

Auburn News

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Abutters' attorney urges rejection of refugee house

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — The Planning Board got an earful from local attorney Nick Adamopoulos on why they should reject a proposal to build a refugee rooming house off Beacon Street, rather than consider it a "religious" use.

"Nothing filed reaches anything concerning this property as a religious purpose at all," he said, referring to the town's own documents, Land Court records, and the Secretary of State's Corporate Database. Representing three abutters, he argued those documents depict "a community home for full-time residents or transitory individuals to stay there" without "a church or anything along those lines."

Referring to Database specifically, he said, "Nothing in it states that a purpose of that entity has anything to do with refugee or immigrant housing whatsoever. It's outside the scope of what that nonprofit has been set up for."

At issue is something called Project HOPE, which planning documents say aims to provide "temporary care in [an] accommodation center for a period of 90 days to 180 days" for recently-arrived refugees and immigrants with various services. Those include

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Dudley officials exploring regionalization of Town Planner

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Following the retirement of Town Planner Bill Scanlon earlier this year, Dudley town officials are considering exploring a regionalized options to fill the position. The Planning Board confirmed their intent on Aug. 14 voting to form a two-member subcommittee to oversee the hiring process.

Dudley is one of many towns that have faced difficulties finding a long-term planner in recent years. After the departure of Donald Johnson in 2020 due to health reasons Bill Scanlon was brought on as Acting Town Planner before his retirement this past summer. The town has since utilized a contract with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission which has provided one of its own staff members, Jasifa Chowdhury, to fill the position on a short-term basis. The town recently extended that contract as it explores plans to regionalize.

On Aug. 14, the Planning Board addressed instructions from Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda to take a vote on whether to consider regionalizing the Planner position. Board Chair Guy Horne said the approach has worked well for Blackstone and Millville and that the town of Spencer has struggled to fill

Turn To **DUDLEY** page **A13**



Courtesy

The Oxford Police Department's recent Pops with Cops event was a huge success, creating an opportunity for the police officers, kids and citizens to get together, play some football, take photos, talk, mingle and have fun together. It was the ultimate win to engagement together as a community. Thank you to those who came out to be part of our first annual 'Pops with Cops.' Photo courtesy of the department's Facebook page.

Camille Road redesign, museum project go before Planning Board

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — The public hearing began recently over a long-lingering road-completion project last week, when the Planning Board began to look at Sutton Road Estates.

That subdivision was formally approved back in 1991, and has been entirely built. But Planner Ann Morgan said the current issue is "specifically the end of the street," which is a T-shaped dead end rather than a turnaround

that can accommodate firetrucks, plus a few other engineering issues.

"We don't have any space to put in a 100-foot cul de sac," said owner Matt Cepetelli.

He only owns enough land to do the 60-foot "hammerhead" that's there now, and noted creating a circle would require taking land from a couple of the houses there.

"Modification of the other side has kinda left

me hamstrung on what I can do," he said.

The other engineering issues "are not beyond the scope of what I do on a daily basis, so I'm not really worried about [them]."

Originally, the plan was to have his road (Camille Road) connect into Oakwood, which dead ends a short distance away, but he argued Oakwood didn't extend far enough, he said.

One issue is where the

most recent plans actually are. Morgan showed what the Registry of Deeds had, but it shows one large parcel near the road's end that Cepetelli said has since been subdivided and sold. He said that plan predates the proposal to connect the two roads.

He now owns only the road right of way itself, and hopes to get the town to eventually accept it,

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The Pearle offers makeup kits during Library Card Sign-Up Month

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Pearle L. Crawford Library has partnered with a national nonprofit to provide beauty products as part of their Library Card Sign-Up Month initiative in September.

Speaking with the Library Board of Trustees during a meeting in August, Library Director Nicole Messier revealed that Library Assistant Deb Coggan had been working on a special project seeking to partner with Project Glimmer, a national non-profit, on an initiative to encourage and empower local girls and women. Project Glimmer seeks to empower girls through guidance, mentorship, and networking, many of which are young

women of color. Messier stressed that the goal of "empowerment" is what drew The Pearle to work with the organization.

"Project Glimmer works in all 50 states through partnerships with over 2,000 organizations including foster care, homeless, crisis care, and youth services. They give away so many incentives and are really all about empowering young women," Messier said.

Deb Coggan's efforts helped the Pearle L. Crawford Library procure a \$6,794 donation from Project Glimmer who sent 400 pieces of Sophora makeup in the form of 200 kits to Dudley for distribution. Messier said the kits will be given out as part of the library's campaign to draw in library card signups throughout

September.

"We going to use them to bring kids in to sign up for library cards. The tie in is going to be empowering information, empowering feeling good about yourself, and partnering with a company that is all about empowering young girls," said Messier.

The makeup kits will be available while supplies last to anyone who wishes to receive them during Library Card Sign-Up Month. The month also includes school supplies for students to sign up for a card as school reconvenes. When asked about promotions that could bring boys and men into the library, Messier told the Trustees that The Pearle is always examining options to bring different demographics to the library and make them feel empowered and included.



Courtesy

On Saturday, Aug. 24, the American Legion Post 58 in Oxford hosted a clam fritter and chowder dining event. This event was a fundraiser for the National Down Syndrome Society. All money raised was donated to NDSS. Serena Germain and Tabatha Harkins will be running the New York City Marathon and Disney Half Marathon, respectively, and chose NDSS as that organization/charity of their choice. The Groh and Germain families, as well as volunteers from the American Legion Post 58 helped cook, serve and organize this event. It was a great success! The runners are very appreciative of the American Legion Post 58 for hosting this event, as well as to all those that supported this event.

From dental assistant to LPN

CHARLTON — Becoming an LPN changed the career trajectory for Kaitlin Miliauskas, LPN of Worcester. She completed her dental assisting training at the New England Dental in Worcester (2012). Her past work experience includes being an insurance coordinator.

In June of 2024, Miliauskas completed the rigorous ten-month practical nursing program at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. She passed the NCLEX-PN on her first try shortly thereafter. She is set to embark as a real-world-ready LPN.

“I was a certified dental assistant trying to make her way for 11 years, I wanted to help make a difference in the world, a better life for my growing family,” said Miliauskas. “I got the opportunity of going to Bay Path

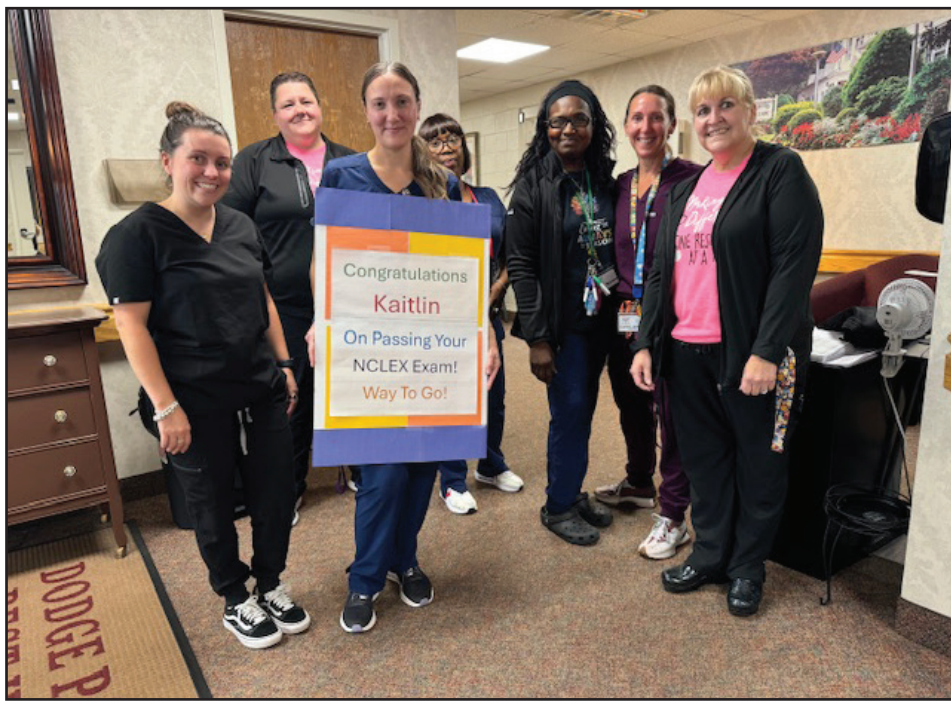


Photo shows Kaitlin Miliauskas holding a celebratory sign as she was honored by (from left): Courteney Lindberg, ADON, Carrie Bourgeois-Lopez, HR, Merlin Versaint, RP, Rene Maynard, RP, Carrie Lindberg, DON, and Patty Murray, RP.

Practical Nursing Academy where it challenged me to realize

this really what I want to do?”

While at Bay Path, she participat-

ed in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s with the Bay Path Practical Nursing Team and was the lead

for pink ribbon distribution during breast cancer awareness month. She is certified in Mental Health First Aid, Healthcare Provider/BLS Provider CPR, and Dementia care. Miliauskas completed summer workshops I & II, Domestic Violence Seminar, and volunteered for screenings at Shepherd Hill and Charlton Middle School. She is a MassHire grant recipient.

Shortly after graduation Miliauskas graciously took packages of socks from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy for donation to the Worcester Rehab at 119 Providence St., in Worcester.

According to Practical Nursing Academy Director, Greheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, “This is a voluntary decision at the Academy, our students, and alumni as they become more aware of the importance of com-

munity need and donating, continue to participate and take leadership roles in worthy initiatives.”

“My nursing journey was not easy,” shared Miliauskas. “It was a tough year, my dad passed away in the middle of the program, but I kept my head up and kept pushing, gave me more inspiration to do better, try harder, and be a better nurse! So, I studied harder, graduated, and passed the NCLEX-PN on the first try.”

“The strengths of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy are the staff always willing to help the students thrive and succeed,” Miliauskas said. “The best part of the program is making new friends/support system with new experiences and memories.” She declares, “I have my first job as an LPN, in my profession I was born to be in!”

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Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director attends UMass Boston film screening



Pictured from left: Fasha Banson, Evelyn Dusaban, BSN, RN, and Greheline Bolandrina.

BOSTON — Greheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Dudley (formerly of Douglas), Academy Director for Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy of Charlton enjoyed a night at the movies. The screening of multifaceted mosaics—film project 2024, “Filipino American Experience,” was held at the University of Massachusetts Boston (UMass Boston), campus center ballroom.

