



Free by request to residents of Webster, Dudley and the Oxfords

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Friday, March 29, 2024

Debt exclusion for school projects added to Dudley ballot

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Dudley voters will be asked to decide on a funding mechanism for school capital costs when the municipal election comes around in June with selectmen proposing a debt exclusion rather than taking the money out of the town budget.

Taxpayers voted to expend more than \$3 million for school repairs, including the Dudley Middle School roof and enhancements to fire alarms, security, and video systems, during a ballot vote in September of 2022. However, the vote only approved the expenditure and not the method in which the town will pay off the debt. Selectmen sought input from Treasurer/Collector Richard Carmignani and Principal Assessor Lisa Berg during a March 18 meeting where Berg presented a 15-year payoff plan that would require voter approval of a debt exclusion.

Berg's worksheet showed the largest tax increase of 22-cents would be assessed in Fiscal Year 2025 with the additional impact to the tax rate lowering year after year. Fiscal Year 2025 would pay \$348,150, the largest portion of the \$3.06 million and be the only year where the increase to the tax rate is more than 20-cents. Berg explained that the combined tax increases among all fifteen years would total \$1.95.

"When I do this, I have to base everything off the last certified year of values, the last certified year of the tax rate, which is Fiscal year 2024. Obviously, this can change, but we have to have a starting point," Berg said, noting that after homes are reassessed the estimated tax impact could be lower than project. "I know 22-cents (in 2025) may sound like a lot of money to people, but they have to understand right now that the assessed values are still going up which makes the tax rates drop. It may not be 22-cents on the tax rate next year if this debt goes through, it may be less."

A debt exclusion, opposed to an override, allows added taxes to cover debt with that levy eventually falling off when the debt is paid, meaning the added taxation for the school projects isn't a permanent part of the taxes. According to Berg's worksheet, Fiscal Year 2025 would create an estimated \$86.53 increase to the average home tax levy with every subsequent annual addition to taxes being lower year after year. For example, Fiscal Year's 2026 and 2027

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Courtesy

Local 4 Life celebrates Earth Day with its second annual Family Fair on Saturday, April 21 from 1 to 4 p.m. The event takes place upstairs at Andy's Neighborhood Canteen, 9 Frederick St. in Webster. The event features educational booths on sustainability and conservation practices that families can do at home. Activities include creating a pollinator garden, growing your own food in small spaces, learning some gardening tips, finding out about beekeeping, and more. Children can participate in hands-on workshops about gardening, backyard animals, reusing materials, and composting. There is no charge to attend Local 4 Life's Earth Day Family Fair. This celebration is sponsored by Webster Five. Local 4 Life is a non-profit organization that cultivates local connections while providing educational outreach that promotes conservation and fosters community. For more information, contact Erin at 508-341-5347.



Oxford officials seeking \$49.6 million budget

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — The town administration plans to seek voter approval for a \$49.6 million budget for the coming fiscal year, with public hearings in April and a Town Meeting vote May 8.

That's \$2.5 million or 5.3 percent higher than last year, and will require \$28.1 million in property taxes to fund, according to the March 19 presentation by Town Manager Jen Callahan and Finance Director Katie McKenna. Additionally, they'll seek approval of \$2 million in capital spending.

The plan foresees a several additions, but also has a few uncertainties. The largest part of the increase is in contractual, step and related raises for many town staff, but also takes on five school positions that had been federal-grant funded, adds

to legal costs to handle "a handful of cases that have been quite expensive," a little to other post employment benefits, and pretty significantly to insurance costs.

The latter is also one of the uncertainties, with Callahan saying the town's insurer wants Oxford to set aside 10-12 percent for potential claims. That would add \$240,000, but she said she's not including it "because I don't have evidence" it's necessary.

"Not everything is in our control," she noted.

Other uncertainties include the effect of police union negotiations, a \$143,000 deficit on out-of-district tuition costs from the current year, whether the state will approve local option hotel and meals tax increases, and final state budget numbers.

Regarding the latter,

Callahan said she's seen "some foreboding warnings." The quarterly state budget is seeing "rapidly decreasing revenue projections" and local legislators told her there's "no real wiggle room" for local earmarks after already seeing "mid-year cuts," so nobody's sure what that will mean for local aid.

She said she'd hoped the "millionaire's tax was going to do something a bit more sizeable" for Chapter 90 road aid (instead, it's basically stable, which is "still not enough"). That money is mostly going to schools this year, with Oxford getting \$1.27 million extra.

Some of the legal fees will probably go toward pursuing contractual cannabis payments. Callahan said some of the businesses "have not paid their

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DCLT announces plans to add trees to town properties

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Selectmen has given its blessing to the Dudley Conservation Land Trust (DCLT) to pursue grant funding to plant new trees on town owned properties.

DCLT representative Paul Wieloch met with selectmen on March 11 where he explained that the Trust is currently seeking money through the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for a variety of projects, including adding greenery to help beautify Dudley.

"We've been looking for a community service project and we thought we'd request some additional funds from the grant, and we would purchase some trees to be planted around town," said Wieloch.

The idea was received warmly by selectmen, especially considering it would be funded through the grant. Selectman Kerry Cyganiewicz praised the initiative as a positive for the town.

"I like the idea. Why wouldn't we want more trees? It's something to beautify the town, and it's not costing the taxpayers anything. Personally, I don't see any negatives there," he said.

Some of the recommended locations for the trees were the town municipal building, highway department

Turn To **TREES** page **A13**

Saint Joseph basketball girls defend title



WEBSTER — On Sunday, March 10, the top-seeded Saint Joseph School Varsity Girls Basketball Team defended their 2022-2023 title when they competed in the Route 395 Basketball Tournament finals in Norwich, Conn. They secured the regular season title with a record of 8-1, and were eager to face off against rival and second-seed Saint James School from Danielson, Conn.

It was a fast-paced game, and the Saint Joseph School team came out on top with a final score of 47-31. Saint Joseph School's Most Valuable Players were 8th Grade students Molly Hachigian and Emily Macko. Team members include sixth Grade students Tenleigh Dowd and Neli Kuznecki, seventh grade students Rosemary Basha, Zofia Pawlikowski, Gianna Pigeon, Arianna

Rivers, Lianna Worth, and eighth grade students Molly Hachigian, Emily Macko, and Laura Ibrahim. Buzz Krynsinski and John Hachigian coach the team. Congratulations, girls, for successfully defending your titles!

In addition, the Saint Joseph School Junior Varsity Girls Basketball Team played an incredible game, but fell to Saint James in the finals. They finished in second place for the regular season and second in the tournament. Team members include fifth grade students Bella Kicilinski, Evelyn Macko, Abigail Rubin, Lily Martin, and Amelia Potem, and 6th Grade students Neli Kuznecki, Tenleigh Dowd, and Avery Archambault. Jeffrey Grupposo and Mariusz Macko coach the team.

The Saint Joseph School Junior Varsity and Varsity Cheer teams and the Junior Varsity and Varsity Boys Basketball teams also competed in the Route 395 Tournament. The Cheer teams gave incredible performances Friday night. Evelyn Macko and Sophia Surowanec were selected as cheer MVPs. In addition, congratulations to Evelyn Macko, who was selected as the Varsity Top Gun Jumper in the League Jump contest. Our JV and Varsity boys finished in 3rd place for the regular season and fought hard in the tournament. 8th-grade athletes Alan Kulpa and Jack Keller were selected as MVPs. Congratulations, athletes!

Don't fall victim to scammers claiming affiliation with Sheriff's Office

REGION — Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is issuing a warning to residents regarding a recent phone scam involving the Sheriff's Office. The phone scammer poses as an employee of the Sheriff's Office and informs the victim that they have an arrest warrant or charges filed in their name or that of a loved one. The scammer then demands payment of a fine to avoid being arrested and serving jail time.

Another common phone scam involves telling individuals they have missed jury duty, which also results in a fine.

"Unfortunately, we recently received a report of an individual who was scammed out of over \$20,000," commented

Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. "With the amount of information sharing and readily available data on consumer habits, scammers may know where you bank, the products you buy, or the names of your loved ones. Scam artists will go to any length to trick you into sharing personal information or issuing irreversible payments."

According to the Federal Communications Commission, or FCC, this type of scam is called spoofing. Spoofing is when a scammer deliberately falsifies the information transmitted to your caller ID display to disguise their identity. Scammers often use neighbor spoofing so it appears that an incoming call is coming from

a local number or spoof a number from a company or a government agency that you may already know and trust.

In the case of the Sheriff's Office scam, the scammers use the names of actual officers and "spoof" the department's phone number. The scammer asks for money to clear up a non-existent warrant. In some instances, the caller requests that payments be made in the form of gift certificates or via apps such as Venmo or Cash App. The scammer will then have the victim remain on the line until the victim purchases the gift certificates or relays specific financial information to the scammer.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office encourages people to be aware of calls

like this and to never give personal or financial information over the phone to anyone whom you didn't call yourself.

"Our department does not contact residents and demand payment or ask for credit card information. Today's scam artists are always testing new tactics. Residents need to beware of any unsolicited calls that ask for their personal or financial information," commented Evangelidis. "These callers can sound convincing, may be aggressive, and try to intimidate you with threats of jail time or steep fines. We encourage anyone who gets a suspicious call to hang up and contact their associated institutions directly to verify any requests."

Nicole Grady inducted into Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Nicole Grady of Oxford was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Grady was initiated at The University of Tampa.

Grady is among approximately 25,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomina-

tion and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who

had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 325 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is "To recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

More About Phi Kappa Phi Since its founding, more than 1.5 million members have been initiated into Phi Kappa Phi. Some of the orga-

nization's notable members include former President Jimmy Carter, NASA astronaut Wendy Lawrence, novelist John Grisham and YouTube co-founder Chad Hurley. Each year, Phi Kappa Phi awards \$1.3 million to outstanding students and members through graduate and dissertation fellowships, undergraduate study abroad grants, funding for post-baccalaureate development, and grants for local, national and international literacy initiatives. For more information about Phi Kappa Phi, visit www.phikappaphi.org.



Courtesy

OXFORD WOMAN'S CLUB RAISES SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

This past weekend, volunteers from the Oxford Woman's Club did baking and sold chances for raffle baskets. One hundred percent of funds collected were donated toward the three deserving high school seniors who plan to further their education at either a two or four year college. Scholarship applications are available at each high school that an Oxford Senior is attending. If not available please contact Anne Marie at 508-864-0452 or simplyannie14@gmail.com. Ladies, please help our future leaders by joining us and help us achieve our goals each year. Our meetings are fun, informative and the chance to make lifelong friends. Please contact Paula at 508-987-2804 or Phparker1951@gmail.com for more information.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$430,000, 35 Adella St, Laflash Lt, and Laflash, Roland J, to Silva, David A, and Smith, Stephanie K.
\$380,000, 17 Newton St, Knowlton 3rd, Frank A, and Knowlton, Lynn S, to Rostom, Mira.

DUDLEY

\$401,000, 28 Central Ave, Scudder Bay Capital LLC, to Samia Botros LLC.
\$379,000, 24 Central Ave, Denali Lopes Prop Inc, to Madu, Kingsley, and Madu, Onyinyechi.
\$350,000, 16-18 West St, Ramirez, Francesca P, and Fitzgerald, Lauren, to White Tail Prop Hldg LLC.
\$350,000, 21 Oxford Ave, Ramirez, Francesca P, and Fitzgerald, Lauren, to White Tail Prop Hldg LLC.
\$350,000, 23 Oxford Ave, Ramirez, Francesca P, and Fitzgerald, Lauren, to White Tail Prop Hldg LLC.
\$325,000, 3 Dalessandro Ave, Denham, Douglas, to Christian, Douglas C, and Sanchez, Tiara.
\$250,000, 5 5th Ave, Welk Jane Est, and Kujawski, Alan, to Oxsco LLC.

OXFORD

\$350,000, 13 Little John Cir, Marrier, Michael R, to Moulton, Cassandra A.
\$320,000, 25 Thayer Pond Dr #2, Sebastian, Jacqueline D, to Flynt Jr, Richard G, and Flynt, Mary P.

