

Electric vehicle mandate at issue in local budgeting

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — In the course of this year’s budget presentation March 4, Town Administrator Robin Grimm brought up an issue that will likely affect all area communities.

Starting with model year 2026 (that is, later this year), the state is requiring many municipal trucks be electric. Her budget seeks to buy a new truck this year for the DPW (plus an ambulance) and has others upcoming for future years.

The problem, she and others noted, is that “the technology has not caught up” with what they’re needed for. Towns generally lack the infrastructure to run them or store them indoors, and they don’t run well in winter.

“The vehicles themselves are not ready

to handle the kinds of storms where we’re out 45-50 hours (for plowing),” Grimm said. “You have to take them off the road earlier, and that means you need more trucks.”

For now, though, she’s aiming to get in line to buy one of the remaining diesel trucks, and will keep the old one it replaces instead of selling it at auction. She said Sturbridge is lucky to have an early Special Town Meeting (the same night as the annual in April), since it might enable the town to get its order in before communities who have to wait for next year’s budget to start in July.

Finance Director Barbara Barry agreed, saying the Mass Municipal Association “is working to get (this requirement) delayed because of the issues Robin said.”

So did Finance Com-

mittee chair Kevin Smith, who said, “Even though we’re mandated to buy them, they don’t exist.” Another speaker predicted the Legislature will end up delaying the rule.

On Nov 5, MMA’s Web site noted the state already has delayed it once; it was slated to start last year. It’s online at <https://www.mma.org/massdep-adjusts-emissions-rules-for-medium-and-heavy-duty-trucks/>.

“MassDEP announced that it will exercise enforcement discretion to exempt vehicles purchased by state and local agencies for snow plowing, snow removal, and street sweeping purposes from ACT manufacturer compliance requirements for model years 2025 and 2026,” MMA stated. “... State and local government agencies must submit written requests to MassDEP and manufacturers or their authorized dealerships detailing the make, model, model year, and number of vehicles to be purchased. MassDEP will make a determination as to whether enforcement discretion is allowable for the proposed purchase, and will communicate its decision to the requesting agency and the manufacturer.”

The same page notes, “In Massachusetts, for model year 2025, the rule requires 7 percent ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle) sales in classes 2b-3, 11 percent in classes 4-8; and 7 percent for tractors classes 7-8.” According to Wikipedia, Class 2b “light duty” starts at 8501 pounds; Classes 3-6 “medium duty” run from 10,001-26,000 pounds; and Classes 7-8 “heavy duty” are up to 80,000 pounds.

Grimm said that issue is just one this year’s budget faces. Fiscally, the town is looking at a retirement system hike of 16.7 percent, plus a health insurance hike averaging 16.1 percent over last year’s rise (9.9 percent for active employees, but more than 20 percent for retirees). The total budget increase this year is about \$1.5 million, 45 percent of it “for those uncontrollable costs,” she said. General government salaries, by contrast, make up 12 percent of the increase, although they’re only rising 2 percent.

Grimm said Sturbridge “is not a big enough pool to take the risk of self-insuring,” but she wants to look into plan changes and may consider bidding out insurance next year, depending on union negotiations.

At the same time, state aid is only rising 0.6 percent, and she noted Sturbridge only gets the minimum for education aid (\$100 per pupil). Overall,

department requests exceeded income projections by about \$815,000, and that required Grimm and Barry to do some things they said they normally do not want to do to balance the budget. Among them are cutting two part-time jobs, eliminating two cruisers (they’ll buy one with free cash), buying a bus with free cash, cutting police and fire overtime. She’s also seeking to buy an ambulance with Ambulance Stabilization funds and free cash, and she noted the fire department is already seeking two major vehicles next year. Some other changes shifted certain costs into revolving funds that had been in the general budget (typically in the health department, regarding the landfill).

Regarding free cash usage, Smith objected, noting that’s essentially using it “to pay operating expenses to balance the budget.” Grimm agreed, saying she’d rather have things like cruisers in the budget because they’re regular needs. Many towns do use free cash for such purchases, but the amount of free cash varies annually.