The film screening showcased films created by UMass Boston’s Filipino American Beacon Voyages for Service 2023-2024 team. The film screening was hosted by UMass Boston’s Filipino Cultural Club: Hoy! Pinoy! The films highlighted the members’ service trip to the West Coast and their vulnerable connections with their Filipino American and greater identities. The common theme explored at the “by invitation only event” was “what does it mean to be Filipino.”

“Filipino American Experience, at UMass Boston,” explained Dr. Bolandrina, “resonates with our efforts at the Academy for our practical nursing students to honor and celebrate diversity.”

She is grateful to Fasha Banson, President, and Performance Coordinator for

Hoy! Pinoy! for the invitation to attend the screening.

According to Banson, “The intention of these films are to demonstrate and honor the diversity found within the context of Filipino American Identities. These films are products of a larger experience—an educational immersive trip that blossomed from the need and desire for Filipina/x/o American studies within the UMass Boston Asian American studies program.”

Further, Banson adds, “The trip, was hosted under UMass Boston’s OSLCE Beacon Voyages for service program. The students experienced unforgettable moments of deep learning, reflection, and affirmation while engaging with inspirational Filipino high school youth, expert teachers/mentors, elected officials, and residents of the I-Hote.”

Banson is a nursing student at UMass Boston.

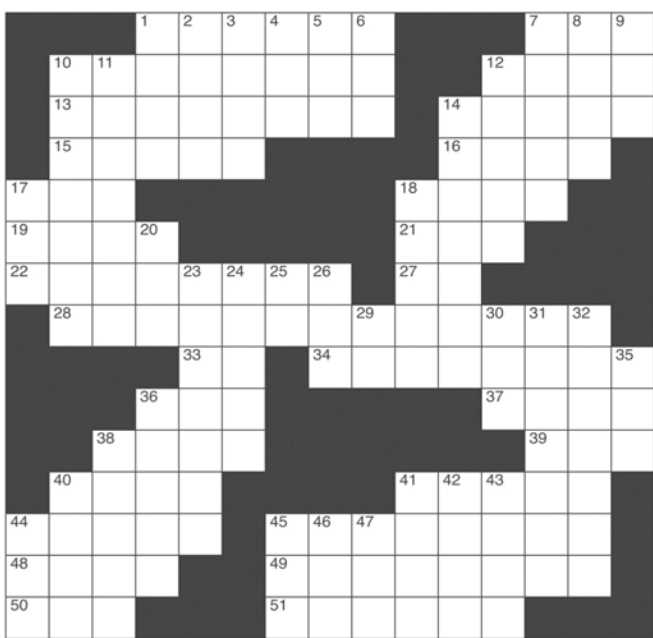
“Perhaps, the invitation extended to me will include the Bay Path Practical Nursing community next time,” said Bolandrina. “Also, the practical nursing stu-

dents at Bay Path are active with community service and service learning. Seeing this come together will be truly inspiring. I enjoyed this opportunity to gain experience and insight about the challenges, experiences, and anxieties of the younger Filipino Americans, reflect upon my identity, the nursing profession, and celebrate as a community.”

Banson introduced the screening and thanked all the attendees. After she spoke, and upon viewing her film segment, “Kagandahan (Beauty),” which she wrote, directed, and produced, all were in awe of her work.

“It took me a long time to realize that what it took to feel that way was within me all along. A journey of self-discovery and reclaiming one’s identity in the face of societal pressures,” Banson concluded.

To learn more about their work and view the films visit their YouTube Channel: <https://lnkd.in/eqBYA345>.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Current unit
- 7. Reciprocal of an ohm
- 10. God of the sea
- 12. A way to disfigure
- 13. Positioned
- 14. Tall tropical American tree
- 15. Large deciduous trees
- 16. ___ and ends
- 17. Part of a machine
- 18. Brews
- 19. One who leads prayers in a mosque
- 21. Indian state
- 22. Partisans
- 27. Top lawyer in the land
- 28. Former Dodgers MVP
- 33. Title for women
- 34. Heated and allowed to slowly cool
- 36. Copycat
- 37. Sounds
- 38. One-time Israeli diplomat Abba
- 39. Part of (abbr.)
- 40. Hatful
- 41. Collide
- 44. European football heavyweight
- 45. One who works for you
- 48. Song
- 49. Ancient marvels
- 50. Bridge building degree
- 51. Delivery boys

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Continent
- 2. Submissive
- 3. There’s a lot in a bowling alley
- 4. Sun up in New York
- 5. Court decision ___ v. Wade
- 6. Finish line
- 7. Young women
- 8. Hives of activity
- 9. Hyman Roth’s right-hand man Johnny
- 10. Eastern U.S. river
- 11. Popular cooking ingredient
- 12. Greek mythological princess
- 14. Scent for men
- 17. Cost, insurance and freight (abbr.)
- 18. Once more
- 20. Irrate
- 23. Triangular spaces above a door
- 24. Norwegian playwright and poet Henrik
- 25. Atomic #58
- 26. Patti Hearst’s captors
- 29. Natural logarithm
- 30. Talk incessantly
- 31. Went by
- 32. Strives
- 35. Fall back
- 36. Manila hemp
- 38. Not easily explained
- 40. Former “Double Dare” host Summers
- 41. Mollusk
- 42. Capital of Togo
- 43. Letter of Semitic scripts
- 44. Founder of Babism
- 45. Indicates near
- 46. Family of regulator genes
- 47. Indicates before

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Auburn residents to participate in Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk

AUBURN—Twelve residents from Auburn will participate in the Boston Marathon® Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai on Sunday, Oct. 6.

William Connor, Collin Connor, Camryn Connor, Michelle Kamyck, Justina Szafarowicz, Tara Connor, Addyson Connor, Tim Connor, Alexis Kamyck, Landon Connor, and two other Auburn residents, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in the iconic annual event that will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at the nation's premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$176 million for Dana-Farber in its 35-year history, raising a record-breaking \$9.4 million in 2023.

"For 35 years, the Jimmy Fund Walk has continuously supported lifesaving research and cancer care at Dana-Farber. Our goal is to build off of the momentum we've established throughout that history, and in 2024, aim to surpass our total from last year by raising \$9.5 million," says Caitlin Fink, assistant vice president of event fundraising. "Fighting cancer is what we do. The Walk unites our community under a common goal—to defy cancer together."

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted to use the famed Boston Marathon® course, and par-

ticipants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: 5K walk (from Dana-Farber's Longwood Medical Campus); 10K walk (from Newton); Half Marathon walk (from Wellesley); and Marathon walk (from Hopkinton). Walkers can participate virtually as well.

Whatever route participants choose, they will be supported by hundreds of volunteers and treated to refueling stations with refreshments throughout the course. Poster-sized photographs of patients—Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes—are the heart of the event and appear along the course as inspiration. All routes will conclude at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Street. Finish line activities will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more.

To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call (866) 531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

About the Jimmy Fund The Jimmy Fund is comprised of community-based fundraising events and other programs that, solely and directly, benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's lifesaving mission to provide compassionate patient care and groundbreaking can-

cer research for children and adults. The Jimmy Fund is an official charity of the Boston Red Sox, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Pan-Mass Challenge, and the Variety Children's Charity of New England. Since 1948, the generosity of millions of people has helped the Jimmy Fund save countless lives and reduce the burden of cancer for patients and families worldwide. Follow the Jimmy Fund on Facebook, X, and Instagram: @TheJimmyFund.

About Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of the world's leading centers of cancer research and treatment. Dana-Farber's mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through scientific inquiry, clinical care, education, community engagement, and advocacy. Dana-Farber is a federally designated Comprehensive Cancer Center and a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School.

We provide the latest treatments in cancer for adults through Dana-Farber Brigham Cancer Center and for children through Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. Dana-Farber is the only hospital nationwide with a top 5 U.S. News & World Report Best Cancer Hospital ranking in both adult and pediatric care. As a global leader in oncology, Dana-Farber is dedicated to a unique and equal balance between cancer research and care, translating the results of discovery into

new treatments for patients locally and around the world, offering more than 1,100 clinical trials.

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Country Bank VP Jodie Gerulaitis recognized as Community Hero by Worcester Red Sox

WORCESTER — Country Bank is excited to announce that Jodie Gerulaitis, its Vice President of Community Relations, has been honored as a Community Hero by the Worcester Red Sox. This recognition highlights Jodie's commitment and unwavering dedication to serving the local community.

Gerulaitis' passionate advocacy for educators and local non-profit leaders through Country Bank's partnership with the WooSox Foundation Programs has had a profound impact on the community.

Her support in recognizing leaders and educators throughout the region is evident through the Most Valuable Teacher Program and The WooStars initiative. The Most Valuable Teacher Program celebrates the achievements of nine exceptional teachers at their schools and the park. Similarly, The WooStars Program recognizes the outstanding work of nine local non-profit leaders. These programs, championed by Jodie, exemplify her passion, dedication, and desire to make a meaningful difference in the community.

"One of the most rewarding aspects of our work in the community is our work with Country Bank," said WooSox President Dr. Charles Steinberg. "Constantly, at the heart of each program, is the omnipresent Jodie Gerulaitis. Wherever we are in the region, trying to make an impact, she's there already, welcoming us to join her. Her passion and pursuit of community impact is inspiring."

For more information about Country Bank and its community initiatives, please visit www.countrybank.com.

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, Springfield 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 at countrybank.com.

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the library.

SCOTT MALONEY PRESENTS "I AM" September 17th at 6:00 PM

I AM...is presented by Massachusetts native Scott Maloney. He'll teach you how to maintain positive energy, prevent future mistakes, and learn from the past. Scott's been a comedian, teacher, and television reporter and for almost 20 years, he's been a motivational speaker, sharing stories throughout the country. This event is for adults and teens! No registration required. Sponsored by the Webster Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Children's and Young Adult Programming

Scavenger Hunt--- All Month Long

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

TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT--- All month long

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

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

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

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

Come play with

the library's Legos. If you like, we can put your work on display!
No registration Required

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

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

OPEN PLAY TIME ADVENTURE--- Fridays at 10:00 AM

Kids 0 to 6 are invited to get their wiggles out with weekly obstacle course and fun.