WEBSTER

\$350,000, 13 Little John Cir, Marrier, Michael R, to Moulton, Cassandra A.
\$320,000, 25 Thayer Pond Dr #2, Sebastian, Jacqueline D, to Flynt Jr, Richard G, and Flynt, Mary P.

Real Estate

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PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR

The Town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Principal Assessor. Responsibilities include professional, administrative, supervisory, and technical work related to the enforcement and interpretation of Department of Revenue regulations as pertaining to property tax assessment and abatement; valuation of real and personal property; analysis of deeds, plans of land ownership information and other data. Administers Chapter 61, conducts field inspections, measures buildings, reviews market data and inspects interiors of structures to determine value. Qualified applicants should have experience in municipal assessing. Candidates should have Massachusetts Accredited Assessors (MAA) certification or the ability to obtain certification. Preference will be shown to applicants proficient in Vadar, GIS, Patriot and Microsoft Office. Applicants must have a valid motor vehicle operator's license and must pass a CORI check. Hours are Monday - Thursday (36 hrs.) Salary commensurate with experience. Current appropriation \$59,563.87. Please submit a resume and cover letter to Pking@brookfieldma.us. Open until filled.

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“The Color Purple”
Movie Afternoon @ The Pearle
Thursday, April 4 @ 1:00
Join us for a showing of the 2023 movie “The Color Purple”
starring Fantasia Barrino and Taraji P. Henson.

Meet the Staff
Thursday, April 4 4:00-6:00
Stop by and meet our awesome staff!!
The Pearle’s staff welcomes the opportunity to

get to know you and your needs so we may serve you better!
Refreshments are provided by The Friends of the Pearle L Crawford Memorial Library.

Solar Eclipse Celebration!
Monday, April 8
Starting at 10:00am
10 am: Solar glasses will be handed out along with Eclipse themed snack bags*
2-4 pm: Eclipse viewing on front Library lawn
6 pm: Movie @ the Pearle “Little Miss Sunshine” starring Greg Kinnear and Abigail Breslin
* Supplies limited, 1 per person

Adult Book Group
Monday, April 22 6:00PM-7:00PM
All are welcome to join our adult book group for a discussion of this month’s title, The Perks of Being a Wallflower, by Stephen Chbosky
Copies of the current title are available at the circulation desk one month prior to the meeting.

Monet’s Gardens : Inspiration for a Creative Life
Wednesday, April 24 1:00-2:00
Illustrated lecture presented by Ellen K. Duzak
Impressionist painter Claude Monet created and perfected his beautiful gardens over 40 years at Giverny,

France. It was and still is truly a visible feast. His life, his paintings, and his gardens offer us a unique guide to living a rich and fulfilling life today.
Ellen Duzak is a retired Professor of Psychology at Becker College. She later taught for a decade in the WISE Senior Education Program at Assumption College. She has long admired the paintings of the Impressionists and is an avid gardener and lover of nature.
Registration required, space is limited.

Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale
April 18-20 during regular library hours.
Fiction, nonfiction, DVDs, audiobooks, and more for all ages!
All sales benefit the Friends of the Library and their mission to support the library.

Quilting Group
Wednesdays @ 1:30PM
All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

Knit & Crochet Group
Thursday 5:30PM – 7:30PM and Friday 10:00AM-12:00PM
All stitchers are welcome for this informal group

playing and some short adventures!
Children 12 and under need to be accompanied by an adult.

Basic Drawing Art Class with Mrs. Rawson
For ages 5-10
Tuesday, April 16 2:00-3:15
Working on an easel and large paper; children will be taught to draw a variety of different animals, step by step!
Space is limited, please register.

Thursday, April 18 Burpee & Records Petting Zoo
More details coming soon!!

Mouse Paint Class with Mrs. Rawson
For ages 3-5
Friday, April 19 10:00-11:00
An interactive reading of the book “Mouse Paint”. Listening and painting activity exploring the concept of color mixing with the primary colors.
Space is limited, please register.

Storytime
Wednesdays at 10:30
Join Miss Courtney on Wednesday mornings for age-appropriate stories on a fun theme, followed by a simple craft. For ages 3-6.
Children 12 and under need to be accompanied by an adult.

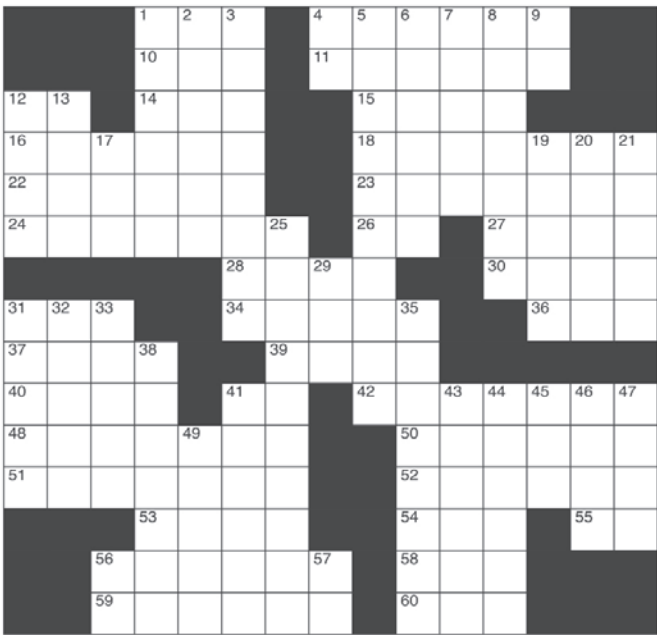
Guest Reader Story Time
Mondays at 6:00pm through April
Each week there will be a guest reader along with activities.
We are excited to welcome our guest readers!

Wiggles & Giggles
Tuesdays at 10:30 through April
Fels Community Room
Join YFCP and Ms. Laine for a FREE 5-week music series. Children ages 2-5 with a parent/caregiver will sing, move, play musical instruments, learn rhythm and listen to stories. Siblings are welcome.
Registration is required. Please visit www.theyfcp.org to register
This is a YMCA Family & Community Partnership program.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten program!
This nationwide program is a fun, free way to build your child’s early literacy skills, and we’re here to help.
The goal is simple: read 1,000 books to your child before they enter kindergarten.
Developing literacy skills begins at birth and continues through the toddler and preschool years.
The best way to ensure a child has the skills necessary to learn to read is having someone read aloud to them.
Children from birth to age five can sign up in the Children’s Room in the Library.
Program sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Coming soon: Mahjong at the Pearle
Wednesdays at 10am

P r e - K



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Small Eurasian deer
- 4. Irish county
- 10. A major division of geological time
- 11. Broadway actor Lane
- 12. Canadian province (abbr.)
- 14. Human gene
- 15. Two
- 16. A famous one is blue
- 18. Utter repeatedly
- 22. Ring-shaped objects
- 23. Spoils
- 24. Occurs
- 26. Commercial
- 27. Near
- 28. Products you may need
- 30. Pledge thrown down as a challenge
- 31. TV network
- 34. Silk or cotton garments
- 36. Soviet Socialist Republics
- 37. Retired American football coach Dean
- 39. Hot dish
- 40. A type of gin
- 41. Atomic #84
- 42. Sawhorse
- 48. About ground
- 50. Medicine man
- 51. Seedless raisin
- 52. Capital of Albania
- 53. Appendage
- 54. OJ trial judge
- 55. By the way (abbr.)
- 56. Bicycle parts
- 58. Barbie's friend
- 59. Moved one's neck to see
- 60. Commercials

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Make up for
- 2. Baltimore ballplayer
- 3. Salary
- 4. Influential world body
- 5. Engravers
- 6. Declared as fact
- 7. One who steals
- 8. Jewelry
- 9. Hospital employee (abbr.)
- 12. Nonsense (slang)
- 13. Town in Galilee
- 17. Value
- 19. A fake name
- 20. Sheep in their second year
- 21. Town in Surrey, England
- 25. Appropriate for a particular time of year
- 29. Creative works
- 31. Recesses
- 32. W. Pacific island group
- 33. Tolkien character
- 35. Ancient symbol co-opted by the Nazi party
- 38. Pioneer
- 41. Scribe
- 43. Painted a bright color
- 44. Lowest members of British nobility
- 45. Actress Thurman
- 46. Type of sugar
- 47. Crest of a hill
- 49. N. American people of British Columbia
- 56. Device
- 57. The Mount Rushmore State



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P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

Stonebridge Press

PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS
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THE WEBSTER TIMES (USPS#024-928) and THE AUBURN NEWS (546-680) IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS, INC., 25 ELM ST., SOUTHBRIDGE, MA 01550. PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT SOUTHBRIDGE, MA 01550. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO WEBSTER TIMES, P.O. BOX 90, SOUTHBRIDGE, MA 01550

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OXFORD

OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027
Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours!
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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)
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WEBSTER

WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850
Office Hours:
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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)
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Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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a.m.-5 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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Coordinator Randa Cox at rcox@
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Spice Club Each month will fea-
ture a new spice, recipes, and cook-
books. Stop by the lobby to grab a
sample of that month's spice, then
take it home and cook! March's Spice
is Garlic Powder

Are you spring cleaning your craft-
ing 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 March 30th at
9:30 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 “unit-
ing of movement with breath”. A
typical class involves centering the
mind with the breath, aromathera-
py, 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— April 22nd at 6:30 PM

This month's book dis-
cussion will be in the Library's
Community Room. The Group will
be discussing Horse by Geraldine
Brooks. Stop by the library, or reach
out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcox@
cwmars.org for inquiries. *Save the Date Geraldine
Brooks will be coming June 6th at 6:30 PM for a FREE
author talk.

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

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

COOKBOOK CLUB—April 8th --- 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:
BLACKSTONE VALLEY MUSIC AN EAGLES TRIBUTE
--- April 11th --- 6:30 PM

Returning once again after last year's successful
run of Meet The Beatles, Blackstone Valley Music pre-
sents its second of a now annual tribute concert series
An Eagles Tribute, performing the band's greatest hits
and fan favorites as recorded on their iconic albums.
Comprised of teachers, staff and former students from
our neighborhood music school located in the heart of
downtown Uxbridge, this series has been inspired by the
hard work and dedication of former BVM Rock Band
Camp students Vito Caccavelli and James Briand, who
have since high school succeeded in producing quality
tribute concerts including The Beatles Abbey Road,
Fleetwood Mac Rumors and two sold out concerts for
Pink Floyd's The Wall.



Courtesy

THINK YOU KNOW WEBSTER?

Join the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library
and Artist Bil Gardiner in a town wide
scavenger hunt. William “Bill” Gardiner is
a portrait photographer and photographic
artist from Worcester, who walked about
the town of Webster during the spring
and summer of last year photographing
parts of Webster. Come in and check
out the photos and see if you can
guess where the photographs are from
throughout the town. If you guess all
of them right you will be entered into a
drawing for a free photograph from the
exhibit. This exhibit will run from March
26 to April 29, with a Meet and Greet
on April 1.

geared toward ages birth to 3, but siblings are welcome.

MUSIC TOGETHER--- Saturdays April 6th,13th, and
27th at 11:00 AM

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

SENSORY BIN EXPLORATION--- April 1st, 8th, 22nd
and 29th 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.

CHILD YOGA WITH BRANDY LEFSYK ----March 30th
at 11:30 AM

Brandy Lefsyk, movement muse, Reiki master,
Hometown yogi, and owner of Home & Heart Studio
in Orange, MA, will be teaching a kid's yoga & me-
ditation class at the Library. Participants will move and
breathe and enjoy a relaxing mini sound bath me-
ditation. Recommend for ages 4-12 years. No experience
necessary. Kids can bring their own yoga mat. Wear com-
fortable clothes and bring water. Funded by the Friends
of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

CHILDREN'S DRIVE-IN MOVIE—April 4th at 4:00 PM

Decorate your own cardboard box car and take a
seat for a family-friendly film. Popcorn included!

National Library Day Party --- April 16th 10:00 AM

Help us celebrate National Library Day by
dressing up like a librarian (cardigans and glasses
encouraged). We will have a library-themed story time
and book craft. Every child will leave with a book.

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.

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 mate-
rial, 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@cwmars.org for more details.