She added that part of this year’s budgeting issue is the fact it’s earlier. The state has “no urgency to have a budget balanced and out to us,” and sometimes doesn’t

even approve one until the fall. (Towns usually base theirs on the Governor’s proposal, because it comes out fairly early in January.)

“We’re not in distress, just not in as good a shape as we’ve been,” she said. “... We don’t feel good about how we had to do it, but we held the line,” noting the actual budget increase is the same as last year’s, 3.6 percent.

One concern going forward, though, is that hotel/motel and food taxes have basically been “flat for years” excluding covid, Grimm added. The town has largely built-out its commercial zone and has shown no interest in multiple such areas, so there’s “not a lot of places for major commercial/industrial growth” and only a little population growth.

To Smith, “We’re getting close to spending more than we earn. This year, we’re covering it ... but it seems we’re at that tipping point” if costs keep rising. He noted a 3.6 percent budget hike isn’t bad, but “we’re not getting 3.6 percent increase in revenue.”

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



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Unsheared sheep

5. Rock TV channel

8. Streetcar

12. Concerning

14. Expression of recognition

15. Greek goddess of youth

16. An iPad is one

18. Adult beverage

19. Manning and Wallach are two

20. Makes a petty verbal attack

21. Tyrion Lannister’s nickname

22. Pointed ends of pens

23. Wristwatches

26. Body part

30. Made a mistake

31. Adjusted

32. Turkish honorific title

33. Yell

34. Historic Alabama city

39. Cub

42. Type of sea bass dish

44. To call (archaic)

46. Unfortunate

47. Separate oneself from others

49. Hero sandwiches

50. Former OSS

51. Open spaces in a forest

56. Innermost brain membranes

57. Fortune

58. Hunting expedition

59. Doomed queen Boleyn

60. Peyton’s little brother

61. Type of wrap

62. Scottish tax

63. Soviet Socialist Republic

64. An increase in price or value

CLUES DOWN

1. Works of body art

2. Abba __, Israeli politician

3. A desert in Asia

4. Eat greedily

5. Doomed French queen

6. Beat

7. One who survives on blood

8. As a consequence

9. Counted on

10. Acquired Brain Injury Behavior Science

11. Unclean

13. One who does not drink

17. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago

24. __ student, learns healing

25. Bacterial skin infection

26. Expresses surprise

27. What one says on a wedding day

28. Crony

29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)

35. Unit of length

36. Side that is sheltered from the wind

37. More (Spanish)

38. Autonomic nervous system

40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris

41. Statements that something is untrue

42. Greek alphabet letter

43. Suspends from above

44. Popular types of cigars

45. Girls

47. U.S. philosopher and logician

48. Nocturnal hoofed animal

49. Relaxing spaces

52. From a distance

53. Form of Persian

54. Amounts of time

55. Trigonometric function

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BREAKFAST
FOR TIFFANY

On Saturday, March 15, the First Congregational Church of Dudley (135 Center Rd., Dudley) will host a free continental breakfast and a tour and talk detailing the rich history and artistry of the Tiffany windows. The tour will be led by Educator and Church Tom Boyd, Church Historian. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., tour begins at 10 a.m. “Tiffany windows are stained glass windows made with a variety of glass colors and textures, including iridescent, fractured, and blown glass. The windows are known for their jewel-like complexity and shimmering, iridescent effect” (Google AI). The breakfast is the beginning of a campaign to preserve these rich historic treasures. The Church’s 300th anniversary of its founding will be in 2032, and it is their hope that the windows will be resorted by this time.



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\$460,000, 12 Williams St, Landry, Matthew, to Mccann, Sandra C, and Mccann, Shula.

\$166,000, 14 Preston Ave, Ciccone, Angela T, and Newrez LLC, to Davis, Robert E.

DUDLEY

\$589,900, 53 Dudley Oxford Rd, Rice, Glenn M, and Rice, Cynthia M, to Stuart, Leann, and Stuart, Anne.

\$400,000, 69 Southbridge Rd, Pmz Development LLC, to Thorpe, Ethan, and Shaughnessy, Christiana.