STORY TIME - - - September 10th, 17th and 24th at 10:00 AM

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

WEDNESDAY STUFFED ANIMAL STORY TIME - - - - September 18th at 10:00 AM

Join Sondra the Library Director for a few of his favorite stories, felt story fun, and some free play. For ages 0-3

SENSORY BIN EXPLORATION - - - - September 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th 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.

BABY SIGN CLASS--- September 9th, 13th, 20th, and 27th at 10:00 AM

Sign language for caregivers and babies age 2 months and up. Pre-verbal.

ME AND MY MINI--- September 12th, 19th, and 26th at 10:00 AM

A 45-minute creative movement group for ages birth through 2.5 with a grown-up. Group is focused on adult and

baby spending quality time together, fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others

their age. Get groovy to upbeat music with props, instruments, and a story. Adult participation is

required and 1-2 children per adult is recommended.

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845

Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov

Starting September 4, 2024 new Senior Center hours are Monday-Friday 9:00 am- 4:00 pm.

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least forty-eight 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, 9/10, Hot Dog, baked beans, coleslaw. Wednesday, 9/11, Stuffed Pepper Casserole, mashed potatoes, honey glazed carrots. Thursday, 9/12, Chicken Pot Pie, mashed potatoes, country blend veggies. Friday, 9/13, Soup du jour, turkey salad sandwich, bean salad.

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

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

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

and Fridays by appointment only from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm. Please call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.

The REC Farmers Market is on Webster Town Hall front lawn every Wednesday 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm.

Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo are the perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is \$3.00 per class. Classes are on Mondays, and Wednesdays at 9:30 am.

Mondays: Knitting/ Crochet Social 10:00 am- 12:00 pm.

Bingo is every Tuesday and 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 six-card or thirteen-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!

There is a walking group on Wednesdays and Fridays. You will meet at the Memorial beach walking trail at 9:30am. No registration required, simply show up.

Fuel assistance, for returning customers only, will be at the Webster Senior Center at 10:00 am on September 4, 2024.

Senator Ryan Fattman will be holding office hours at 9:00 am on September 18, 2024.

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 at (508) 949-3845, if you are interested in having a house number sign made for you.

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. This is at no cost to you! All you have to do is give them a call at (508) 949-3875.

Happy 2 Gather- a 60s Flashback is a live concert featuring JOZAY and PATTI. This show is on September 18th, and promises to be a trip of LOVE, leaving you feeling GROOVY. The show takes place at Lake Pearl in Wrentham, MA. Price is \$131.00 per person, and includes transportation, plated luncheon of baked stuffed chicken or vegetarian lasagna, meal tax and gratuity, and show ticket. For more information call (508) 949-3845.

The Covered Bridge Tour and Octoberfest is a fall excursion on Monday, September 23rd. The first stop is Red Apple Farm in Phillipston, MA where everyone gets a bag of apples to take home, followed by the Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy, NH where you will enjoy a family style lunch which will be accompanied by Al Brogdon's Oompah band. After lunch you will set out on a narrated tour of some of New Hampshire's covered bridges. Price is \$125.00 per person with a \$25 deposit at sign-up, and the final payment was due August 23rd. Trip price does not include bus driver gratuity. For more information call (508) 949-3845.

Rod Stewart the Ultimate Tribute Show by Rick Larrimore is a must-see high energy show on Thursday, October 24th. Rick has been touring the globe with his amazing tribute to Rod Stewart. This show takes place at Davensport in Danvers, MA. A plated luncheon of chicken piccata or baked schrod will be provided. Please stay tuned for more details and pricing. For more information call (508) 949-3845.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Aug. 25-31.

A juvenile, age 17, was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Aug. 25 for Disorderly Conduct and Resisting Arrest.

Stephen R. Angelo, age 73, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 25 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Leaving the Scene of Property Damage,

Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Operating a Motor Vehicle after having license revoked as HTO.

Steven J. Strapponi, age 34, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 29 in connection with a warrant.

Charles A. McNeil, age 24, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 30 in connection with a warrant.

Kevin F. Adams, age 68, of Webster was arrested on Aug. 31 in connection with a warrant.

Free admission for Webster residents at Samuel Slater Experience Sept. 7 & 8

WEBSTER — Come explore the beginnings of the American Industrial Revolution and the creation of thriving local mill villages during free admission days for Webster residents on Saturday, Sept. 7, and Sunday, September 8, at the Samuel Slater Experience.


Preregistration is required and admission times will be staggered during the two days. Go to <https://samuel Slater Experience.org> to register for Webster Community Days. Entry times are every half hour for up to 10 people.

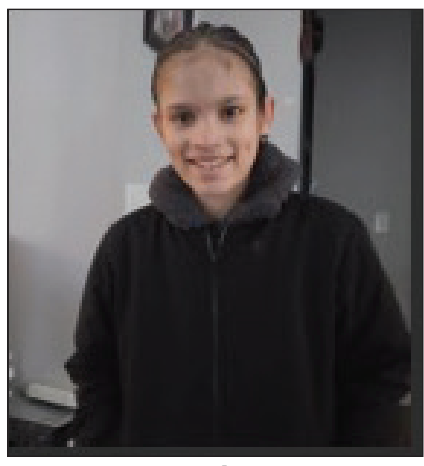
For more information or questions, email admin@samuel Slater Experience.org or call 508-461-2955.

The free admission days are funded by a grant provided by the Janet Malser Humanities Trust. The Malser Trust funded free admission days for Dudley and Oxford residents earlier this summer, in addition to previous Webster days.

About Samuel Slater Experience
The Samuel Slater Experience museum, which opened in March 2022, uses immersive digital technology and interactive exhibits to tell the story of Samuel Slater, the early American Industrial Revolution, and the creation of economically thriving mill towns like Webster.

It is located in the former National Guard Armory at 31 Ray St., Webster, and open to the public year-round. Daily schedule: Fridays and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Last admission is at 3 p.m.





Hi! My name is Luis and I like to learn!

Luis is a young boy looking for a family that he can grow up in and enjoy a typical childhood. Luis enjoys being outside, riding bikes, playing video games, and being physically active. He is outgoing, inquisitive, and likes to be competitive through sports, especially soccer and basketball, and answering academic questions. Luis quickly takes an interest in his school subjects and likes to show off his math skills. Luis is thoughtful and used his birthday money to buy presents for his sister

Luis
Age 12
Registration # 8311


who he is very bonded with.
<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8311>

Can I Adopt?

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

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

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



bankHometown named among most charitable companies in Massachusetts

OXFORD — bankHometown has received the 2024 Corporate Citizenship Award from Boston Business Journal, recognizing the bank as one of Massachusetts' top corporate charitable contributors. It's the fifth year in a row that bankHometown has received the honor.

The Business Journal annually publishes this list to showcase companies that promote and prioritize giving back to their communities. Through its sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankHometown

and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2023, The Giving Tree donated nearly \$400,000 and over the last decade has donated more than \$2.7 million.

"It is with honor that we present our list of the Top Charitable Contributors in Massachusetts — companies who gave \$100,000 or more to Massachusetts-based in charities in 2023. Collectively, they gave \$362 million in cash contributions — a true example of the busi-

ness community coming together to help those in need," said Boston Business Journal Market President and Publisher Carolyn Jones.

"We're so proud to be recognized once again as a good corporate citizen, because it's truly a reflection of our core values," said bankHometown President & CEO Robert J. Morton. "We strive to unlock potential in the communities we live and work in and hope we can solve our biggest problems by working together."

This year, 100 compa-

nies have qualified for the distinction by reporting at least \$100,000 in cash contributions to Massachusetts-based charities last year as noted above. The honorees this year include companies from such industry sectors as financial and professional services, health care, technology, retail, and professional sports.

About bankHometown Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts. We have \$1.4 billion in assets and offer a complete line of consumer and business

deposit and lending products and services through 16 branches located throughout Central Massachusetts and northeast Connecticut. We're proud to fulfill our community banking mission—providing individualized financial support, a suite of comprehensive products and services, and smart banking technology—all to ensure our customers can unlock their potential and build a successful future.

Through our sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank

Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2023 alone, The Giving Tree donated nearly \$400,000 and over the last decade has donated more than \$2.7 million. bankHometown is proud to be named a Corporate Citizenship Award winner by Boston Business Journal for the past five years. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.

Fall brings return of local fairs and festivals

BY KEVIN FLANDERS

STAFF WRITER REGION — As temperatures slowly drop and the first colors of autumn greet central Massachusetts, residents are looking forward to the return of beloved fall festivals.

Several local towns host fairs and festivals that have attracted thousands of guests for decades. The pandemic shutdowns in 2020-21 made residents even more appreciative of their fall traditions, and they can't wait for another season of crafting, contests, seasonal foods, and live entertain-

ment. Leicester will help get the festival season started with the town's annual Harvest Fair on Saturday, Sept. 21. The festival will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Town Common. Festivities will include music and food; children's activities; appearances from local organizations; seasonal crafting selections; and demonstrations of various trades and skills. Area businesses, officials, and municipal agencies will also get involved.

Also on Sept. 21, the Autism in my Pocket organization will run the sixth annual Harvest

Festival in Brimfield. The location is Brimfield Winery (35 Main Street). Set for 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., the event is expected to feature 70 vendors; music and food; children's games; and several other activities.

Admission to this event is free.

Shifting over to Brookfield, the 45th annual Apple Country Fair will take place on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will bring thousands of guests to the Brookfield Town Common for a day of fun and festivities.

Highlights will include fundraisers; crafters;

food trucks; and the famous apple pie contest.

"Fairgoers can browse and buy hand-knit sweaters and blankets, carved wooden bowls and décor, beaded jewelry, specialty soaps and lotions, hand-crafted toys, locally-produced honey, and more," read a statement released by event organizers.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Brookfield Community Club, a charitable organization that awards grants to enrich community life.

To learn more about the festival and how you can get involved, visit www.applecountryfair.com.

Meanwhile, central Massachusetts officials urge residents to think local this shopping season and support vendors at area festivals. As we look deeper into the fall, additional craft fairs will take place at Tantasqua Regional High School in Sturbridge (Nov. 9), Oxford High School (Dec. 7), and Auburn High School (Dec. 14).

Leicester High School will also host its holiday craft fair on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

An array of local church fairs will also take place this fall season.

Contact your area church leaders for more information on autumn fairs and holiday festivals.

And don't forget the many antique shows, town tag sales, and other events scattered throughout the area, highlighted by the final leg of the Brimfield Antique Show this month (located on Route 20).

Information on other local events can be found on town Web sites and social media pages.