STORYTIME--- April 2nd, 9th, 23rd,
and 30th at 10:00 AM

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

STUFFED ANIMAL STORYTIME
--- April 10th and 24th at 10:00 AM

Join Library Director Sondra
Murphy for stories, songs, and fun
with our plush pals! This story time is



Nursing class of 2024 spreads acts of kindness

CHARLTON — Christine Abdi, Evelyn
Kiplangat and Catherine Ibrahim, all of
Worcester and all members of the PN Class of
2024 at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy,
coordinated the collection of groceries and
snacks on campus to restock the practical nurs-
ing students' food pantry.

Abdi, Kiplangat, and Ibrahim recognize that
some practical nursing students struggle to find
the funds to cover educational expenses. The
struggle to be fully nourished while juggling
home, work, and school is real. By maintaining
a well-stocked food pantry, the idea is to lessen
the struggle. The nursing students are gladly
stepping up to help their peers. Their acts of
kindness do not go unnoticed. According to
research, “spreading kindness not only helps
others feel better about themselves -- it can also
boost the giver's health and happiness!

Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN,
CRRN Academy Director is grateful for the
members of the PN Class of 2024 for sharing
their kind gestures.

“Our student nurses continue to make the
world a better place,” she said. “Our faculty and
staff not only produce competent and prudent
nurses they are kind-hearted nurses. All acts
of kindness, big and small, change the world,
and kindness given to others is also a gift to
oneself.”

The PN students are happy to give and consis-
tently does so.

Bolandrina adds, “It is common for our alum-
ni, faculty, and staff to generously give, they
give of their time, resources, and many more
kind gestures. Now, our students do too! When
they give to nursing students, they invest in the
nursing students' future and provide a legacy
for more generations of nurses. We are forever
grateful for everyone's support.”

Giving also shows appreciation for the edu-
cation and training that Bay Path Practical
Nursing Academy is providing them and it gives
others a chance to have a similar experience of
support.

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Driver
Discretion

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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

The origins of the Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny will be getting a workout this season, as the newly fallen deep snow in some parts of New England may make for some difficult travel. But alas, with baskets filled with colorful eggs and chocolates, this beloved character has been a part of Easter celebrations worldwide. Where does this tradition stem from?

The legend of the Easter Bunny traces its roots back centuries, intertwining folklore, mythology, and religious symbolism. While its precise origins are a bit of a mystery, various theories and cultural influences have contributed to the emergence of this cherished icon.

One prevailing theory suggests that the Easter Bunny's lineage can be traced back to ancient pagan rituals celebrating spring and fertility. In pre-Christian Europe, the hare was revered as a symbol of fertility and new life, representing the arrival of spring after the barrenness of winter. As Christianity spread across the continent, pagan customs melded with Christian traditions, giving rise to a hybridized celebration that incorporated elements of both.

Another theory proposes that the Easter Bunny found its way into Christian festivities through German immigrants who settled in America during the 18th century. In German folklore, the "Osterhase" or Easter Hare, was believed to lay colorful eggs as gifts for children who had been good. This tradition evolved over time, with the hare eventually morphing into the familiar bunny we know today, and eggs becoming synonymous with Easter.

Furthermore, the association of rabbits with Easter can also be attributed to their prolific breeding habits, symbolizing fertility, abundance, and the cycle of life. This symbolism aligns seamlessly with the Easter narrative of rebirth and resurrection, making the bunny a fitting emblem for the holiday.

Whether nestled in the pages of children's books, adorning decorations, or delighting young hearts during egg hunts, the Easter Bunny continues to evoke a sense of wonder and joy.

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

Discovering life: Palm Sunday

Jesus' earthly life and ministry is coming to an end. For three years, He inspired people with His words of wisdom. With his simple parables and stories, He revealed the great secrets of the kingdom of heaven. He amazed the crowds with his miracles, signs and wonders. Many began seeing Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah, the Anointed One about whom the prophets spoke. Such a Messiah, they hoped, would usher in a new reign in the world, the kingdom of God!

In preparation for His arrival in Jerusalem during the Passover feast, Jesus visits His good friends, Lazarus, Mary and Martha, but unfortunately, Lazarus had died. He was buried in the tomb and dead four days! Mary and Martha were in the midst of the seven day Shiva, the Jewish mourning custom, welcoming their family and friends who came to express their sorrow and condolences.

Imagine the shock, the wonder, the excitement when Jesus comes not simply to pay condolences, but to cry out "Lazarus, Come forth," raising His friend out of the tomb! Among Jesus' many miracles, He previously raised a young girl who had died as well as the son of a widow who was being carried out of the city for burial. Yet here Jesus confronts someone dead and buried in a tomb for four days! Even Martha is confused and questions Jesus when he asked that the tomb be opened because she is afraid of the terrible odor, the smell of death and decay.

Yet, Jesus proclaims to Martha "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."

Do we understand these words? Do we truly believe the Jesus is "the resurrection and the life" and that He holds control over death itself? In the hymn for Palm Sunday, we sing, "By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your passion, You confirmed the universal resurrection, O Christ God! Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to You, O Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!"

Jesus "confirmed the universal resurrection" because He is "the Vanquisher of death!" The resurrection of Lazarus is simply the precursor to what Christians celebrate this upcoming week. We are preparing to journey through the holiest week of the year as we take part in the great Mystery of Christ's Passion, Suffering, and Death. Yet, we all know how it will end – in His glorious Resurrection. "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."

We relive this every year during our Holy Week and Pascha celebrations! Yet, do we truly understand and believe? Not simply with an intellectual belief of Jesus rising from the dead but do we orient our entire lives around the One who said "I am the resurrection and the life."

We live in a society that more often than not tries to ignore death. We don't want to think of this final reality for all of us. Even as we get older we try to make ourselves look young and don't want to talk about death. Just like Martha, we are afraid of the terrible odor, the horrible smell of death and decay. So, we try to ignore it. And yet, we all will die like Lazarus one day and be laid in a tomb. Unfortunately, too many of us taste death even before our bodily death. So many people live in a "living hell" because of their own sinfulness and brokenness and experience death in this life. Well, on Palm Sunday, Christ is here to call out to each one of us – Luke/John/ Maria/ Sophia come forth! Come out of the tomb in which you suffer and discover life! For I am the resurrection and the

life!

The crowd that gathered at Mary and Martha's house for shiva interrupted their mourning to shockingly witness Lazarus come out of a tomb after four days! Word spread quickly about this Prophet from Nazareth whom claimed to be the "resurrection and life." This Messiah, the word spread, even raises the dead! So throngs of people began to surround Him and walk with Him as He enters Jerusalem. They cry out, "Hosanna to God in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." They wave palm branches as a sign of their king entering into the holy city. They hope and believe this Messiah will usher in a new world order!

Yet what happens? Why do the crowds joyously praise Him one day and reject him a few days later, choosing to join the corrupt religious leaders who cry out "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

The more important question is, why do we do the same thing, praising Him one day and rejecting Him the next? Look at how full our churches are for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday with people praising our Lord and God, yet after this sacred week, how many of us disappear from the Church and push aside any faith in the Risen One, choosing to listen to and follow the alluring and deceptive ways of the world.

Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life, calls us to come out of our tomb of death and truly experience life in a divine way. He invites each one of us to receive Him and taste of immortal life! Yet, we don't like His path to life because it is counter-cultural, a path contrary to the ways of the world. To truly follow Christ and discover life as He offers it, we must follow His path:

If we want to be first, we must be last; we must not seek to be served but to serve others

If we want to follow Christ, we must deny ourselves and take up our cross of sacrifice

If we truly love Jesus, we must love our enemies and forgive even those who hurt us

If we call Christ our Lord and Teacher, we need to wash one another's feet, as He washed ours

If we want to discover life, we must be ready to lose our life for the sake of Jesus

If we want to welcome Jesus to live in our hearts, we must welcome the stranger, the foreigner, and even our enemy into our hearts

If we want to experience the forgiveness of God, then we must forgive as He forgives, even forgiving up to 70 x 7

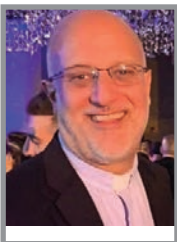
If we want to taste God's glory, we can only discover this glory through the path of humility

If we want to understand God's sacrificial love for the world, then we must be ready to sacrifice for others.

The path of Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life is a path of simplicity and contentment, learning to live with less so that we can give more

Do we want to follow the One who proclaims "I am the Resurrection and the Life?" On this Palm Sunday, let us cry out with the crowds "Hosanna to God in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." We will, however, learn what it truly means to follow our Lord Jesus and discover life in its fullest form, accepting life in the way that God created us to experience it – with love, with sacrifice, with self-denial, sometimes with suffering – yet with ultimate victory.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die."



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

Trout season produces impressive fish



Courtesy

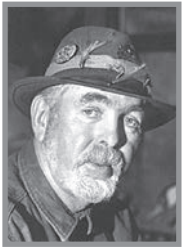
Don Cook with a nice brown trout caught last weekend at Lousia Lake.

Trout fishing is producing some impressive fish in Mass. waters, with some impressive rainbow trout being caught at various ponds and lakes in the valley. Mass. has pretty much stocked all ponds and lakes in the valley at least once, and trout will continue to be stocked up to Memorial Day weekend. Because of the high water from recent heavy rain, streams and rivers may not be stocked until waters recede. Many anglers are smoking the trout that they catch.

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will open their pond for the April trout fishing derby on April 13, for members only. The pond will receive another huge trout stocking prior to the derby. The derby will start at 7 a.m., and will end at 10 p.m. Cash prizes will be awarded for the largest trout.

Trout fishing anglers need to be reminded again that Wallum Lake in Douglas is closed to all fishing until April 13, as the lake is controlled by Rhode Island regulations. When Wallum Lake opens, the trout limits are six fish per day. To check on all regulations, go to the Web site at Rhode Island freshwaterfishing.com.

Most local Rod & Gun Clubs in the valley have had their annual wild game dinners, with tickets selling out in one day. The



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
RALPH TRUE

Whitinsville Fish & Game club will be holding their pistol & clay shoots every Wed at 6 p.m., and they are open to the public. Check out their newly renovated ranges.

This past week, I was driving down the road on Route 16 near my house when a large rabbit was spotted crossing the road, and it was very large, but what made him stand out was the huge ears he was sporting. It was the size of a large snowshoe hare, but it definitely was not a hare. I had one in my backyard last year. Now, there are a lot of rabbits throughout the valley area, but these do not have all the features of the standard New England cottontail rabbits we are used to seeing.

The Eastern cottontail rabbits are also located in New England, and have many of the same features of a New England cottontail. Whatever they are, they raised havoc with my vegetable garden and with my flower bed last year, prompting me to fence off the garden this year.

Bear are coming out of hibernation, and sightings are being reported by homeowners throughout the valley that have bird feeders out. They are the number one food source they enjoy eating.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Forgiveness

Forgiving others - I didn't want to do.
Now that I'm done, I've a different point of view.

The hurt, the pain, had caused me so much strife.
It's true, you see – I'm no longer someone's wife.

I can't change the past, I can only move on.
God will help me - He'll make me grow strong.

Have mercy upon me, cleanse me from my sin.
Then I'll feel Your presence, which is found deep within.

Going back, in order to clean up the past,
Just apologize – things will change real fast.

Being obedient, is how I need to be.
Grace & mercy, I know You'll show to me.

'Hurt people, hurt people,' is what they do say.
'Loved people, love people,' is now the best way.

It's not up to us to settle the score,
It's God who decides, who will come through His door.

"People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy."
— Proverbs 28:13 (NLT)

SJ SHEPERD
AUBURN

The story of Joe Robbie

Like most New Englanders, I am a big fan of Boston sports. I'm willing to talk about the Celtics, Bruins, Red Sox, and Patriots anytime. But this interesting story has its roots in a different sports franchise, namely the Miami Dolphins.

Joe Robbie was born in South Dakota on July 7, 1916. The son of a Lebanese immigrant, he came from modest beginnings and worked a variety of jobs to earn a living. He spent time as a lumberjack, sportswriter, served in the Navy, and eventually attended the University of South Dakota where he received his law degree. Post graduation, Robbie's legal career gradually morphed into local and state politics. But it's what happened in March of 1965 that turns this into an interesting sports story.

