier” at the town level while still following safety and other laws, Dziedzic said.

He sees economic development as an avenue to get more people involved in to affairs, but noted overall there’s no “easy answer” to that. One thing he observed is that there’s a “vast difference” between the apartment he grew up in and where he now lives on Lower Gore Road.

Overall, Dziedzic said

Rest of the ballot

Besides the selectmen, the rest of the ballot has no races, with a few vacancies. The School Committee’s two seats only have one candidate – Nick Adamopoulos is seeking re-election, but Kathy Napierata is not. Robert Tremblay is seeking re-election to his Bay Path School Committee seat. Jeanne Mikels is also seeking re-election to the Library Trustees.

All of the other listed candidates are new. Linda Krupsky seeks to take over the town clerk’s office from departing long-term clerk Robert Craver. There are two Board of Health seats: Brett Bergeron seeking a three-year term and Oktawia Gielarowicz seeking a one-year term. Kathryn Ward seeks five years on the Housing Authority.

There are no candidates for Redevelopment Authority or Finance Committee.

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

because they don’t have the “free cash” mechanism towns have.

Eul wasn’t impressed. He noted schools often “pre-pay for things [for next year]. There’s nine ways to move the deck chairs. I know that from being an accountant,” he said.

Amy Frick wanted to know what the “best practice” is for handling school choice funds. Allen said choice-in can be a revolving fund, but choice-out has to get deducted from the budget. He also noted Medicaid reimbursement legally has to go to the town’s general fund, not the schools.

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OXFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

OXFORD — Oxford Middle School has released its honor roll for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Grade 8
 High Honors: Khloe Anderson, Andrew Collins, Laura Grenier, Olivia Hammond, Caroline Harty, Beatriz Luna, Elijah McKenna, Devyn Quarshie, Isabella Roszkowski, Victoria Sullivan, Keagan Vanarsdalen

Honors: Kassim Abubakar, Gwenyth Auger, Haniya Awais, Lillian Burke, Sydney Chisholm, Ayva Coffey, Kaeli Cordova Del Cid, Rylie Dwyer, Pietro Falsarella, Davi Fracalossi, Tatiangelys Hernandez Barreto, Chloe Hosley, Colin Joyce, Ella Kasprzycki, Olivia LaMountain, Zachry Lewis, Luis Martinez Jr., John McMahon, Brooke Nitti, Joseph Pretty, Colin Quintero, Joseph Ricard, McKaelyn Shine, Adam Sliwoski, Torin Stone, Jackson Stuart, Jaelyn Thomas, Mia Urbaz, Christina Vitale

Grade 7
 High Honors: Alexander Campbell, Bella Coghlan, Sophia Coghlan, Nikolas Coraccio, Emma Farrar, Emmary Gustafson, Ashlyn Halliday, Ethan Hamilton, Tucker Harrity, Ali Johnson, Riley Maki, Samantha Marrier, Olivia Martinez, Keigan McIlvaine, Tyler Melton, Catalina Montalvo, Brooke O'Connor, Kaliyana Padilla, Savannah Pratt, Destiny Purcell, Jayden Rosado, Colton Toedt, Jameson Tyrrell, Jude Worden, Samuel Yogaratanam

Honors: Michael Annancy, Zachery Barberio, Lukas Bergman, Brenna Burke, Kaylin Cabana, Mason Case, Chase Checkoway, Kayden Chuong, Kendra Cutroni, Kelsey Dunn, Michael Forbes, Braydon Fournier, Sophia Francis, Natalie Gauthier, Collin Grazulis, Joseph Greska, Brianna Judge, Sophia Kinhan, Chloe Lavallee, Nathan Mayo, Agnes Molloy, Joseph Peters, Grady Powers, Davis James Purkis, Tyler Remillard, Isabelle

Richmond, Zachary Rucho, Declan Sharry, Harper Shoblom, Audrey Smith, Donald Spaulding, Ava St. Peter, Logan Valipour, Malayna Vieira

Grade 6
 High Honors: Lily Dolbec, Jillian Gustafson, Liam Harrity, Yeidiel Hernandez Barreto, Alana LaFrance, Ashton O'Malley, Mateo Quintero, Megan Riley, Hunter Rodriguez, Jordyn Torteson

Honors: Larissa Amorim, Gemma Balboni, Isabella Bishop, Abigail Burke, Haley Capistran, Gabe Costa, Sadie Crouch, Fredrik Gurney, Olivia Gustafson, Hailey Johnson, Willow Keller, Camden Legendre, Brookelynn Mangano, Alana McFarland, Sophia Meneguzzo, Maxwell Palia, Pedro Paniagua, Michael Peck, Bridget Plante, Sophia Renaud, Timothy Rodier, Lilliana Tervo, Maci Turner, Parker Tyrrell

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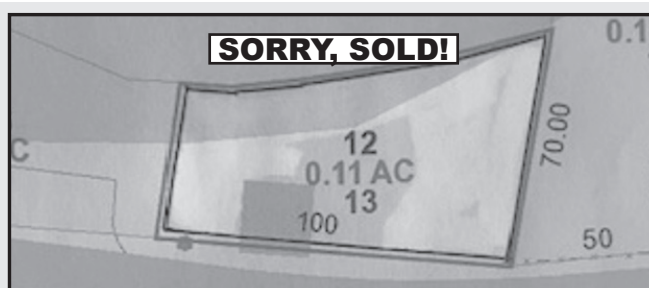


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91 Blood Rd \$499,900

CHARLTON- 2400 sq. ft. Colonial
*4 BR * 2.5 Baths
*Kitchen w/ Hickory cabinets
*Pristine Condition
*Fireplace/Familyroom
93 Haggerty Rd \$659,900

HOLDEN 55+ Community
*2.5 Baths *Hardwood Floors
*Gas Fireplace
*1st Floor Familyroom
48 Tea Party Circle \$580,000

DUDLEY- Motivated Seller
*3 BR *Newly Carpeted
* New Septic *Town Water
*Kitchen/Dining Room
316 Dresser Hill Rd \$300's

SOUTHBRIDGE- 22x20' Livingroom
*Familyroom *1.5 Baths
*Above Ground Pool
*22" Kitchen *Den with Stove
34 Ridge Rd \$300's

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