Martel celebrates 10-year work anniversary at Bay Path



CHARLTON — Barbara Martel of Sturbridge celebrates her 10-year work anniversary at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. She joined Bay Path as part-time faculty in 2015.

For more than 20 years, Martel worked as a bedside nurse on a medical-telemetry-surgical unit. She regularly participated in the orientation of new hires as well as served as the preceptor assigned to nursing students. She served as unit resource nurse, participated in planning patient discharge, engaged as a member of various nursing and organizational committees, and collaborated with other hospital care units for staffing and

bed assignments.

"I remember and understand the awesome sense of pride, responsibility, and privilege felt by the fledging nurse and believe I can help educate, guide, prune, and nurture the nursing students as they prepare to enter the profession of nursing," said Martel.

Martel obtained her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree at Anna Maria College in Paxton, with the honor of Summa Cum Laude. Anna Maria College, a private Roman Catholic college in Paxton, Massachusetts, was founded in 1946 as a women's college, but has been coeducational since 1973. Anna Maria College is a Leader in Educating Knowledgeable Professionals in the Work

Force. Martel completed her Associate degree in Nursing at Quinsigamond Community College.

While raising four children, Martel held several jobs including private hospice care and home health aide. Once her children became young adults, she pursued her passion and career goal of becoming a Registered Nurse. Martel was a member of the outpatient/inpatient registration working independently to complete assigned tasks including inpatient and outpatient registration, computer entry of outpatient testing appointments, and other related tasks including switchboard operator, charge counting, and preparing same day surgical charts.



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Job change?

Whether retiring or changing jobs, you'll want to know your retirement account options.

There are four potential options for your 401(k) when leaving an employer:

- Leave it in your former employer's 401(k) plan, if allowed by the plan.
- Move it to your new employer's 401(k) plan, if you've changed employers and your new employer plan allows for it.
- Roll the account over to an individual retirement account (IRA).
- Cash it out, which is subject to potential tax consequences.

We can talk through your financial goals and find the option that works best for you.

Dennis Antonopoulos
Financial Advisor
5 Albert St
Auburn, MA 01501
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

A salute to workers

As we fire up the grills, enjoy the last days of summer, and maybe even hit the beach one more time, let's learn a bit about the origins of Labor Day.

This holiday isn't just an excuse for a three-day weekend (though we'll gladly take it!). It's a day to celebrate the contributions of workers who have built this country, brick by brick, and to honor the labor movement that fought for the rights many of us enjoy today.

Labor Day has its roots in the late 19th century, at a time when the average American worked 12-hour days, seven days a week, just to make ends meet. Sounds exhausting, right? The labor movement emerged from these tough conditions, with workers organizing for better hours, safer workplaces, and fair pay. In 1882, the very first Labor Day parade was held in New York City, where 10,000 workers took unpaid leave to march for their rights. This courageous stand laid the foundation for the national holiday we now celebrate on the first Monday of September.

But let's not get too bogged down in history. Labor Day is also about appreciating the present and looking forward to the future. It's a time to relax, spend time with family and friends, and enjoy the fruits of your hard work. Whether you're taking a mini-vacation, hosting a backyard BBQ, or just chilling at home, remember that this holiday is a tribute to you—the worker.

We hope that while our readers enjoyed their well-deserved day off this past Monday, they haven't forgotten forget that there is an important election coming up on Nov. 5. After all, what better way to honor the spirit of Labor Day than by exercising your right to vote? It's a chance to have your say in who represents you and to ensure that those in office continue to fight for the rights and interests of all workers.

We hope you enjoyed your Labor Day weekend, everyone—but don't forget that part of getting back to work now is to get out and vote!

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

Co-workers of Christ

We are God's fellow workers, building a strong foundation upon which the Church, the people of God, can build something that will glorify His Holy Name! Imagine, here on earth, God waits for each one of us to become His co-worker. Are we, together with one another, building a worthy foundation. And will this foundation be strong and solid or will it crumble in times of adversity?

To act as Christ's co-worker and ambassador in this world can be quite intimidating, even scary. Who are we to represent Jesus Christ in the world? The world presents grave and serious challenges, it's a place often unfriendly to the Church and to the Message of Jesus Christ. And yet, God calls us His representatives in this world and we are to face whatever challenges, struggles, temptations, and difficulties that may confront us with humble and courageous faith, with bold trust in the Risen Lord Jesus!

There is the story of Jesus walking on water offers us a blueprint to how we approach this role as ambassadors of Christ. First, we see Jesus go up into the mountains at night to pray, while He sends His followers across the Sea of Galilee. As they are rowing across the sea, they encounter a storm in the middle of the night. In the midst of that storm, Jesus comes to them walking on the water. At first, they think they're seeing a ghost but Jesus assures them — "Take heart. It is I. Do not be afraid." Peter can't believe it, and tells Jesus to call him out onto the water. Jesus does, and as long as Peter's eyes stay focused on Christ, Peter Himself begins to walk on water. Yet, the moment Peter turns his attention to the waves and the winds and the storm itself, he begins to sink and cries out, "Lord, save me."

Jesus immediately reaches out His hand and says, "Man of little faith. Why did you doubt." And the Lord grabs Peter, takes him back into the safety of the boat, and calms the storm.

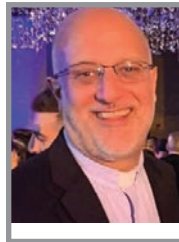
Here is a blueprint for our role as ambassadors of Christ and co-workers of our Lord. If we want to build something in the world that will glorify God, we must keep our eyes focused on Jesus Christ! We need to remember that we never do anything alone, but we are His co-workers! Imagine, our partner is Jesus Christ Himself! We are called to participate in His great works; we are simply working alongside the Lord of Wonders who Himself can perform miracles! He walks on water. He heals the sick. He raises the dead. He is the Lord of the Universe. We simply need to work humbly together with Him, allowing ourselves to become simple instruments in His hands!

A magnificent example of becoming a co-worker with God is the great Apostle, Saint Kosmas Aitolos, an 18th century itinerant priest-monk who did wonders for the glory of God. Saint Kosmas grew up as a simple, poor, illiterate villager during the reign of the Ottoman Empire. Most Greek villagers were uneducated at this time, with little prospects for a better life. They had lived 400 years under the Islamic yoke as second class citizens. Imagine Christians lives under the dhimmi status, or the "protected status" within Islam. This meant that Christians could have freedom to worship and maintain their religion, but in order to do so they had to pay an extra tax. They were forbidden to share their faith with non-Christians. They had to wear specific clothing to make obvious their religious identity. They could not build new churches, could not bear arms, and had to bow or get off their horse whenever a Muslim walked past them as a sign of respect.

After 300 years of such subjugation, combined with an illiteracy which included a spiritual illiteracy, this led to a period when many traditionally Orthodox Christians were abandoning their faith and converting to Islam. They were tired of being second class citizens and did not fully understand the value of their particular faith.

This was the societal reality in which Saint Kosma was born and raised. Kosma himself was formally uneducated until the age of 20, yet his illiteracy deeply disturbed him because it hindered him from reading and understanding the Holy Scriptures. So strong was his desire to learn more about God and his faith, that he decided to travel from village to village in 1734 seeking an education. He eventually ended up at the Theological Academy on Mount Athos and even became a monk at the Philotheou Monastery.

After 19 years of living in the monastery, he grew to have an intimate love for His Lord Jesus Christ, and realized



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

in the villages throughout the Balkans were unaware of the love of Jesus Christ and the great treasure in their Orthodox Christian faith. Monks don't typically leave their monasteries, and yet, after 19 years, Saint Kosmas couldn't resist the opportunity to become a co-worker with God in His vineyard.

"Disregarding considerations of my personal spiritual welfare, I said to myself, let Christ lose me, one sheep, and let him win the others. I decided to risk even my sure damnation to stand by the side of my compatriots. I looked out of my window and I perceived them wounded, bleeding, and crying for help. I saw them submerged by waves of ignorance, egoism, hatred for one another. And I decided that I should not tarry a moment longer worrying for my own salvation. The salvation of others mattered to me above all else!"

After getting the blessing from his elder, and then the blessing of the ecumenical patriarch, he traveled to hundreds of villages over the next 20 years proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. He shared with the villagers the intimate relationship of love that God wants to have with each of us. "The most gracious and merciful God has many and various names. He is called Light, Life, and Resurrection. But God's chief name is LOVE. If we wish to live well here and go to paradise, and to call God our Loving Father, then we should have two loves: love for our God and for our neighbor."

Kosmas insisted that people's lives would be transformed when they encountered this God of Love and embraced His life-changing Good News. He insisted that the transforming power of God leads us to forgive unconditionally even our enemies. "A man insults me, kills my father, my mother, my brother, and then gouges out my eye. As a Christian it is my duty to forgive him"

One fascinating aspect of his ministry was how he reprimanded the clergy of his day for failing to study the Bible. "How can our nation be preserved when the sacred clergy are disastrously ignorant of the meaning of the Holy Scriptures which are the light and foundation of the faith?" He exhorted the clergy to teach the Scriptures and challenged village elders to establish schools so that the children could learn to read the holy writings. Ignorance, he believed, was the main cause of evil because illiterate people were unable to read the writings of the church, and thus, to learn right from wrong. Saint Kosmas inspired the establishment of more than 200 schools during his lifetime.

He was a simple illiterate man from a poor family and village. And yet, Saint Kosmas discovered the "pearl of great price" and fell in love with Jesus Christ, the Mother of God, the saints, and the life of the Church. He understood that as unworthy as he was, God called him to become His co-worker and ambassador during a critical time for the Orthodox people in the Balkans during the 18th century.

He accepted this call. He offered his simple life to God. He became God's co-worker who performed wonders among the people, and who helped stop the slide of many Christians from abandoning their faith and become Muslim.

As we remember Saint Kosmas, let us learn from him and imitate him by each one of us offering our own lives to God, becoming the co-workers and ambassadors of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, proclaiming His Good News to a society and world just as lost and confused, and at risk of falling away from their faith, as was the world in which Kosmas lived three hundred years ago.

Failure to plan: Is it planning to fail?



FINANCIAL FOCUS

DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Benjamin Franklin once said, "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail." But as you chart your financial course, what steps should you take to help you keep moving forward to where you want to go?