In 1965, Robbie had a meeting with Joe Foss, the commissioner of the American Football League. Foss encouraged Robbie to look into Miami as a potential site for a new expansion franchise. As a lifelong sports fan, Robbie was very much interested in the idea, but he personally didn't have the money to make it happen. And so, Robbie formed a general partnership with a few other individuals and raised the \$7.5 million to purchase the expansion team. A couple of short years later, Robbie bought out his remaining partners and simultaneously became the primary owner of the Miami Dolphins.

assist.

This article was written by the author, Christopher Mallon.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
PROGRAM MANAGER
LPL REGISTERED PRINCIPAL, THE
CAPSTONE PLANNING GROUP

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The trees — a letter to the town of Webster

To the Editor:

Please consider, in your next project, leaving the trees alone! It is very upsetting to myself, and many I have spoken to, to see the destruction of a living tree, let alone a whole row of them. Offering shade and beauty and also the ability to remove tons of Co2 from the atmosphere!

I was very dismayed to drive down Poland Street this week and see the place I walk my dog devoid of the tall tree row entering the middle school driveway. I also recall, years back, the destruction of the row of trees by the library on Main St. Those trees offered such beauty to the downtown common area. It was with sadness a neighbor cut down the huge magnolia offering such beauty and another a gorgeous cherry tree.

Every time I turn around, someone is destroying one. It takes 30 years or more for a tree to grow to maturity. So please don't give me the response "Oh, I'm planting another to replace it." In 30 years, our carbon levels will be much worse. The time to stop destroying trees is now. Think of our children's future not our current desire for a distorted idea of cleanliness, space or whatever it is the town thinks when cutting down our beautiful trees!

Sincerely,

SELENA MCCOMAS
JOHN MACIEJEWSKI
DEB CALLAHAN
WEBSTER

The actual threat is clear

To the Editor:

Accuse your enemies of what you yourself are guilty of. This is a tactic that progressives have used, to great effect, for over a hundred years. It's called projection, and a pair of letters to the Editor that appeared in the March 22 edition of the Webster Times were textbook examples. The first was a short, uninformed litany of accusations and leftist catch phrases that ended with a blind declaration of support for our current leadership. The second was a two page manifesto that read like the transcript of a hostage tape composed in a legacy media prison. Which, of course, it was. Willing captives of a curated narrative from a bygone era, the authors will never be swayed into seeking out originally sourced, unedited information on any of the candidates they claim to support - or detest. For the rest of us, it's easy — the actual threat to our "republic" is plainly visible.

BRUCE LARSSON
DUDLEY

Fattman has failed to represent his district

To the Editor:

When I read that State Sen. Ryan Fattman had secured state funding for Worcester Public School students to have free visits to Old Sturbridge Village, I wondered why?

Why would a State Senator, who doesn't represent Worcester, fight for free visits for Worcester students and ignore those students in his own district?

When I saw Mr. Fattman handing over a check for \$15,000 to the CEO of Old Sturbridge Village, again, I wondered why? Why is taxpayer money being sent to Old Sturbridge Village,

and not the Worcester public school System? I wondered how are our tax dollars being spent?

On Feb. 28, I contacted State Sen. Fattman's office for answers to these questions. As of this date, his office has failed to respond to my inquiry, I guess some things just can't be explained.

I would remind State Sen. Fattman that his job is to represent his district and address his constituents' concerns, and in this case, he has done neither.

JOHN FLATTERY
OXFORD

Stop private jet expansion at Hanscom

To the Editor:

Both Republican and Democratic state governors, along with the legislature, have been pushing for a pathway for the Commonwealth to be carbon neutral by 2050. Considering the path we are on now, this will tough to reach. However, many have been making an effort to get there, by signing up for "green" electric plans, taking public transportation, purchasing an electric vehicle, switching over to heat pumps, cutting back on single use plastic, or putting solar panels on their roofs.

But now, even while we are asked to do all of this, Massport is considering a proposal to expand Hanscom Airfield solely to accommodate another 50 to 80 private jets that are used almost exclusively by the millionaires and billionaires to get to their vacation homes and destinations. Not only will the carbon footprint outweigh all the environmental benefits of all the rooftop solar panels in Massachusetts, it is being done on public property owned by Massport, and with the generosity of us taxpayers by not only letting these jets be written off as a business expense, but they are purchased tax free and fly with jet fuel that is taxed way below what you and I have to pay at a gas station. To top this off, this expansion will require clearing forested land that will adversely affect Walden Pond, the Minute Man National Historical Park, the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and all of the Commonwealth.

If you would like more information on this, or find out to help stop this insane billionaire welfare plan, please take a look at this Web site: <https://www.stopprivatejetexpansion.org/>.

GERRY FRANK
DUDLEY

Is this the Dudley we want to see?

To the Editor:

April 20 is Earth Day and your friends and neighbors will be picking up litter that has accumulated since the last Earth Day. Sadly, this is a one-day event. I know that there are caring folks who have made Earth Day a year-round activity in their neighborhoods. Kudos to them for their efforts. We need more like you.

Regrettably, on April 21, the day after Earth Day, we will again see that littering is a 365-day year-round activity. Our "fast food" drive thru culture has given too many the perceived license to use their car or truck window as the easy option for disposal of their Big Mac remains and their empty DD coffee containers. Out the window and keep on driving!

The litter problem is on us; we own it. It won't be solved by "no littering" signs. Nor should we expect the police to solve this problem for us. Yes, they do have a role to play, and laws do need to be enforced. Unfortunately, bad habits are not easily broken and there aren't enough blue lights to enforce a meaningful change.

Thank you,

RICHARD CLARK
DUDLEY

THANKSGIVING IN APRIL

The First Congregational Church of Dudley (a.k.a. Dudley Hill Church, 135 Center Rd.) will host a turkey supper on Saturday, April 13. There are two seatings, one at 5 p.m. and the other at 6:15 p.m. The meal is served family style with a menu which includes turkey, stuffing, mashed potato, turnip, squash, gravy, cranberry sauce, bread & butter, and golden gingerbread with homemade whipped cream. The price is \$18 for ages 13 and up, \$10 for children ages 6 - m13, and free for those ages 5 and under. Reservations are recommended, as there is limited seating. Takeout will only be available for those dining in. To make a reservation, please call 508-943-7320. Leave your name, telephone number, time of seating (5 or 6:15 p.m.), and the number of adults/children you are reserving for. Pictured are Tom and Lee Boyd, helpful servers.



Webster Water Department
Fire Hydrant Flushing Program

March 22, 2024

During the Month of April, the Water Department will begin flushing fire hydrants daily between 7:00am and 3:00pm throughout the Town.

The procedure will include flushing accumulated sediments from the water mains and testing the operation of fire hydrants.

Customers may experience accumulated sediments in their house laterals and some discolored water. This is normal and will clear after a brief run of cold water at the tap.

The program is expected to last 6 to 8 weeks. For more information on our program and schedule, please visit our website at: www.webster-ma.gov/741/Flushing-Program or sign up for CodeRed Notificaitions System at: www.webster-ma.gov/161/CodeRED-Notification-System

Please contact the Water Department if you have any questions or concerns.



This isn't one of those 'limited time' offers that's ***not really*** limited. We're only offering this window discount and this patio and entry door discount for 31 days!¹

There are limited appointments available.
Book yours before Mar. 31!



Final week!

Sale ends March 31!

**BUY ONE WINDOW OR DOOR,
GET ONE**

40% OFF¹

Minimum purchase of four required.

PLUS

\$150 OFF

EVERY WINDOW AND DOOR¹

No minimum purchase required

PLUS

NO

NO

NO

**for 1
year¹**

Money Down

Monthly Payments

Interest



- Renewal by Andersen is the **full-service replacement window division of Andersen®**, a company that has built windows and doors for over 121 years.
- Our windows' Fibrex® material is **twice as strong as low-end vinyl**.
- Compared to ordinary dual-pane glass, our SmartSun™ glass is **49% more energy-efficient in the winter** and helps make your home more comfortable.²

FINAL week to book your FREE Window and Door Diagnosis

1-800-209-2746



RENEWAL

by ANDERSEN

FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT


ANDERSEN
 WINDOWS & DOORS

DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 3/31/2024. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 3/1/2024 and 3/31/2024. Additional \$150 off each window or entry/patio door, no minimum purchase required, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 3/31/2024. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Military discount applies to all active duty, veterans and retired military personnel. Military discount equals \$300 off your entire purchase and applies after all other discounts, no minimum purchase required. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period, but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License number available upon request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. ¹Values are based on comparison of Renewal by Andersen® double-hung window U-Factor to the U-Factor for clear dual pane glass non-metal frame default values from the 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018 International Energy Conservation Code "Glazed Fenestration" Default Tables. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of their respective owners. ©2024 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. ©2024 Lead Sure LLC. All rights reserved.



Gladys E. Kelly Library chickens have hatched

WEBSTER — It's once again chicken season at the Library! The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library welcomed 2 adorable chickens who hatched on the evening of Tuesday, March 19. When incubated, eggs take 21 days to hatch.

All the fluffy chick action can be seen in the lobby, or live streamed on the Library's Facebook page. The chicks are spending their days hiding under their heating plate, eating and drinking, and cheeping very

loudly! They are always a welcome sight, and both adults and children enjoy watching their antics.

Usually, the Library hatches a larger amount up to 6. Staff are grateful for a small clutch this year, though, as it means they get to know their bubbling personalities (chicken-alityes?), and there is a LOT less cleaning up!

If you're interested in hatching your own eggs at home, the Library has two kits available in the Library of Things. If

you have access to your own fertilized eggs, and land to raise them on, the kits include an incubator and everything you need to hatch. After you've hatched a clutch, the Library has a brooding kit for you to use to raise the chicks. These kits are available for an extended loan period in order to accommodate incubation and brooding times.

Or, if you're just interested in knowing more about chickens, you'll want to take home one of the egg-citing titles

they have in stock. For example, "Drinking with Chickens: Free-Range Cocktails for the Happiest Hour," by Kate E. Richards, features delicious cocktails you can enjoy while you sit in your backyard and watch your hens free range!

Make sure you stop by the Library by the end of the month to see the chicks before they return back to their farm, or catch the live stream online!

Country Bank appoints new corporators, trustee at Annual Meeting

REGION — Country Bank, a leading financial institution in Western and Central Massachusetts, announced the appointment of four new corporators and a new trustee at its Annual Meeting on Monday, March 11.

James Phaneuf, Chair of the Board welcomed the new corporators to the Bank, stating, "We are thrilled to have these accomplished individuals join our team. Their diverse backgrounds and expertise will contribute to the continued success of Country Bank."

Ivon Gois, President of Gois Broadcasting, brings a wealth of experience to the Bank. Based in Worcester, Mr. Gois operates 12 radio stations in New England and is well-known for his contributions to the media industry, ethnic and

racial diversity work and his and financial expertise.

Mechilia K. Salazar, CEO/Director of Hope for Youth and Families Foundation in Springfield, is a respected leader in the nonprofit sector. Ms. Salazar's previous role as CEO of the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club demonstrates her commitment to serving the marginalized and underbanked communities. She often serves as the bridge between local businesses and the communities they serve.

Samalid Hogan, a business consultant/CEO, and principal at Greylock Management in Ludlow, is a seasoned professional with a strong track record of success. Ms. Hogan's leadership as past President of the Springfield Rotary Club

and her involvement on various boards further highlight her dedication to making a positive impact. Her passion for empowering small businesses has made her a respected leader in the industry.

Walter Pacheco, a prominent figure in the hospitality industry, owns several Western and Central Massachusetts restaurants and investment properties. Mr. Pacheco's extensive business acumen and local ties make him a valuable addition to the Bank.

In addition to the new corporators, President-elect Mary C. McGovern was appointed to the Board of Trustees. Her expertise and leadership will help guide the Bank's strategic initiatives and ensure its continued growth as she takes over

as President on April 1.

Country Bank is excited about the new appointments and looks forward to these individuals' valuable insights into the markets it serves. With their combined expertise and dedication, the Bank is well-positioned to continue to make a difference in serving its customers and communities

for another 175 years.

About Country Bank

Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8B mutual community bank serving central and western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton and Worcester.

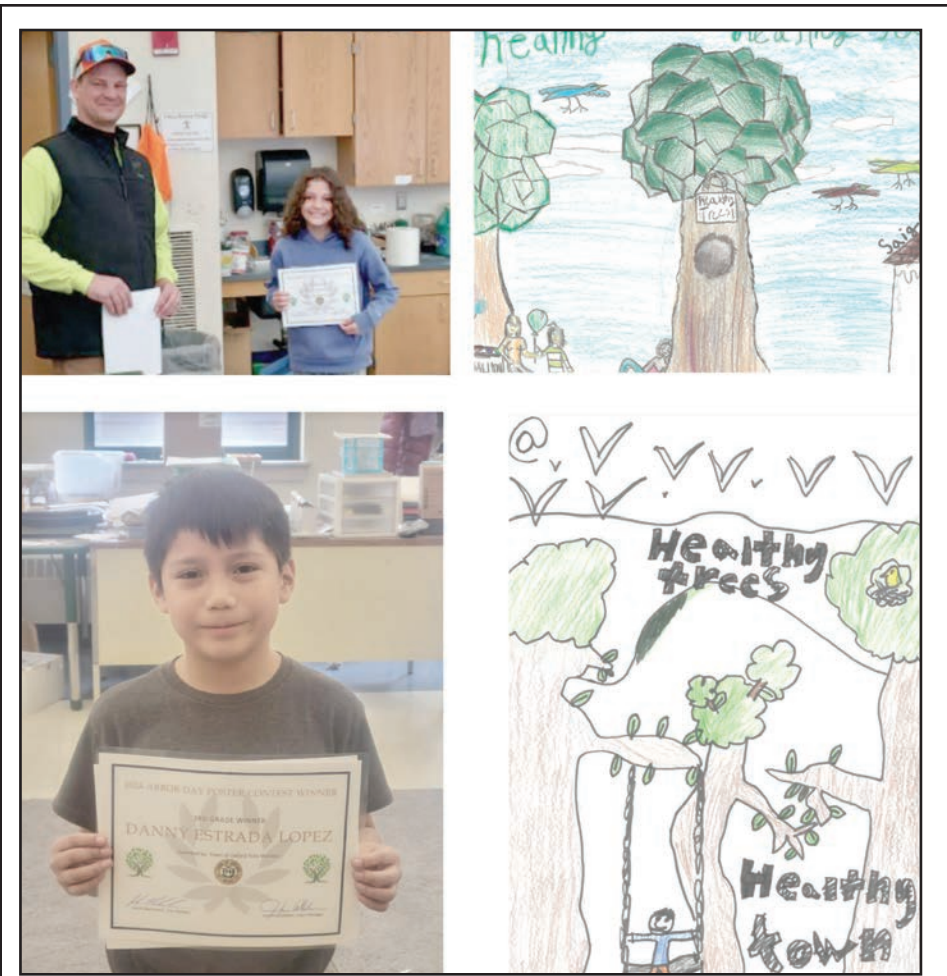
With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online.



Courtesy

SAINT JOSEPH GIRLS DEFEND TITLE

On Sunday, March 10, the top-seeded Saint Joseph School Varsity Girls Basketball team defended their 2022-2023 title when they competed in the Route 395 Basketball Tournament finals in Norwich, Conn. They secured the regular season title with a record of 8-1 and were eager to face off against rival and second-seed Saint James School from Danielson, Conn. It was an exciting game, and the Saint Joseph School team came out on top with a final score of 47-31. Saint Joseph School's Most Valuable Players were 8th Grade students Molly Hachigian and Emily Macko. Team members include 6th Grade students Tenleigh Dowd and Neli Kuznecki, 7th Grade students Rosemary Basha, Zofia Pawlikowski, Gianna Pigeon, Arianna Rivers, Lianna Worth, and 8th Grade students Molly Hachigian, Emily Macko, and Laura Ibrahim. Buzz Krynsinski and John Hachigian coach the team. Congratulations, girls, for successfully defending your titles!



Courtesy

OXFORD STUDENTS TAKE PART IN ARBOR DAY DRAWING CONTEST

The town of Oxford participated in Massachusetts' Arbor Day drawing contest. We had two students at Clara Barton Elementary selected as winners for the Town of Oxford-Saige Angell and Danny Estrada Lopez. Our Tree Warden, Jacob Mackowiak, presented them with certificates and an invitation to plant some trees in town. We'll see if they are selected for the official Massachusetts Arbor Day calendar.



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Noon, 2, and 4

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11 - CLOSE
CLOSED MONDAYS

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NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

25 ELM STREET | SOUTHBRIDGE, MA



9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE



- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas



- Listing price: \$650,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



MORE INFO:





JAMES GLICKMAN
Principal

508-769-5007
jglickman@glickmankovago.com



JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President

508-868-3765
jdglickman@glickmankovago.com

LEGALS
 THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
 Town of Auburn
 OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES

To the owners of the hereinafter described parcels of land situated in AUBURN in the county of WORCESTER and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to all others concerned:

You are hereby notified that on APRIL 16, 2024 pursuant to the provisions of General Laws Chapter 60, Section 53 as amended, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes -

It is my intention to take for AUBURN the following parcels of land for non-payment after demand, of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

MARY ANN MURPHY

606 SOUTHBRIDGE ST LLC
Parcel: 55/011/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 606 SOUTHBRIDGE ST in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 550110000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 52160/358. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$2,208.03.

BISHOP, JAMES S
BISHOP, LISA M
Parcel: 10/207/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 91 OXFORD ST in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 102070000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 23492/0315. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$1,995.38.

BURKE, AUGUSTINE F JR.
BURKE, RUTH A
Parcel: 17/097/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 178 AUBURN ST in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 170970000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 3909/435. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$1,321.93.

DE PINA, THAIS NATALY OLIVEIRA
Parcel: 04/153/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 7 DUNCAN ST in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 041530000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 64998/345. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$5,053.29.

DIDONATO, JENNIFER
Parcel: 58/031/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 4 OAKLAND DR in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 580310000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 60684/232. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$1,597.97.

DUMAS, GEORGE P III
Parcel: 60/072/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 28 APPLETON RD in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 600720000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 57918/8. For FY 2022 Tax Due \$4,653.96 and For FY 2023 Tax Due \$6,303.75.

FAHNESTOCK, TIMOTHY
Parcel: 17/108/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 187 AUBURN ST in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 171080000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 94/105. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$4,075.30.

GOW, TAMMY A
Parcel: 28/037/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 22 PINROCK RD in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 280370000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 59901/1. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$1,945.50.

GREEN PASTURES CHURCH OF GOD
Parcel: 24/263/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 39 BRYN MAWR AVE in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 242630000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 54392/268. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$802.00.

GREEN PASTURES CHURCH OF GOD
Parcel: 24/075/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 37 BRYN MAWR AVE in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 240750000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 54392/268. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$7,039.94.

WEAGLE, KEVIN J
Subsequent Owner: GUIMARAES, SERGIO

Parcel: 20/020/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 118 SOUTHOLD RD in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 200200000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 51824/170. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$1,815.60.

JOHNSON, TIMOTHY
Parcel: 10/078/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 25 VINAL ST in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 100780000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 62606/234. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$5,191.17.

LAFLASH, RONALD M
Parcel: 19/105/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 221 HAMPTON ST in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 191050000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 53665/249. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$3,862.41.

WRIGHT, WILLIAM S
Subsequent Owner Langlois, Elizabeth Catherine and Dunlop, Gerald Allen Jr.
Parcel: 21/013/0000
LAND located at LEICESTER ST in Auburn, LAND shown on Assessor's Map 210130000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 29222/280. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$410.73.

LEEDS, JAMES T
Parcel: 60/039/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 5 GREENWOOD DR in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 600390000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 62649/196. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$5,569.12.

RAGSDALE, GEORGE TRUSTEE
RAGSDALE REALTY TRUST
Parcel: 60/084/0000
LAND located at MAPLE ST in Auburn, LAND shown on Assessor's Map 600840000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 32965/342. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$117.19.

REDMOND, MONICA
Parcel: 17/006/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 38 HIGHLAND ST in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 170060000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 64239/222. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$368.53.

REGAN, WILLIAM J
REGAN, JUDITH A
Parcel: 45/011/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 206 WEST ST in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 450110000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 42835/184. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$3,468.39.

RIEL POWER INC
Parcel: 30/001/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 310 LEICESTER ST in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 300010000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 57812/184. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$5,805.73.

SPYROPOULOS, SPIRO
Parcel: 10/122/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 57 OXFORD ST in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 101220000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 15291/137. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$2,961.40.

CARLSON, DAVID S TRUSTEE BETWEEN THE BRIDGES REALTY TRUST
Subsequent Owner VVL Realty LLC
Parcel: 01/030/0000
LAND & BUILDING located at 1 SOUTHBRIDGE ST in Auburn, LAND & BUILDING shown on Assessor's Map 010300000, recorded at WORCESTER COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS – Book/Page 52654/270. For FY 2023 Tax Due \$985.91.
March 29, 2024

AUBURN WATER DISTRICT
 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:
 PRV/METER FACILITY AND KETTLE BROOK PIPE JACKING
 The Auburn Water District (AWD) is seeking RFP's from qualified and experienced contractors for the construction of an interconnection loop between AWD's water supply system and the City of Worcester's water supply systems including furnishing and installing the interior equipment within the existing 12'x21' prefab building shell to complete the PRV / metering facility and pipe jacking beneath Kettle Brook and the Genesee & Wyoming Railroad. The pipe jacking portion includes pipe jacking of a 220-foot long 24-inch diameter steel casing beneath Kettle Brook and the Railroad

and associated 12" ductile iron water main, valves and fittings to complete the connection loop.
Copies of the RFP will be available for pickup beginning on 3/20/24 at Comprehensive Environmental Inc., 41 Main Street, Bolton, MA 01740.
Contact Michael Carmasine. An electronic copy is available upon request.
Bids are due April 25, 2024 at 2:00PM.
A full description of the RFP is available on the AWD website at https://www.auburnwater.com/forms-and-applications/.
March 29, 2024

Webster Water Department
 Fire Hydrant Flushing Program
 March 22, 2024
 During the Month of April, the Water Department will begin flushing fire hydrants daily between 7:00am and 3:00pm throughout the Town.
 The procedure will include flushing accumulated sediments from the water mains and testing the operation of fire hydrants. Customers may experience accumulated sediments in their house laterals and some discolored water. This is normal and will clear after a brief run of cold water at the tap.
 The program is expected to last 6 to 8 weeks. For more information on our program and schedule, please visit our website at: www.webster-ma.gov/741/Flushing-Program or sign up for CodeRed Notifictaions System at: www.webster-ma.gov/161/CodeRED-Notification-System
 Please contact the Water Department if you have any questions or concerns.
 March 29, 2024

Pursuant to Mass General Laws Chapter 105A, the contents of the following space: D54 (James Gomes), D71 (Sandy Caissie) and D77 (Elizabeth Petrone) located at 144 Schofield A venue, Dudley, MA will be sold to satisfy the owners lien of Storage Plus. Sale date is Wednesday, April 3, 2024 @3:00 PM. Inspection between 2:30 PM and 3:00 PM on April 3, 2024. Sealed bids must be hand delivered by 3:00 PM on April 3, 2024. All goods must be purchased with cash as is, and must be removed within 48 hours of sale. Owner has the right to bid to protect his lien and to withdraw any wiit upon settlement by the obligated party up for sale. For further information call (508)949-8818.
March 22, 2024
March 29, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 The Trial Court
 Probate and Family Court
 Worcester Division
 225 Main Street
 Worcester, MA 01608
 (508) 831-2200
 Docket No. WO66P2243-86TP1
 ROBERT HART In the matter of:
 TRUST/AGREEMENT F/B/O
 ROBERT HART-XXX5613
 Date of Death:
 CITATION ON PETITION
 FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT
 To all interested persons:
 A Petition has been filed by
 Bank of America, N.A.
 of Providence , RI
 requesting allowance of the 9th (23rd) to 16th as trustee and any other relief as requested in the Petition. (30th) & Final
 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 4/9/2024.
 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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.
 Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy,
 First Justice of this Court
 March 12, 2024
 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
 March 29, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
 By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jordan Donais to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Nominee for EverBank dated September 7, 2007, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41792, Page 32, as affected by Loan Modification Agreement dated April 7, 2016 and recorded in Book 55791 Page 52; said mortgage was then assigned to CitiMortgage, Inc. by virtue of an assignment dated May 25, 2012, and recorded in Book 49090, Page 60; and further assigned to Pretium Mortgage Credit Partners I Loan Acquisition, LP by virtue of an assignment dated December 11, 2015, and recorded in Book 54689, Page 292; and further assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, D/B/A Christiana Trust, not individually but as Trustee for Pretium Mortgage Acquisition Trust by virtue of an assignment dated January