Consider these suggestions:

Establish and quantify your goals. Throughout your life, you'll have short-term goals, such as an overseas vacation or a home renovation, and long-term goals, the most important of which may be a comfortable retirement. You'll want to identify all your goals and put a "price tag" on them. Of course, it's not always possible to know exactly how much it will cost to achieve each goal, but you can develop reasonably good estimates, revising them as needed.

Create an investment strategy to achieve your goals. Once you know how much your goals will cost, you can create the appropriate savings and investment strategies to potentially help you reach the needed amounts. For your retirement goal, you will likely need to contribute regularly to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. But for shorter-term goals, you may need to explore other types of investments. For all your investment moves, though, you'll need to consider your risk tolerance. You won't want your portfolio to have such a high-risk level that you're constantly uncomfortable with the inevitable fluctuations of the financial markets. On the other hand, you won't want to invest so conservatively that you jeopardize your chances of achieving the growth you need to reach your goals.

Control your debts. We live in an expensive world, so it's not easy to live debt-free. And some debts, such as your mortgage, obviously have value. But if you can control other debts, especially those that carry high interest rates, you can possibly free up money you can use to boost your savings and investments.

Prepare for obstacles. No matter how carefully you follow the strategies you've created to achieve your goals, you will, sooner or later, run into obstacles, or at least temporary challenges. What if you incur a large, unexpected expense, such as the sudden need for a new car or a major home repair? If you aren't prepared for these costs, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments — and every time you do that, you might slow your progress toward achieving your goals. To help prevent this, you should build an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses.

Review your strategy. When you first created your financial strategy, you might have planned to retire at a certain age. But what if you eventually decide to retire earlier or later? Such a choice can have a big impact on what you need from your investment portfolio — and when. And your circumstances may change in other ways, too. That's why it's a good idea to review your strategy periodically to make sure it still aligns with your up-to-date objectives.

None of us can guarantee that our carefully laid plans will always yield the results we want. But by taking the right steps at the right times, you can greatly improve your chances.

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

An Array of Late Summer Tips

It's the end of the summer, and time to gear up for another season of tips and tricks to make life a little easier! From late season lawn and garden tips to keeping corn fresh and herbs bright, the following roundup offers an array of timely tips:

And remember readers, send in your favorite hints and you will be in the running to win a three course dinner for two at the Publick House in Sturbridge!

Herb Helpers: Harvesting herbs from the fall garden? When chopping fresh herbs such as basil and tarragon, sprinkle the leaves with a few drops of olive oil. This effectively slows the darkening of the chopped leaves.

And, if you want to enhance the flavor of dried herbs, simply chop up some fresh parsley with them!

Citronella - It's Not just for Bugs: Before you toss this season's supply of (essential, not

fragrance) citronella oil, take note: Skin-safe citronella oil is effective in soothing aches and pains. The oil produces a subtle sensation of warmth when diluted in a massage oil and applied to the skin. Dilute three drops of skin safe citronella essential oil per teaspoon of massage oil. Try using this mixture in a friction massage to bring relief to painful joints. Note: Only use skin-safe (derived from plants) essential oil on skin.

Cool Corn: Want that newly picked ear of late season corn to stay fresher longer? Pick ears early in the morning, immediately husk and plunge in an ice bath, until the ears are cooled to 37 degrees. Then place the corn in plastic bags in the refrigerator where they should stay fresh and sweet for up to two weeks.

Fall Lawn Tips: Proper watering can be the key to a fantastic fall lawn.



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

Lawn experts claim a healthy lawn with a good root system doesn't require watering more than one to three times per week. The bottom line? Your lawn needs about an inch of water once every seven to ten days to grow strong roots.

Divide and Conquer: Not sure if it's time to divide your perennials? It is if they start taking over other plants, the center of a plant looks weak, or when blooms are smaller than they have been in previous years. Spring blooming perennials are best divided in the fall. Mid-summer or fall blooming perennials should be divided the next spring.

Lure in the Big One: It's still peak fresh water fishing weather, and all it may take is a few spices from the cupboard to up your odds of catching a big one! Try this old time recipe: Mix together four ounces ground fennel seed and one ounce ground allspice. Sprinkle in two drops oil of cloves. Jar it up to cure for a day or two. Then just put a drop on fish bait, and reel 'em in!

Sizzling Steak Secrets: Firing up the grill for a sizzling steak? New York Times 'Minimalist' and cookbook author Mark Bittman claims the five best steaks for grilling are: rib eye, skirt, sirloin, t-bone and flank steaks, one inch thick. His secret? Dry the steaks with paper towels then grill them without turning for three minutes

Pep Up Indoor Plants: Has your indoor plants taken a back seat to your

summertime gardening chores? Now's the time to give them some TLC! To make your dull indoor plants glow, feed them a tablespoon of castor oil, mixed with water.

And did you know that simply dusting the leaves of your indoor plants exposes them to more beneficial light?

More Plant Pointers: If you are using a flowerpot with large draining holes, you can prevent leaks simply by placing a large coffee filter into the bottom of the pot.

Tired of watering indoor plants every day? Try grandma's old tip: Cut up an old sponge into small pieces and add it to the potting mix to prevent having to water plants as often.

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

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

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

The staircase of Loretto

We've all had those moments in life when we turn to prayer. Whether it's a whispered plea in a crisis, a silent wish for something better, or even a habit formed in childhood, prayer seems to be a universal human instinct.

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

But after the words are spoken, or the thoughts drift off into the void, it's natural to wonder—does it actually do anything? Is anyone or anything really listening? Or is it just a comforting ritual that we hold onto because it makes us feel less alone in an unpredictable world?

While skepticism about prayer's efficacy is common, prayer has been studied extensively.

One study by Dr. Herbert Benson at Harvard Medical School found that heart surgery patients who were prayed

for, even without their knowledge, experienced fewer complications and smoother recoveries. This suggests that prayer may play a role in healing, possibly through the mind-body connection.

Similarly, research led by Dr. Harold Koenig at Duke University showed that regular prayer is associated with lower levels of stress, anxiety, and depression. These studies indicate that prayer could positively influence both physical and mental well-being, even if the exact mechanisms remain unclear.

We could sift through all the scientific data, but where's the fun in that? Sometimes, the real power of prayer is best seen in the mysterious and miraculous—like the legendary staircase at the Loretto Chapel in Santa

Fe, N.M.

In the late 19th century, a small group of nuns from the Sisters of Loretto faced a perplexing problem. Their beautiful new chapel in Santa Fe, New Mexico, was nearly perfect. Still, as the final touches were added, one glaring issue became apparent—the choir loft, perched high above the main floor, was inaccessible.

The nuns consulted local carpenters and architects, but each delivered the same grim assessment: building a staircase in such a confined space was impossible.

In their despair, the nuns turned to the one source they knew could offer hope. They began praying for nine days and nights.

Their prayers were simple but earnest, asking

for a solution allowing them to access the choir loft without marring the chapel's elegance.

Just as the sisters were losing hope, a mysterious figure arrived at their doorstep on their final day of prayer:

The man was a humble carpenter, and his appearance was as unassuming as his request. He carried only the most basic of tools with him, yet he claimed he could solve their problem.

The carpenter asked for just one condition—complete privacy while he worked. For days, he toiled behind closed doors, the sounds of sawing and hammering echoing through the chapel.

When the work was finally done, the nuns were called in to see the result, and what they found took their breath away. The staircase the

carpenter had built was unlike anything they—or anyone—had ever seen.

Spiraling gracefully upward in two complete 360-degree turns, it seemed to float in mid-air without any visible support or central column.

It was constructed using a rare wood that no one could identify, and astonishingly, it was held together without a single nail. The wood was joined entirely by wooden pegs and intricate craftsmanship that defied explanation.

Word of the miraculous staircase spread quickly, drawing architects, engineers, and curious onlookers from far and wide. Each visitor examined the staircase, and all came to the same conclusion: it should not be standing.

Adding to the mystery, the carpenter who built

the staircase vanished without a trace as soon as his work was completed. He left behind no name, no request for payment, and no indication of where he had come from or where he was going. The nuns searched for him, wanting to thank him for his miraculous gift, but he was never found.

To this day, the Loretto Chapel remains a pilgrimage site, attracting those who wish to witness the staircase and ponder its origins. Some visitors are drawn by the architectural mystery, others by the spiritual implications.

While the Loretto staircase may not provide definitive proof that prayer works, it certainly leaves you with a sense of wonder and a reminder that some mysteries are best left to faith.



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Foraging from trees and shrubs



Maureen Doyle and Melissa Morneau look over the table of tree samples and books after the talk.

Gus Steeves



Library Director Karen Wall and forager Karen Monger talk after the presentation.

She started off with a little warning about the information available. "I'm not your mom, and I'm not the foraging police," she said before noting there are a very wide variety of written resources on foraging out there. AI is writing "a lot of bad things to sell on Amazon," so people need to make sure the writer is a real human with some experience foraging.

Nut trees

Her first food was a major mainstay of the food supply for humans and many other animals until about a century ago – the chestnut. Their nuts are distinctive: a "very painfully spiky" exterior, but it splits by itself when ripe. When that happens, Monger notes, "the only way to beat the squirrels" is to collect in the morning. Cooking them requires slitting the nut itself "or they will violently explode in your oven." But they can be eaten raw, cooked in many dishes and pastries (she likes a "chestnut nutella" spread) and vacuum-packed to freeze. (They do spoil quickly if not eaten, cooked or refrigerated fast, though.)

On the other hand, the far more common horse chestnut is not edible. It has "very, very toxic nuts" that produce a paralytic poison and is used in some laundry detergents, she said.

Today, the chestnuts that grow long enough to have nuts are mostly a Chinese variety, since the chestnut blight wiped out billions of American chestnuts. Store-bought nuts are mostly from Italy. (Because chestnuts grow from rootstocks, we still find some of the American variety in the woods, but they invariably catch the blight and die after a decade or so. There are efforts to hybridize the two and to breed the very rare immune trees that exist.)

Several other native nut trees are also edible. Black walnuts, which grow to "tennis-ball size" are ones "you either love it or you don't like it at all," she said. Those have very hard shells – to open them, you basically have to "run these over with your car slowly." But don't eat them immediately; let them "rest" four to six weeks so the nut meat will shrink and make it far easier to get out of the shell. She noted immature nuts are also useful – they can be tinctured into a medicinal walnut liqueur.