14, 2016, and recorded in Book 54941, Page 323; and further assigned to DLJ Mortgage Capital, Inc. by virtue of an assignment dated August 22, 2018, and recorded in Book 59679, Page 326; and further assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2018-RPL9 Trust by virtue of an assignment dated May 10, 2022, and recorded in Book 67635, Page 101, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 11:00 AM on April 11, 2024, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of 41 Dudley Road, Oxford, MA 01540. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:
 The land with the buildings thereon of every nature and description and all the privileges and appurtenances there-to belonging, situated in said Oxford, being part of Lot #178 Walnut Street, as shown on a Plan of Lots, owned by Leslie J. Chaffee, drawn by Leslie J. Chaffee, Surveyor, dated June 1, 1955 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 210, Plan 68, more specifically described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the easterly line of Dudley Road, at the intersection of Walnut Street; THENCE northeasterly along the easterly line of said Dudley Road ninety-five and five tenths (95.5) feet more or less to a point at Lot #181; THENCE S 47° 10' E One hundred six (106) feet more or less by Lot #181 to a point at the northwesterly corner of Lot #176; THENCE S 37° 10' W One Hundred (100) feet by Lot #176 to a point on the northerly line of Walnut Street; THENCE N 52° 50' W Ninety-four and five tenths (94.5) feet by the northerly line of Walnut Street to a point; THENCE by a curve to the right whose radius is Twenty (20) feet along the line connecting the northerly line of Walnut Street with the easterly line of Dudley Road to the point of beginning. SUBJECT to restrictions in deed to us from John H. Rives et ux, dated 9/28/78, recorded with Worcester County Registry of Deeds at Book 6577, Page 13. For title reference see Book 21913, Page 59.
 Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.
 Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier's or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier's or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC ("DG&L"), time being of the essence. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.
 Dated: February 20, 2024 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee of CSMC 2018-RPL9 Trust By its Attorney DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 303C, Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 921-2670 www.dgandl.com 56862 (DONAIS)
 March 15, 2024
 March 22, 2024
 March 29, 2024

NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER G.L.C. 255, SECTION 39A
 Notice is hereby given by: School Street Towing 17-31 School Street, Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, Section 39A, that on: 23 March 2024 at 9:00 AM at 17-31 School Street, Webster MA by private sale the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.
 Vehicle description: Year 2017
 Make: Kia Model: Soul
 Registration#/State: Un Reg.
 VIN: KNDJX3AA1H7481033
 Name and address of vehicle owner Shawn Wintzell
 153 Upper Gore Rd Apt. I
 Webster, MA 01570
 By Frank A Czechowski
 29 Feb 2024
 This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L.c. 255, Section 39A.
 March 15, 2024
 March 22, 2024
 March 29, 2024

Evoked positive emotions by adding Pantone Color of the Year to your garden



Ball Horticultural Company — Courtesy
Heat and drought-tolerant Celway™ Salmon has spiky blooms atop 40- to 48-inch stems.

the 2024 Pantone Color of the Year, Peach Fuzz. It was selected for generating a feeling of kindness and tenderness and encouraging sharing, community, and collaboration. Consider including this color in your garden to convey these emotions or as a good excuse to add more plants to your landscape. This is the 25th year the Pantone Color

Institute has selected a color that reflects the spirit of the times. These are colors you are likely to see in home furnishings, advertisements, and even our landscapes. Peach Fuzz lies somewhere between pink and salmon. Many garden plants have flowers that fit into this color spectrum and can be used in containers and garden beds. Dianthus Vivacia® Orange is hardy to zone 7a, but can be used as an annual in colder areas. The large double flowers top 10- to 16-inch-tall plants and are showy during the cooler months of the growing season. They combine nicely with other flowers and their sturdy stems make them suitable for cutting. SuperTrouper® Orange Dianthus has similar colored flowers that are about 20% smaller. It is hardy in zones 5 to 9 and has a spicy fragrance. Celosia Celway™ Salmon has the same heat and drought tolerance as other celosias. The spiky blooms are held atop 40- to



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

48-inch stems, making them great additions to the middle or back of the border. If you love salvias, you can find a variety of peachy-colored blossoms. These plants tend to be deer-resistant and hummingbird magnets. Just check the plant tag for more specific information on the mature size and hardiness. Luxury Lace daylily has subtly fragrant star-shaped flowers. Hardy in zones four to eight it has the same low maintenance requirements as other daylilies. Just water thoroughly when needed. Geum 'Mai Tai' has vermilion red flowers that fade to a peachy pink early in the season. The 18-inch-tall burgundy stems are a nice contrast to the flowers. Grow it in full sun with moist soil in zones five to seven. Last but certainly not least is threadleaf coreopsis 'Crème Caramel' (Coreopsis verticillata 'Crème Caramel').

Hardy in zones five to nine, it slowly spreads making it a nice addition to a sunny slope or traditional border. The fine foliage blends nicely with other flowers, adding welcome texture to any planting. Watch the peachy-pink flowers deepen to salmon when temperatures cool. Use the artist's color wheel to find colors that pair well with these and other peach-fuzz-colored flowers and foliage. Then look for opportunities to add interesting texture for some additional pizzazz. You and your visitors will enjoy the cozy warm feeling when walking through your landscape. Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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Gardening Tips and Tricks

Spring has sprung and gardening season is around the corner! As all home growers know, it takes careful planning and many hours of labor to produce a bountiful garden. While nearly every successful gardener has their own special tricks to ensure a productive crop, the novice planter may need a helping hand to nudge green sprouts from uncooperative soil. If that's the case, the following tips culled from various "green thumbed" sources, including previously published tips from readers, may just be all you need to make this the most successful gardening season yet.

**

The addition of peat moss is necessary to keep window boxes and other container gardens properly watered. But, if you are not wetting down the peat moss before adding it to the soil, you may be doing your garden more harm than good. Peat moss must be moistened

before it is used in potting mixes. When dry, the substance actually repels water!

Here's how to pretreat it: If you want to wet a full bag of peat moss, poke several holes in the bottom of the bag and open the top. Then pour water slowly into the top of the bag until it seeps out of the bottom holes. Push on the bag and knead it to ensure the peat is getting saturated. To test, scoop out a handful of peat moss and squeeze it. If you can squeeze water out, it is ready to use. If not, keep wetting until you can.

**

Here's an easy test to gauge if your garden soil is ready to plant. Simply scoop up a handful of dirt and squeeze it into a ball. If the ball crumbles when you release your fingers, the soil is all set for digging. If the ball sticks together, the soil is still to wet to work.

**

Flower bulbs are now plentiful at large garden



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

centers. But, bulbs sold at such places are a bargain only if you know how to avoid poor quality bulbs. Here are some tips:

- * Bulbs should feel solid and heavy. If they are light, they may be dried out.
- * Avoid bulbs with discolored, dark or moldy spots.
- * Make sure there are no holes or other signs of insect damage on bulbs.
- * Pick over bulbs that have sprouted; it is better if they grow roots first.

**

Color Tip: Garden designers recommend most flower gardens have a splash of red. The bright color acts as a stunning accent when planted in a

clump among white flowers and thick greenery!

**

Farmer's Planting Timetables

Our forefathers took great pains to plant crops at the precise time of year to promote a bountiful crop. With this in mind, below is this column's annual reminder of some interesting "old farmer's tales" that indicate when it is time to plant garden vegetables:

Lilac's Bloom: When the lilacs have their first leaves it is time to plant cool-weather crops such as peas, lettuce, and onions. When the lilac flowers are in full bloom, it s safe to plant tender crops such as tomatoes and corn.

Native American's Rule: The American Indians passed this reliable tip on to European colonists, and many farmers still rely on it today. Tender crops should not be planted until the leaves on an

oak tree are as big as a squirrels ear (about an inch or so long).

Moon Signs: Many natural gardeners plant successfully by the phases of the moon. Here's how: Between the new moon and the first quarter: sow or transplant leafy plants and those that bear seeds on the outside of the fruit, such as strawberries.

Between the first quarter and the full moon: plant crops whose seeds develop inside the fruit, such as tomatoes, peas, beans and squash.

From the full moon to the last quarter: plant root vegetables.

Never plant from the last quarter to the new moon.

**

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered

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

Do you have a 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.

Webster Five Foundation awards more than \$79,000 in grants to local nonprofits

AUBURN — Following a successful year of supporting community causes in 2023, the Webster Five Foundation is thrilled to announce their first round of grant recipients for 2024. This quarter, the Foundation has awarded \$79,192 in grants to 20 organizations, 18 of which are based in Worcester County.

The Foundation provides grants each quarter to nonprofit organizations or programs that support expanding or improving access to education, culture and the arts, social services, charitable activities, and community development. In 2023 alone, the Foundation fulfilled 54 grant requests, totaling \$246,500.

"At Webster Five, our commitment to supporting local organizations that bring positive

change to the community is at the core of our values," said Don Doyle, President/CEO, Webster Five. "We're excited to witness the impactful projects that will unfold thanks to the dedication of these deserving nonprofits."

In this grant cycle, the Webster Five Foundation awarded funding to the following organizations:

AIDS Project Worcester, Inc. (APW) -- \$5,000 for its Supporters of Worcester Area GLBT Youth (SWAGLY) programming, a social support club for 11-18-year-old LGBTQIA+ young people and allies that has been running since 1984. APW uses advocacy, education, and collaborative initiatives to enhance the lives and health of people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C (HCV), and other sexually trans-

mitted infections (STIs).

Assabet Valley Mastersingers (AVM) -- \$500 towards offering free concert tickets for seniors at upcoming concerts in Shrewsbury, Northborough, and Southborough. AVM is a regional chorus with performances in Shrewsbury, Westborough, Northborough, Southborough, and Marlborough dedicated to performance excellence and innovative programming.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Mass/MetroWest (BBBS CMMW) -- \$6,500 to support the organization's Big Futures - High School Mentoring Program for at-risk students in Worcester schools. For more than 50 years, BBBS CMMW has helped transform the lives of more than 30,000 children fac-

ing adversity by creating professionally supported mentoring relationships.

Center for Women & Enterprise (CWE) -- \$3,500 to support General Operations of the CWE Central MA office and its related programming. The mission of CWE is to help women business owners and aspiring female entrepreneurs launch and grow their businesses by providing greater access to the resources, tools, and support they need.

Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Inc. (CMHA) -- \$3,000 for the organization's 39th Annual WALK for the homeless. CMHA has more than 35 years of experience in providing direct services to homeless and at-risk families and in leading community efforts to address homelessness through promoting homelessness prevention and stabilization services through collaborative community partnerships.

EcoTarium -- \$3,000 to support the cost of offering scholarships for the Museum's Discovery Camps. Located on 45 acres of natural beauty, the mission of the EcoTarium is to inspire a passion for science and nature through one-of-a-kind experiences, interactive exhibits, and accessible programming for all.

Genesis Club House, Inc. -- \$5,000 for its Older Adult Program for adults 55 years and older living with and managing a diagnosed mental illness. Genesis Club helps people in recovery from serious mental illness attain competitive employment, education, physical health, and stable housing.

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) -- \$3,000 to support the "It's a Girl's World" programming, which focuses on providing young women with the opportunity to foster a sense of belonging and explore their true potential and leadership abilities. GCSWM is a Girl Scout leadership council that welcomes girls of all ages, backgrounds, and interests to inspire the mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character who will make the world a better place.

Horace Mann Educational Associates, Inc. (HMEA) -- \$1,500 towards HMEA's Day Habilitation Program, which seeks to offer support programs for adults with disabilities. The mission of this Franklin-based organization is to teach, support, and

empower people with developmental disabilities and their families to live meaningful lives of their choice.

Jeremiah's Inn -- \$5,000 for the organization's Recovery Residence. Since 1982, Jeremiah's Inn has worked to foster a sense of community and mutual aid through partnerships, volunteerism, and their nutrition center.

Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester (LVGW) -- \$1,500 for LVGW's English as a Second or Foreign Language (ESOL) for New Americans. The organization's mission is culturally compassionate English language education to provide social and economic empowerment.

Mass Audubon's Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary and Conservation Center -- \$12,192 to support its "Plant and Animal Adaptations" program at Swanson Road Intermediate School, serving 190 fourth grade Auburn students. Mass Audubon is inspired by a vision where nature is valued as essential to quality of life, and people live with appreciation and respect for the complex ecological systems that sustain life on Earth, working together to ensure they are protected.

Matthew 25 -- \$2,000 and a match of up to \$1,000 to support its housing project for a new two-family house at 11 Mount Pleasant St., Worcester. Matthew 25 acquires run-down or abandoned properties, renovates existing structures or builds new construction on those properties in the Worcester area, and rents the finished homes to low-income families at a percentage of their income.

Pathways for Change, Inc. -- \$4,000 to support its General Operating Expenses. The mission of Pathways is to address the impact of sexual assault and abuse by providing quality and multicultural services to all persons whose lives have been impacted by sexual violence and education geared toward the prevention of violence.

Regional Environment Council (REC) -- \$3,500 for REC's Youth Growing Organics in Worcester (YouthGROW) programming. The mission of the Regional Environmental Council is to bring people together to create a just food system and to build healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities in Worcester and beyond.

Science from Scientists (SciSci) -- \$2,500 to support its In-School Module-Based (ISMB) Education Program for Title 1 Worcester Public Schools. Bedford-based SciSci specializes in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) experiential learning for third-through eighth-graders, with the goal of measurably improving the attitudes and aptitudes of students in STEM.

Simon Says Give Worcester -- \$3,500 to support its High Five for Supplies programming. As a kid-founded and run organization, Simon Says Give provides low to moderate-income graduating elementary school students across the city with binders filled with supplies for middle-school (High Five for Supplies), Birthday Celebrations to at-need kids ages five to 12, and leadership/service opportunities for kids to run their programs.

Straight Ahead Ministries, Inc. -- \$2,000 to help support its Worcester Youth Reentry Program. Straight Ahead Ministries works to break an unforgiving cycle of recidivism for justice-involved young people, ages 14 - 24, through authentic relationships and re-integration resources.

Worcester Youth Orchestras (WYO) -- \$1,000 to support its Financial Aid efforts to eliminate barriers to participation in their programming. WYO's mission is to provide youth in central MA with an educational and enjoyable musical experience; and to provide accessible live musical and cultural enrichment to the greater Worcester community.

YMCA of Central Massachusetts -- \$10,000 to support its Achievers Program, a mentoring program focusing on assisting teens in their matriculation to college and in exploring future career paths through college preparation programming, adult mentorship, and career cluster workshops. Spanning across six full-service branches, the YMCA of Central Massachusetts has evolved into one of the region's most significant charitable institutions, serving 26,000 members across nearly 70 cities and towns.



Courtesy

ST. LOUIS CHURCH CELEBRATES ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick's Day was celebrated at St. Louis Church with a free corn beef and cabbage dinner, along with Irish music thanks to Father Javier and Deacon Tom.



Since its inception in 1996, the Foundation has awarded \$3,978,700 to 296 organizations. Grant applications for the next round of funding will be accepted through June 15.

OXFORD

continued from page A1

community host agreement fee. They're following their interpretation of the [Cannabis Control Commission's] intent" and Oxford is using the lawyers to compel them to fulfil their host agreements. That's being triggered by still-unclear CCC changes she described as "over-reaching legislative intent where they're rewriting the rules."

McKenna said cannabis revenue is declining already because of the many such firms in Massachusetts and the fact Connecticut legalized it as well. She said she thinks Oxford's share will "level out somewhere between \$150,000 and \$200,000 a year. Because of the uncertainty, she has not specifically budgeted its use, noting "we would be scrambling now and cutting" if she had.

As always, the biggest

part of the budget is education, at \$22.5 million, or 45.4 percent of the total. The schools are seeking a new elementary school Phys Ed teacher, a kindergarten teacher, an interventionist, and a little extra money for special ed summer school and tennis coaching stipends. The district schools are seeking a 3.8 percent increase to \$20.8 million, but Bay Path is down by 2.7 percent to \$1.7 million. Additionally, the town's funding just over \$1 million in out-of-town tuition to other public or charter schools and \$5.8 million in "indirect" school costs (including the various things the town side pays for, such as insurance). Oxford is receiving \$12.2 million in Chapter 70 school aid to offset some of that.

At the end, Robert King claimed the schools had originally sought a much higher increase and that Town Meeting passed an unbalanced budget last

year. Callahan, however, noted "with [an] 8.8 percent [hike], there is no contingency plan. It will be an unbalanced budget because we don't have that." McKenna added that Town Meeting "did not leave with an unbalanced budget" last year, because it had "some capacity in a couple lines. There was some levy reserve. We don't have any levy reserve this year."

(That's a reference to the maximum amount the town can tax under Proposition 2 ½, with a "reserve" meaning any unused amount below the maximum.)

Earlier, Callahan had expressed concern that the schools had sought \$1.77 million increase, but her budget asks for \$379,000 below that. Even "this funding level is not sustainable to taxpayers," she added.

The other big budget areas are \$9.1 million in benefits, \$5.7 million for

public safety, \$4.5 million for DPW, \$3.3 million for general government, \$1.3 million for various state payments and \$1.1 million for debt payments (mostly the police station and last year's school repair bonds).

For the \$2 million in capital spending, they're seeking to replace the high school HVAC condenser coil, demolish a Barton St building, repaint the library, replace town hall windows, \$900,000 in road work, replacing an underground fuel storage system, two new vehicles, upgrade restrooms at Greenbriar, upgrade police Tasers and weapons. Callahan noted two police cruisers and ongoing DPW vehicle leases are not included, since they're in those department budgets.

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

EXCLUSION

continued from page A1

	FY2024 Value FY2024 Tax Rate FY2024 Avg Single Family Taxes	\$ 1,573,412,270 \$ 10.48 \$ 383,326 \$ 4,122.06	Tax Rate	Yearly Taxes	Annual Increase
2025	\$348,150.31	\$0.22	\$10.70	\$4,208.59	\$86.53
2026	\$288,500.00	\$0.18	\$10.88	\$4,279.39	\$70.80
2027	\$279,000.00	\$0.18	\$11.06	\$4,350.19	\$70.80
2028	\$269,500.00	\$0.17	\$11.23	\$4,417.05	\$66.87
2029	\$205,000.00	\$0.13	\$11.36	\$4,468.18	\$51.13
2030	\$198,250.00	\$0.13	\$11.49	\$4,519.32	\$51.13
2031	\$191,500.00	\$0.12	\$11.61	\$4,566.51	\$47.20
2032	\$184,750.00	\$0.12	\$11.73	\$4,613.71	\$47.20
2033	\$178,000.00	\$0.11	\$11.84	\$4,656.98	\$43.27
2034	\$171,250.00	\$0.11	\$11.95	\$4,700.25	\$43.27
2035	\$164,500.00	\$0.10	\$12.05	\$4,739.58	\$39.33
2036	\$157,750.00	\$0.10	\$12.15	\$4,778.91	\$39.33
2037	\$151,000.00	\$0.10	\$12.25	\$4,818.24	\$39.33
2038	\$145,600.00	\$0.09	\$12.34	\$4,853.64	\$35.40
2039	\$135,200.00	\$0.09	\$12.43	\$4,889.04	\$35.40
TOTALS	\$3,067,960.31	\$1.95			

project an 18-cent increase which amounts to \$70.80 added to the tax levy in those years.

While added taxes may be difficult for many to accept, selectmen stressed that the only other option is to pay the money from the general government budget which would severely affect town services. Selectman Steve Sullivan explained this reality.

"If a debt exclusion doesn't pass, we have to come up with (money) from the town government - It'll come out of the town side of the budget. The tax increase and the snapshot are important, but if the debt exclusion doesn't pass after the people approved this roof project that's the number we have to deal with," said Sullivan.

Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda confirmed that if the debt exclusion fails, the town will be left with the bill to pay for through available funds. The cost will not fall back on the school district.

"We either debt exclude it which means you look at it as what it is, the district borrowed money and we're raising our tax rate the payoff that push in the assessment which the school then uses to pay off the loan, or we bring it out of the general government side. Essentially, what we're doing is adding \$1.95 to the tax rate over the course of fifteen years in order to pay off that \$3 million," said Ruda.

Selectmen closed the discussion by voting unanimously to add the debt exclusion to the June 10 election ballot. The town has also announced that nomination papers for the election are available and due by April 22.

TREES

continued from page A1

ment garage, water and sewer facility, and town cemeteries. Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda recommended that the DCLT work with his Administrative Secretary Michelle Jarvis to deter-

mine exactly where the trees would be planted as there may be some added logistics depending on the location.

"I think the board would be better serviced if there were a plan as to where they were going to go. If they're going to go in cemeteries that requires a separate board

approval vote. Maybe if we have a plan for some proposed spots, we can kind of look at it again in the very near future," said Ruda.

Selectmen also wanted the Land Trust to determine a long-term maintenance plan for the trees and what responsibility would lie with the town.

For now, the selectmen gave their blessing for the Land Trust to pursue to grant funds to purchase and plant the new trees. The DCLT would depend on town employees from the Highway Department for the planting. Officials do not expect to seek any added tax dollars for this project.

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The Webster Senior Center will be closed on Friday, March 29th in observance of Good Friday.

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 4/2 Meatloaf, gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, carrots. Wednesday 4/3 Roast Turkey, gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, Brussels sprouts. Thursday 4/4 Macaroni & Cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans. 4/5 Fish with parmesan cream sauce, wild rice, broccoli & carrots.

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.

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.

Koffee Klatch - get together and chat with us as we watch mini-series on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am. Coffee, tea, and refreshments will be served – come join us! Our March series will be the Netflix series, "The Keepers", Who killed Sister Cathy, a docu-series about the nearly five decades old unsolved murder of nun Catherine Cesnik. We will be showing this series every Thursday from March 7th through April 18th.

The REC Farmer's Market is now setting up in the Webster Senior Center on Thursdays from 1:00 – 2:30 pm.

Join us for movie matinees! We will be showing "Oppenheimer" in two 90-minute segments. Part One on Monday, April 22nd at 1:00 pm and Part Two on Monday, April 29th at 1:00 pm. Popcorn and refreshments will be served. Please sign up at

the Senior Center front desk.

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!

NEW! Genealogy Workshops by Seema Kenney will start in April! First workshop will be "Starting Your Family History Research" on Friday, April 12th at 9:30 am. Please sign up at the Senior Center front desk or by calling (508) 949-3845.

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 Lobsterbake 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.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



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Celebrate 2024 National Coin Week with Nipmuc Coin Club!

OXFORD — The American Numismatic Association proudly presents the 100th anniversary of National Coin Week, running from April 21 to April 27, and the theme this year is "A Hobby for a Changing World: 100 Years and Counting." This milestone event reflects on the evolution of numismatics and money, showcasing how they have adapted to embrace diverse cultural values throughout history.

Join the Nipmuc Coin Club in commemorating National Coin Week with an array of engaging events:

1. Open House: On April 21 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Oxford Senior Center behind the Town Hall on 323 Main St. in Oxford. We will have displays of Coins and Currency for your viewing pleasure. And there will be Free Giveaways for everyone of coins, coin-related items, and coin publications. There will be games for kids and each participant will win a prize! We invite you to our Open House event where you can explore our passion for coin collecting and learn about the fascinating world of numismatics.