The visually-distinctive shagbark hickory's nuts have green husks with seams, making it easy to open. She advised not to eat those found on the ground and still green – "the tree knows there's something wrong with the nut" and let it fall

to avoid putting energy into it, she said. Once collected, she also advised letting them age a little before cracking; they're in the pecan family and have a similar taste.

Monger later noted her daughter's gotten to be so good at identifying healthy nuts "she can just say 'nope, not this one'" by just looking at it.

Even more common are acorns, which have an undeserved bad reputation. She noted they're often considered "poisonous, which is only a little bit true" – consuming a lot of tannins will bind iron in the blood and cause anemia (drinking a lot of tea can do that, too). Those will leach out when shelled, ground and soaked long enough in water. Monger said she puts the grindings in a large jar, shakes it periodically, and changes the water daily until it stays clear (it'll be brown for several days). After that's done, they can be turned into a flour for baking (a very common Native American food), but she recommended mixing it with some wheat flour, since acorns have no gluten and thus the flour doesn't stick together as well. Once made, the flour should be frozen; "Don't let your acorn flour go bad. Trust me on that," she noted.

Of the many oak species, white oaks – recognizable by their leaves' "softened, rounded lobes" – have the lowest tannin content.

Other trees

Many areas were once farmed, and its common to find feral apples and pears in the wild. "These fruits are ugly ... but they're free fruit, and they're everywhere," she said. She tends to cook them slightly, then run them through a fruit mill, and noted not to eat the seeds of either species (they contain cyanide).

Another human-planted fruit tree that's unintentionally become even more common is the "very invasive" autumn olive. An Asian species, it's also called the silverberry because its red berries have silvery spots and leaves a silvery underside. Monger notes the state used to give them away, saying "birds love these fruits. They do – they eat them and spread the seeds everywhere."

When ripe, the berries have a rather bitter/astringent taste at first (especially if picked soon after ripening), but their sweetness comes afterward. Their seeds are edible – she noted they have Omega-6 in them – and the fruits themselves have fiber and lycopenes (like tomatoes) with antioxidant properties. They can be eaten raw, used in baking, turned into "fruit

jerky" or jelly, and made into a form of ketchup, among other things.

For non-fruit trees, the sassafras is native and "incredibly common." It's the source of the original root beer flavor, now made chemically because the US government claimed sassafras contains a precursor of the street drug ecstasy. They declared it "carcinogenic" after seriously overdosing rats with it, she said. Wild sassafras, however, is most notable for its roots, which can be ground and simmered into a decoction, although bark and leaves can also be used. (If that sounds odd, Monger noted that's what people do to get cinnamon, too. She also noted commonly available file powder (aka gumbo file) is made from the dried and powdered leaves.)

Bushes & vines

Dropping a little farther in elevation, Monger cited several edible bushes. One is in many gardens – roses. Their rosehips (the red fruit after the flowers fall off) are very seedy, but if you scoop out the seeds and the little hairs inside, they're high in vitamin C. They don't have much meat, though, and are often best used in teas and a rosehip butter; she noted they taste "like a really nice ripe apricot." The biggest hips are from the non-native, invasive (and super-spiky) Rugosa roses; the also-invasive multifloras have probably the smallest ones.

By contrast, others are native. Grape vines exist in about eight varieties that hybridize in nature very easily. They're usually identifiable by smell, but you should also take time to look for the tiny tendrils that attach it to other plants, trace the vine to its woody root, and make sure the fruit has multiple teardrop-shaped seeds. (There are plants with similarly-colored fruit with just one seed; those are toxic. One example is the Virginia creeper, which is a vine, but looks nothing like a grapevine.) As many know, grapes are edible raw, but they do contain tartaric acid that will precipitate out of juice as a white powder if left to sit a little while.

Spicebush is common in hardwood forests. It's mostly used for making teas from the leaves and twigs; its red berries are edible but only one at a time – she noted if you eat more "your head would probably explode" from the flavor's intensity. (She likes letting one sit in her mouth while hiking, giving it a little nibble periodically.)

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

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — As any farmer knows, autumn is the harvest season. But for foragers, it's only one of the harvest seasons, which last all year long.

At Charlton Library last week, Karen Monger, who has been foraging for food 19 years, talked about a long list of food that's naturally-available in our forests for free.

(This is part one of two. Part two, on mushrooms and ground-hugging plants, will be next week.)

A chestnut, once one of the most common nuts in American forests.



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OBITUARIES

James R. Wilson 1939 — August 25, 2024



AUBURN—James R. Wilson 85, sadly passed away on August 25, after a brief illness. He was a resident of Brookdale Eddy Pond for the past year and a half. Formerly he resided in Charlton and Auburn.

Jim was born on April 8, 1939, in Worcester MA, to the late John R. and Edna M. Wilson. He grew up in Auburn and graduated from Auburn High School. He served in the U.S. Army stationed in South Korea. He worked at G. F. Steel and Wire as a forklift operator, retiring years ago. Jim enjoyed living on Glen Echo Lake with his wife

Barbara (Hultman) Wilson. Jim and Barb enjoyed a cruise to Alaska and a trip through the Canadian Rockies, as well as trips to Florida.

Besides his wife Barbara, Jim is survived by a stepson Raymond Erlandson and his wife Simonne Corriveau, a brother Carl Wilson, and his wife Anita (Lavallee) Wilson, 3 nephews, 2 great nephews and a great niece. Jim was predeceased by his sister Carol Wilson. A graveside service will be held privately at the convenience of the family. Contributions may be made in Jim's memory to St. Jude.



Lorraine Rita Renaud



With profound sadness we announce the passing of Lorraine Rita Renaud on August 16, 2024, at her residence, Traditions of Mill Creek in Brentwood, TN. Lorraine was lovingly cared for by her son, Robert A. Renaud, and daughter-in-law, June Renaud, whose boundless compassion enveloped her during her final year and cherished her until her last days.

Lorraine's journey began on January 20, 1931, in Webster, MA, as the loved daughter of the late Loretta and Edmond Vallee. Her childhood was filled with the melodies of the accordion and the quiet strength of familial sacrifice, as she left school at an early age to help support her family. She worked as a switchboard operator for Ma Bell (now AT&T), a testament to her early dedication and resilience.

On August 25, 1950, Lorraine married her beloved husband, Louis Paul Renaud, a Montreal native, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Webster, MA. Their shared faith was the vibrant thread weaving through their lives, eventually guiding them to serve as Eucharistic Ministers at St. Clement Roman Catholic Church in Plant City, FL. Their kindness and dedication left an indelible mark on many lives through their church missions.

Lorraine's passion for painting was her true masterpiece. As an accomplished landscape and seascape artist, she painted with the colors of her soul and the hues of her heart. Her studio was her sanctuary, where she lost herself in the beauty of her imagination for hours on end. She shared her gift generously, teaching painting lessons and inspiring countless others to see the world through an artist's eyes. Her legacy is reflected in the creative spirits

of her children, particularly her daughter Diane M. (Nachajko) Archambault and son Kenneth P. Renaud, who continue to paint and sketch the world with the vibrant colors they inherited from their mother.

Lorraine's philanthropic spirit was as vivid as her art. She dedicated her life to advocating for individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities, inspired by her son Richard L. Renaud's own journey of love and patience. Her efforts were instrumental in founding the Southern Worcester County Rehabilitation Center, a beacon of hope for children potentially facing institutionalization. Her volunteer work with the Special Olympics further exemplified her compassionate nature.

Her entrepreneurial spirit sparkled in the ventures of her son David J. Renaud in Laguna, CA, where her legacy of creativity and keen business sense became his guiding light. Each of her children carries forward her spirit of generosity in their own ways: Robert nurtures small business dreams and lends his heart to church volunteering; Kenneth champions the cause of individuals with disabilities; Richard's compassionate service extends through his work with Meals on Wheels; and Diane, with her melodious voice, has lifted spirits through her volunteer efforts and her singing in the church choir.

Lorraine Rita Renaud's life was a canvas of love, service, and artistry. Her memory will forever be cherished as a guiding light of compassion and grace, leaving a legacy that will continue to inspire and illuminate the lives of all who knew her. She will be profoundly missed, and her spirit will live on in the hearts of her family and friends.

A ceremonial mass will be held at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish 18 East Main St. Webster, MA 01570 on September 6, 2024 at 11:00am.

William (Bill) P. Auger, 76



William (Bill) P. Auger, 76, of Dudley passed away unexpectedly at his home, August 25, 2024, in Putnam CT. He is the son of the late William Henry Auger and Bridgette Helen (Shaw) Auger.

Bill is survived by his two sons, William Auger of Dudley MA and Christopher Auger of Dudley MA. His longtime companion Hope Prete of Dudley MA, his nephew, who he raised as a son, Justin LeDoux (Lorin Salvadore) of North Providence RI, his niece Amber LeDoux (Keith Pelletier) of Leicester MA, along with many other nieces and nephews, his grandchildren Katelyn Auger (Ryan Joly) of Brooklyn CT, Dylan Auger (Dylan Auger) of Goose Creek SC and Conor William LeDoux (of Leicester Ma) among a few other grandchildren and his four great grandchildren.

He is also survived by his sib-

lings, Billie Dee Cote of Putnam CT, James Bellisle of Webster MA, Mary Thompson of Canterbury Ct, Sandra Plasse of Dudley MA and Dale Duquette of North Grosvenordale CT.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents and three siblings, David Bellisle, Francis Bellisle and Linda Jackson.

Bill graduated from Ellis Tech and was an accomplished Carpenter. Billy was an avid golfer who enjoyed spending time on the course. If he wasn't on the golf course, you could find him with his close family or his beloved pets.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, September 14 from 2 to 4pm at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Ave Dudley MA. Followed by a celebration of life to be announced at www.bartelfuneral-home.com

In lieu of flowers please make donations to The Second Chance Animal Welfare Fund 111 Young Rd. East Brookfield, MA 01515 or 508-867-5525

Southbridge@secondchanceanimals.org

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

bankHometown promotes Henrichon to senior assistant branch manager



Kimberley Henrichon

Henrichon studied business at Quinsigamond Community College and Becker College and has a certificate in Finance/Banking from the American Institute of Banking's Banking School. She is currently a member of the Elks Club of Auburn.