2. Regular Monthly Meetings: Join us every fourth Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Oxford Senior Center behind the Town Hall on 323 Main St. in Oxford. Immerse yourself in activities centered around coins and numismatics, such as Free Door Prize Raffles, educational Show and Tell programs, and we wrap up our Meetings with exciting coin auctions.

The Nipmuc Coin Club is committed to providing a fun and educational environment for coin enthusiasts of all ages. For more information about our club and upcoming events, please contact us at 508-410-1332 or email lisirichard15@yahoo.com.

National Coin Week is proudly sponsored by the American Numismatic Association (ANA). Explore more information, resources, and activities at www.NationalCoinWeek.org. For inquiries about the ANA, call 719-632-2646. Join us in celebrating a century of numismatic appreciation and discovery!

LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES

BROOKFIELD

Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry
St. Mary's Church
4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506
Distribution: Wednesday 9 AM-11 AM:
Saturday 9AM-11AM

CHARLTON

Chip - In Food Pantry
McKinstry Building
37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

LEICESTER

Leicester Food Pantry
St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish
759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524
Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

NORTH BROOKFIELD

St. Joseph's Food Pantry
Located in the church hall at 296 North Main St. North Brookfield
Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30PM
the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12 Noon-1:15PM
Any questions should be directed to the Rectory office 508 867-6469.
St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community partner affiliated with the Worcester County Food Bank.

SOUTHBRIDGE

Saint John Paul II Food Pantry
Saint Vincent de Paul
279 Hamilton St, Southbridge, MA 01550
Distribution: Tuesday 3 PM-5 PM, Wednesday 9 AM -11 AM

Southbridge Food Share Pantry
79 Elm St., Southridge, Ma. 01550.
Distribution: MWF from 10:00AM - 11:15AM

SPENCER- EAST BROOKFIELD - RESIDENTS ONLY

Mary Queen of the Rosary Food Pantry
60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562
Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

WEST BROOKFIELD

Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry
First Congregational Church
36 North Main Street,
W.Bookfield, MA 01585
Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM
- Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM



OBITUARIES

Treat yourself like a million-dollar racehorse

Eleanor B. Sendrowski



DUDLEY – Eleanor B. “Ellie” (Burzenski) Sendrowski died Friday, March 15, 2024 in her home.

She leaves her husband of almost 58 years, Joseph E. “Joe” Sendrowski; 2 daughters, E. Sendrowski of Webster and Paula Kohler and her former husband Roger of Sandisfield, MA; 4 grandchildren, Jacob Charles, Haley Grace, Maria Teresa and Harlan Joseph; 5 siblings, Chester Burzenski and his wife Claire of Clinton, twin Paul Burzenski and his wife Andrea of Clinton, twin Paula Gosselin and her husband Joe of North Middlesex, VT, Mark Burzenski and his wife Tessie of Clinton, and Ann Martin and her husband Craig of Bolton; a close brother-in-law, John Sendrowski and his wife Leila of Thompson, CT; nieces, nephews and extended family.

She was born in Clinton and raised there, a daughter of Charles H. and Eleanor “Alice” (Rzegota) Burzenski. She graduated from Clinton High School where she was a defensive guard on the varsity basketball team. She moved to Dudley in 1966.

Mrs. Sendrowski was a senior clerk typist at Worcester State Hospital where she worked for 14 years. She then was substitute teacher and a teacher's aide in Webster, Dudley and Sturbridge

for many years before retiring.

She belonged to Saint Louis Church in Webster. Previously she was a member of Saint Andrew Bobola Church where she taught CCD classes and belonged to the former Holy Rosary Sodality at the church. She was also a member of the Holy Rosary Sodality at Saint Joseph Basilica in Webster.

Ellie was a member of the Polish American Veterans in Webster and of the Polish National Alliance in Dudley. She owned a motorcycle and enjoyed riding, ice fishing, arranging flowers, polka dancing, watching cowboy movies and cruising on Pierpont Pond in the “Green Flash.” She loved living on the lake and night swimming. A conservative, she was a proud member of the National Rifle Association. Talking to people was her favorite pastime. She dedicated her life to her family, especially her grandchildren.

Her funeral will be held on Tuesday, April 2, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street, Webster. A time of visitation will be held from 9:00 to 10:30 on Tuesday in the funeral home prior to the Mass. Donations in her memory may be made to either the Polish American Veterans, 30 Ray Street, or to the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council, 4 Veterans Way, both in Webster, MA 01570.

www.websterfunerals.com

Growing up, my dad was a huge fan of Zig Ziglar, filling our home with the sound of his motivational speeches. One story that always stuck with me was the story about a million dollar racehorse.

Ziglar poses a thought-provoking question: “If you did have a million-dollar racehorse, would you let him stay up half the night drinking coffee and booze, smoking cigarettes, and eating junk food?” Of course, you wouldn't! He then extends the analogy, asking, “Would you treat a \$10 dog or a \$5 cat that way? What about a billion-dollar body?”

The point he's trying to make is clear: You are that billion-dollar body. You may not feel like a Billion Dollars but nobody is going to bring you the life you want except yourself. It's true that you're are the best investment your money can buy. You must invest in yourself to get far in life, but it takes work. Investing in yourself takes time, patience, and sacrifice.

This investment concept extends beyond the racetrack to the broader market of our personal development, where the stakes are high, and the returns on investment can be life-changing.

Consider your personal development as a portfolio. Diversification is key to any sound investment strategy. Similarly, investing in oneself encompasses various aspects: physical health, mental well-being, emotional strength, and intellectual growth.

It requires consistent effort. Whether it's committing to a regular workout routine at the gym, attending night classes to further our education, or seeking therapy to address underlying issues, each action signifies an investment in our well-being and future success.

Through the years, I eventually started to think of myself as an investment in my future, and I thought a lot about bad habits. Just like savvy investors review and adjust their portfolios to optimize performance, we must periodically assess our habits, routines, and choices.

While we may know on an intellectual level that we need to take care of ourselves to accomplish our dreams and be healthy, it's not easy, and bad habits are hard to kick. Very few of us can kick a bad habit Cold Turkey.

Bad habits, in this analogy, are like underperforming assets. They drag down our overall portfolio's value—our life's potential

and well-being. Just as an investor wouldn't hold onto a stock plummeting in value without good reason, we shouldn't cling to habits that don't serve our ultimate goals of health, happiness, and success.

Yet, the process of divesting from these habits isn't akin to simply clicking a “sell” button. It's a gradual, sometimes challenging process of trial, error, and perseverance.

I've been paying close attention to Bitcoin since 2016, and I'm always amazed at its volatility. Yet, amidst the ups and downs, it keeps trending upward.

Watching Bitcoin's ascent has taught me that volatility is part of the journey. There will be days when our resolve weakens, and old habits resurface like a market correction testing investors' nerves.

However, it's not the daily fluctuations that define our success but the overall trend. If you're gradually becoming more mindful of your health, more resilient in facing stress, and more dedicated to your personal growth—even amidst occasional setbacks—you're on an upward trajectory.

Remember, the most significant investments don't yield returns overnight. They require time, belief in their value, and the patience to ride out the volatility. Your investment in yourself is no different. Each step toward breaking a bad habit, no matter how small, is a deposit into your billion-dollar body's account, accruing compound interest in the form of a healthier, more fulfilled life.

As you continue on this journey, don't beat yourself up if you have the occasional backslide, stop counting calories for a couple of days, get too busy to make it to the gym, or aren't able to stay on track the way that you thought you should. Volatility is part of the game; just keep focused on making those baby steps and keep trending upward!

Keep the image of the million-dollar racehorse in mind, and remember, that racehorse is you! Would you bet against a horse of such value by neglecting its care? Unlikely. Then why bet against yourself? By viewing each choice and habit through the lens of investment, you position yourself to succeed and thrive.

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Tina L. Boutillette, 53



HAMPTON, NH – Tina L. (Allard) Boutillette, 53, formerly of Thompson, CT, passed away Sunday, March 10, 2024 at home after being stricken ill. She leaves a son, Jonathan Boutillette of Dudley, MA; a daughter, Abigail M. Donais, a grandson, Jonathan Allard, and her mother, Sylvia M. (Brunnett) Allard, all of Thompson, CT; 2 brothers, Ronald Allard and his wife Leeann of North Grosvenordale, CT and Harvey A. Allard, Jr. and his wife Michelle of Dudley, MA; 2 sisters, Nancy Bonnette and her husband Lawrence of Conroy, TX and Karen M. Dennis of Thompson, CT; her fiancé, William Lowe with whom she lived; many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by 3 brothers, Raymond Petrunia, Steven Petrunia and Roland Allard and by 2 nephews Christopher and Bryce Petrunia. She was born on July 17, 1970 in Webster, MA a daughter of the late

Harvey A. Allard, Jr. and was raised in Thompson, CT. She graduated from Tourtellotte Memorial High School in 1988. She then took courses to become a certified nursing assistant. Ms. Boutillette first worked for her parents' company, Towne Paving in Webster, MA as a laborer. She then was employed at many of the local nursing homes before being employed at the Cornerstone at Hampton in New Hampshire. A memorial service will take place on Friday, March 29, at 11:00 AM in the Tri-State Baptist Church, 386 Quinebaug Road, North Grosvenordale, with Deacon David Majorowski officiating. Burial will be private. Visitation will be held on Friday morning from 10:00 to 11:00 AM in the Church. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street, Webster, MA. The family kindly requests all flowers be omitted and donations be made to the Tri-State Baptist Church, 386 Quinebaug Road, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255.

www.scanlonfs.com



Courtesy

CLARA BARTON STUDENTS LEARN SOME “SLAPSTICK SCIENCE”

Clara Barton Elementary in Oxford had a visit from “Dr. Quinton Quark’s Slapstick Science” on March 21. “Dr. Quark” (a.k.a. Ted Lawrence) taught our students about friction, types of energy and the physics behind simple machines and how they make our lives easier. Our students greatly enjoyed these assemblies sponsored by our PTO and did a great job volunteering in various physics experiments. Individual students were able to lift a 200-pound man, out-balance a dozen students on a seesaw and win at tug-of-war against four or six other students. Our kids truly walked away with an understanding of how these aspects in physics work.

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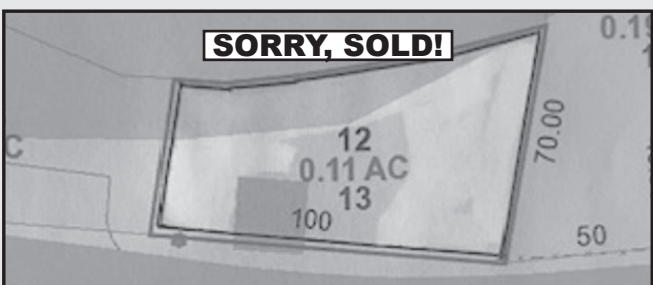
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Applications available for George Sellig Memorial Scholarship

WEBSTER — The Webster Lions Club is currently accepting applications for the George Sellig Memorial Scholarship. The recipient will be selected based on the student's academic performance, community service and financial need. The \$1,000 award is presented each year to a graduating high school senior ,who is a resident of Webster; and will be continuing his or her education in an accredited college program.

The scholarship is named in honor of former Webster Lions Club president, George Sellig. Mr. Sellig was once a teacher at Touttellote Memorial High School, a Webster Selectman and a superintendent of the former Webster-Dudley School Union.

Applications are available at the Bartlett High School and BayPath Regional Technical High School Guidance Departments or by contacting Dr. John Kalinowski at 508-943-7434 or jkalinowski00@aol.com. Applications must be received by May 1.

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LG TOP FREEZER 18 CU. FT. \$699.99 WAS \$899.99	AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR1533CBAS • Stainless Steel \$599.99 WAS \$699.99	GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFWSS0SSNWW \$749.99 WAS \$999.99	20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$899.99 WAS \$1099.99	LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE \$729.99 WAS \$999.99	G.E. OVER-THE-RANGE MICROWAVE \$229.99 WAS \$279.99

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