About bankHometown

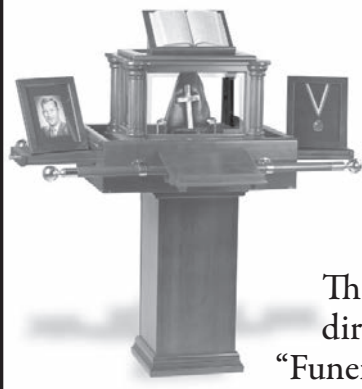
Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts. We have \$1.4 billion in assets and offer a complete line of consumer and business deposit and lending products and services through 16 branches located throughout Central Massachusetts and northeast Connecticut. We're proud to fulfill our community banking mission—providing individualized financial support, a suite of comprehensive products and services, and smart banking technology—all to ensure our customers can unlock their potential and build a successful future.

Through our sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2023 alone, The Giving Tree donated nearly \$400,000 and over the last decade has donated more than \$2.7 million. bankHometown was proud to be named a 2023 Corporate Citizenship Award winner by Boston Business Journal. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.

MILLBURY — bankHometown recently promoted Kimberley Henrichon to senior assistant branch manager, based in its 109 Elm St., Millbury office.

Henrichon, of Millbury, has more than 35 years of banking experience. She started her career in banking as a teller at Millbury Savings Bank in 1989 and has held various retail and customer service roles at bankHometown throughout her time with the bank.

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Qualified self-starter wanted for Town of Pomfret Highway Department. Must hold Class B CDL license/valid medical card and have a background in operating heavy equipment. Position includes, but is not limited to, assignments on all municipal road work including snowplowing, landscaping, building maintenance, and any other duties as needed and assigned. Five years of driving/equipment operation experience is preferred. Must be available to work nights and weekends as needed, able to lift up to 100 pounds, possess mechanical aptitude in equipment repair, pass a DOT physical and drug screen, and consent to random drug/alcohol testing as required by the DOT. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Attractive benefit package. Interested persons should forward resume/application and three references to the Selectman's Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259 on or before September 27, 2024. Application form available at www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office. EEO/AA



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LEGALS

Notice is hereby given by: Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39 A that on September 27, 2024 @ 5 PM at: Precision Auto Rebuilders, Inc., 243 W Main St, Dudley, MA 01571, the following motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles:

Description of vehicles:

Vehicle: VIN# 2T1BR32EX5C384648
Owner: Axel Morales Ortiz, 372 Hamilton St Apt 3L Southbridge MA 01550

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c.225, Section 39 A September 6, 2024
September 13, 2024
September 20, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jeffrey Demers to Argent Mortgage Company, LLC, dated November 12, 2004 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 35079, Page 25 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee for Park Place Securities, Inc. Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2005-WCH1 is the present holder by Assignment from Argent Mortgage Company, LLC to Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee for Park Place Securities, Inc. Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2005-WCH1 dated November 5, 2018 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 59884, Page 34, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 39 Alton Drive, Dudley, MA 01571 will be sold at a Public Auction at 2:00 PM on September 25, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Property Address: 39 ALTON DRIVE, DUDLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 01571
The land with the buildings thereon, situated in Dudley, Worcester County Massachusetts, on the westerly side of Alton Drive and on the northerly side of Pine View Road, being the corner lot bounding both of said streets, and being lot 103 on a plan of land owned by Dudley Hill Realty Co., Inc., by J.R. Kleindienst, Engr. Dated June 9, 1956 and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 217, Plan 10, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southeasterly corner of said lot #103; THENCE westerly eighty (80) feet to a point; THENCE turning at right angle northerly one hundred and twenty (120) feet to a point; THENCE turning at a right angle easterly eighty (80) feet to a point on said Alton Drive; THENCE southerly along said Alton Drive one hundred and twenty (120) feet to the point of beginning. BEING the same premises conveyed to this mortgagor by deed recorded 11/4/03 in Book 32151, Page 40.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 32151, Page 40.

The property will be sold subject to the redemption rights in favor of the Internal Revenue Service by virtue of the tax lien(s) recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 59411, Page 185.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee for Park Place Securities, Inc. Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2005-WCH1
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Demers, Jeffrey, 16-026169
August 30, 2024
September 6, 2024
September 13, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Ruby E. Assanov and Michael A. Assanov to Option One Mortgage Corporation, dated March 31, 2004 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 33504, Page 106 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for Merrill Lynch Mortgage Investors Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-OPT1 is the present holder by Assignment from Sand Canyon Corporation f/k/a Option One Mortgage Corporation to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for Merrill Lynch Mortgage Investors Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-OPT1 dated October 15, 2012 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 50079, Page 256, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 18 Lincoln Street, Webster, MA 01570 will be sold at a Public Auction at 3:00 PM on September 25, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land on the westerly side of Lincoln Street in said Webster and bounded as follows, to wit: BEGINNING at a stake driven into the ground on the westerly line of said Lincoln Street and being the northeasterly angle of the tract hereby coneyed; THENCE westerly one hundred twenty (120) feet to a drill hole in a rock; THENCE southerly seventy (70) feet to a stake driven into the ground at lot #67 as designated on a plan hereinafter mentioned; THENCE easterly one hundred twenty (120) feet by said lot #67 to a stake in the ground on the westerly line of said Lincoln Street; THENCE with an included angle of 90° 12' and extending northerly seventy (70) feet by said Lincoln Street to the point of beginning. Being lot # 66 as shown on a plan in Sub-Division showing properties of Slater Co., Inc., Webster, Mass., drawn by B.A. Wakefield, Eng., dated April 1935 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 85, Plan 9. The above conveyed premises are bounded by land of Mrs. Marcia McGovern northerly, and by land of Frank Grzebienski westerly. Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagor by deed from Alice S. Leduc, dated April 29, 1999 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds Book 21557, Page 376.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 21557, Page 376.

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

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

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for Merrill Lynch Mortgage Investors Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-OPT1
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street

Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Assanov, Ruby E. and Michael A.
Assanov, 24-045105
August 30, 2024
September 6, 2024
September 13, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO22P3039EA

Estate of:
Melissa Carol DuShane
Also known as: Melissa C. Olszta
Date of Death: 07/15/2021 3
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by William R. Miller of Bellingham MA requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, and Second and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

Important Notice
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m.** on the return day of **09/24/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy,
First Justice of this Court
August 23, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
September 6, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Danielle C. Malone to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for MortgageIT, Inc., dated June 27, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41406, Page 347, as modified by a certain modification agreement dated June 6, 2013, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 52471, Page 136, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Bank of America, N.A., successor by merger to BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP FKA Countrywide Home Loans Servicing, LP, recorded on March 1, 2012, in Book No. 48610, at Page 99

Bank of America, N.A. to Federal National Mortgage Association, recorded on October 17, 2012, in Book No. 49800, at Page 338

Federal National Mortgage Association to Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper, recorded on November 8, 2019, in Book No. 61387, at Page 205
Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as trustee of Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2020-RP2, recorded on February 11, 2021, in Book No. 64439, at Page 350

Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity, but solely as trustee of Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2020-RP2, recorded on March 20, 2023, in Book No. 68932, at Page 286

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 12:00 PM on September 23, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 23 Mechanic Street, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:
The land with buildings thereon situated in the Town of Webster, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner thereof, at an iron pipe in the ground on the Easterly side of Mechanic Street, distant 55.05 feet southerly from the intersection of southerly line of Negus Street; THENCE easterly by land, now or formerly of Inez M. Currie 78.02 feet to an iron pipe in the ground at land, now or formerly, of Alice M. Stone. THENCE southerly by said Stone land 59.04 feet to land, now or formerly, of

Woodell;
THENCE westerly by said Woodell land 71.01 feet to the easterly line of Mechanic Street;
THENCE northerly by Mechanic Street 56 feet to the point of beginning.
For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41406, Page 346.

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

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

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

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF CITIGROUP MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2020-RP2 Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
25768

August 30, 2024
September 6, 2024
September 13, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by Bonnette's Automotive, Inc., 456 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on 9/13/2024 @ 5:00PM at: Bonnette's Automotive, Inc. 456 Main Street Oxford, MA 01540

The following motor vehicle will be sold at a private sale to satisfy the Garage Keeper's Lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle;

Description of vehicles:
Vehicle: VIN# KL77LFE28RC102836,
2024 Chevrolet Trax,
Reg : 19GC13/MA
Owner: Elizabeth Ann Petrone,
1 Wysocki Dr Apt 9 , Dudley, MA 01571-3251

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c255, Section 39A August 23, 2024
August 30, 2024
September 6, 2024

DUDLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Public Hearing Notice

A Public Hearing will be held at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street in Dudley, MA at 6:15 PM on Wednesday September 11th, 2024. To consider a **Notice of Intent** of Mario Colon for the property located at: 19 Ramshorm Rd Dudley 20'x25' Metal Garage.

This is a Public Hearing under the requirements of G.L. CH> 131 40, as amended. Plans are available at the Dudley Conservation office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM. For more information, call 508-949-8011.
September 6, 2024

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DUDLEY

continued from page A1

its own Planner vacancy making them a potential partner.

“CentralMassachusetts Regional Planning was going to reach out to Spencer to see if they would be willing to go in to basically a partner-

ship with us if they were able to find a Planner that would work for two towns,” said Horne.

Spencer’s advertised salary for the position was \$80,000, well above what Dudley can afford on its own leading Horne to note that if Spencer is having trouble hiring, then Dudley will certain-

ly face its own struggles. A regional approach would allow for a higher salary with cost sharing creating less impact on each individual town’s budget. During a Board of Selectmen meeting later in August, Assistant Town Administrator Olivia Antonson revealed that productive talks had

occurred with Spencer. While the majority of the board voted in favor of exploring regionalization, member Daniel Edminston was the only dissenting vote arguing that he would like Dudley to at least attempt to find its own dedicated Planner. “I’m not saying it would

be bad. I would like to see a Planner dedicated to Dudley. I realize it would probably be a part-time position and it might be difficult to fill, but at least I’d try to pursue that avenue first and see if it’s possible,” he said. The majority vote confirmed the Planning Board’s intent to seek

regionalization options and approved the formation of a two-member subcommittee comprised of Board members David Durgin and Richard Clark that will oversee interviewing job candidates.

HOUSE

continued from page A1

“transitional foster care,” “psycho social support,” access to medical care, job training, translation, English teaching and monthly stipends for basic needs.

It’s being proposed by the Jesus Center of Good News, based in Oxford and led by Rev. Kalimburo Akeem Bujiriri. As of Sunday, the Database showed the church has filed several “change of directors” certificates since 2010 (the last one in 2021), but has never filed the required annual report since being organized in 2009. Back in June, Bujiriri told the board he didn’t have to as a church, but the Database includes other churches doing so.

He was present at this meeting, but didn’t respond to either attorney’s comments on video. The board did not respond to Adamopoulos’s comments either.

Although the church’s 2009 Articles of Organization there don’t say anything about refugees or immigrants, they do state one goal is “to assist and help poor people, orphans, widows ... and build or provide shelters for them where it is needed” [the ellipses are in the document].

For the Planning Board, whether it is a religious use is the underlying issue, Town Counsel Matt Provencher said. If it is, it’s covered by the “Dover Amendment” of MGL Chap 40A, Sec 3, which prohibits towns from using zoning to block religious, educational and certain other uses. This particular parcel, officially known as 0 Rosemont Street, is in a single-family zone.

Board member Jason Piader said this “appears to be a boarding house” with “what might be considered short-term rentals, which is not an allowed use in the Town of Webster.” He also noted the fire department has raised concerns about not having emergency access

around the building, which “could have a large quantity of people there.”

Provencher said the courts have ruled that “housing can be ancillary to a legitimate religious purpose.” The board can ask broad questions to determine what the proponent’s actual religious purposes are and how this project and its components fit into them. But he warned they have to be very careful about making statements about whether a religious claim is “legitimate” – “you don’t want to make a judgement, a value judgement, on religion.”

In general, he added, the law limits the board to considering “dimensional and parking requirements which are reasonable” as long as they “facilitate, rather than thwart, the protected use.” Noting how a project fits might “not be apparent” at first, and he urged them to both “defer to the applicant’s description” and wait until the plans are final before doing anything.

Adamopoulos noted the Building Inspector’s letter said the property is currently out of compliance with runoff and other bylaws with no effort to fix it. That letter, dated Aug. 7 by Ted Tetreault, specifically ordered Bujiriri to “grade parcel of land to pre-existing conditions; remove excess stone, debris and vegetation; [and] stabilize site by planting grass seed on entire parcel or coating lot with wood chips.” It gave him 14 days to comply (i.e. until Aug. 21), after which fines of \$500 a day would start. There are no later documents on the Planning Board’s webpage regarding that as of Sunday.

Chair Paul LaFramboise said the most recent plans weren’t “submitted in time” for the Planning Department to review them for this meeting, and Bujiriri’s original engineer quit. It was continued to Sept. 30.

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

PLANNING

continued from page A1

noting, “I want it off my plate completely.”

Until then, though, he has to maintain and plow it.

Morgan said Cepetelli needs to “present come engineered plan the board can take action on, includign the waivers.”

Until then “what’s going to prevail” is the Registry file, Chair Paul LaFramboise said. The board continued the hearing until Sept. 30.

Coincidentally, the board concluded its process regarding Oakwood

by voting to release owner Joyce Szereby’s road bond. She said the roadwork would be finished that week.

In other business, the board also opened its hearing on work at the Samuel Slater Experience. There, engineer Jacob Lemieux of Hancock Associates said the museum is seeking permits to build a 1,500 square foot “brick paver patio,” a 40-space parking lot, a retaining wall between that and the neighboring ball-field, level out some of the space, and install a stormwater line to the town’s existing system.

He said he did read the town’s engineering review comments, but wanted to talk to the board before making changes.

Morgan said she toured the site with the Recreation Director, who expressed concerns about how it would affect the “very heavily used” town-owned ballfield. (To be clear, the building is itself town property, too, but subject to a very long-term lease to the museum.) She specifically cited the originally proposed eight-foot wall and argued some sitework is “sort of out of the scope of an actual parking lot.”

Lemieux said they’ve reduced the walls to four feet and put fences atop them, pulled the wall back from the field by 30 feet, and made other changes. That hearing also continued to Sept. 30.

the board also concluded the public hearing on Webster Cannabis’ retail store at 4 Town Forest Rd., but left it formally open to Sept. 30 for Morgan to type up their decision for a vote.

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

Don’t let frost end your garden season



Melinda Myers

Floating row covers protect plants from frost while allowing light, air and water through.

No matter where you garden there never seems to be enough time to grow and enjoy all your favorite vegetables. Start preparing now to extend your growing season and continue enjoying garden fresh vegetables even after the first frost.

Some vegetables like cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, kale and Brussels sprouts tolerate frost and even taste better after a slight chill. Most of these can tolerate temperatures as low as 24 to 28 degrees Fahrenheit.

Leeks are another vegetable that thrives in cooler temperature. Many tolerate temperatures as low as 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Just mound some protective mulch

around the plants and continue harvesting.

Take advantage of the chilly winter temperatures to store some of your carrots, turnips and parsnips in the ground for winter. Just cover the soil with straw or evergreen boughs after it lightly freezes. Dig as needed or during a winter thaw. You will enjoy their wonderfully sweet flavor.

Those first few fall frosts are often followed by a week or more of mild temperatures. Protecting frost sensitive plants from the first few fall frosts is one way of extending your season. Cover the plants with old bed sheets, mattress pads, or similar items in late afternoon and remove them as soon as the temperatures climb above freezing. Keep these handy and be ready to cover whenever frost is in the forecast.

Make it easier by using floating row covers. The spun material allows air, light and water through while protecting the plants from frost. You will find different weights of row covers that provide different levels of temperature protection. Just loosely cover the plants and anchor the edges with stones, boards or garden pins. You only



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

need to remove the fabric to harvest ripe vegetables. Otherwise, it can stay in place until the vegetables stop producing or you decide it is time to end the season.

Create a high tunnel over garden beds filled with large plants. Use hoops and row cover to allow easy access for harvesting while protecting the plants.

Cloches have long been used to jump start the season or extend it beyond the first fall frost. You’ll find a variety of shapes and sizes available. Select one large enough to cover your plants and protect them as needed. Look for those with vents to prevent plants from overheating and those that allow water through while trapping in the heat.

Don’t let unripe tomatoes go to waste if you are unable or unwilling to protect them from frost. Harvest any that are starting to show color before the killing frost and finish ripening them

indoors. The bottom of the tomato should be greenish white or starting to color up. Store your green tomatoes in a cool (60 to 65 degrees) location to extend their storage life.

Spread out the tomatoes on heavy paper or wrap them individually in newspaper so the fruit do not touch each other. They’ll ripen over the next few weeks. Speed up the process by moving a few tomatoes to a warm bright location a few days before they’re needed. Enjoy green tomatoes fried, in relish, salsa, pies or many other ways.

And when your season ends, begin planning for next year. Enlist some of these strategies to jump start the season for an earlier harvest. Melinda Myers has written over 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.

LEGALS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO24P2949EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Zbigniew Surowaniec Also known as: Zbigniew Surowaniec Date of Death:05/07/2024

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Stanislaw Surowaniec of Webster MA

requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: Stanislaw Surowaniec of Webster MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/24/2024.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to

this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.

Date: August 27, 2024 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate September 6, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 264 Dresser Hill Road, Dudley, Massachusetts

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by George Schellbach and Sophie Schellbach to Genworth Financial Home Equity Access, Inc. f/k/a Liberty Reverse Mortgage, Inc., said mortgage dated May 11, 2009 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 44255 at Page 126, as affected by an assignment to The Secretary

of Housing and Urban Development, recorded March 2, 2018 in Book 58503 at Page 244; as affected by an assignment to GITSIT Solutions, LLC, recorded February 13, 2024 in Book 70189 at Page 189; as affected by an assignment to JPM Investment Group, LLC, recorded July 3, 2024 in Book 70722 at Page 344, of which JPM Investment Group, LLC is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on September 27, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Property: 264 Dresser Hill Road, Dudley, Massachusetts The land in the Town of Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, designated as Lot 6 as shown on a plan entitled “Plan One of land owned by L & Z Earth Movers, Inc., Dudley Massachusetts” drawn by A. R. Klebart, dated September 16, 1966 and recorded in Worcester County Registry of Deeds, Book of Plans 304, Plan 22, to which plan reference may be had for a more particular description. Being all and the same premises conveyed by deed of Gerard J. Morin, Inc. to mortgagor(s) dated September 25, 1968, recorded with said deeds Book 4886, Page 534.

The premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, reservations,

conditions, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. The premises are also sold subject to all tenancies and/or rights of parties in possession.

TERMS OF SALE A deposit of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) by cash, certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The Mortgagee and its authorized representatives shall not be required to pay the deposit to bid. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at the law offices of Lonardo Forte & Trudeau, LLP, 2980 West Shore Road, Warwick, RI 02886 within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt of the full purchase price.

Other terms to be announced at the sale. JPM Investment Group, LLC, Present holder of the mortgage By its attorneys Lonardo Forte & Trudeau, LLP 2980 West Shore Road Warwick, RI 02886 (401) 542-4100 August 30, 2024 September 6, 2024 September 13, 2024



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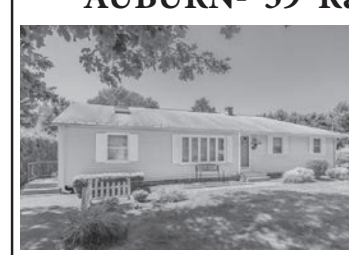
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24th Masonic District participates at Charlton's Old Home Day

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
 QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

CHARLTON — Sunday, Sept. 2 was a cloudy morning, but ended up being a beautiful day in the afternoon at the Charlton Old Home Day festivities. Two local lodges from the 24th Masonic District set up to sell their goods. Quinebaug Masonic Lodge of Southbridge and Oxford Masonic Lodge of Oxford had a very, very busy and exciting day trying to keep up with the demands of what the people wanted.

There were all kinds of food being sold, entertainment and activities for the children. The Charlton Old Home Day committee members announcing activities that's going on. There were various organizations, and many vendors selling their goods along with all kinds of nonprofit organizations. At the end was a parade with a lot of beautiful old cars, firetrucks and much more. Quinebaug Masonic Lodge was selling hand cut homemade French fries and chicken nuggets. The long lines of people waiting for those fries said it was worth the wait. The lodge went through many pounds of potatoes.

Oxford Lodge was selling sweet corn and snow cones and chili. The delicious corn was grilled or steamed and smothered in butter. The children were going wild, crazy over the flavored snow cones and the chili went fast. Both lodges at times had long lines and people waiting for their great, delicious, tasty treats. If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our Web site at www.massfreemasonry.org.

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