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\$970,000, 77-79 Chase Ave, Jeffrey M Stock Rentals I, to Wps Webster LLC, and Cw Webster Re LLC.

\$450,000, 5 Stephen Dr, Enman John D Est, and Enman, John D, to Mcdarko, Rex.

\$420,000, 362 Thompson Rd, Magnant Ft, and Brown, Crystal M, to Stuczynski, John.

\$287,500, 128 Thompson Rd, Karapanos Zora Est, and Karapanos, Paul, to Webster Five Cents Svgs B.

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DCRSD avoiding controversial material promoted by MTA

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — A recent controversy involving the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) has led officials at the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District to clarify its stance on the situation after a local town official brought the matter to the table during a recent school committee meeting.

The MTA, which represents around 117,000 educators across the Commonwealth, including in the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District, has come under fire over the last month for posting materials in a members-only section of its Web site geared towards helping educators discuss the conflict between Israel and Hamas. A link on the page contained what some state officials considered potentially offensive images and controversial material regarding the conflict. The content has sparked outcries of potential antisemitism, and caused David Singer of Charlton to approach the school committee. Singer's concerns were shared during the public comment segment of the school committee's March 5 meeting where he wanted the district's assurance that local teachers were not utilizing the controversial materials recommended by the MTA.

"The MTA got caught putting out pro-terrorist, antisemitic propaganda for the teachers to use as teaching materials to teach the teachers to

teach the kids. They got caught, the backlash was swift, they had a public presser, they said they were going to take it down. The problem with this is the damage was already done. They put the propaganda out there. Once you've already put it out there and the teachers have all seen the materials, you can't just take it down," said Singer.

Dudley-Charlton Superintendent Steve Lamarche put Singer's worries at ease explaining that the district was aware of the situation and that while they are affiliated with the MTA, their teachers work independently and are not required to embrace the MTA's recommendations.

"They use some of their resources, but Dudley-Charlton has this unique thing where we're independent and there isn't this overinvestment in what MTA produces for them to try to incorporate for us within our district," said Lamarche. "We've learned our lesson over the past couple of years, including myself personally as the Superintendent, that there are certain topics that are very important to this community, to Dudley and Charlton, and there are certain topics that we should not be addressing. I'm happy to say we weren't impacted by that because we weren't using those resources. That was not something that our association or our teachers or our educators brought into our schools and said, 'we've got to do this.'"

Singer said he was pleased by the response but hoped that the dis-

trict would take a harder stance on the matter and provide an official statement to the teachers that the district is "no place for hate." Lamarche did not provide a clear answer to how he would proceed with that request simply responding "understood."

The MTA came under fire in February after controversial images were displayed during a hearing before the Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism. These images were reportedly not posted on the MTA Web site but rather accessible through a link on the site's members-only resource page. The material was intended to help provide educators with resources to help discuss the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas with their students, a conflict that has gained international attention and proven to be one of the most controversial wars of its time sparking increased concerns and reports of antisemitism against both Israelis and Palestinians. The co-chairs of the committee showed concern about the content including its lack of diversity and its promotion of stereotypes.

Although the MTA stated in a press release on Feb. 19 that they felt the hearing was used for "political grandstanding" and that the resources were "manipulated" to make the union appear to promote antisemitism, they promised to remove the links from their Web site.

"The Massachusetts Teachers Association vigorously defends the right of all students and teachers to feel supported and included in our classrooms and unequivocally condemns antisemitism and Islamophobia and all other forms of hatred and discrimination," the statement read. "We recognize that the conflict in the Middle East is complex and nuanced with longstanding historical, political, economic and cultural roots. We strive

to help our members foster critical conversations and understanding with each other and with their students as they wrestle with the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East."

As of this writing there were conflicting reports among news agencies about if the material had, indeed, been removed.

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Black Tavern program season begins

DUDLEY — On Thursday, March 20 at 7 p.m., the Black Tavern Historical Society will begin its program season with "Amelia Earhart – Pioneer in Aviation," a performance by returning actor Sheryl Faye.

The Tavern is located at 138 Center Rd., Dudley. This program is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be offered.



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Bay Path Regional Vocational High School Art Show
March 1 – March 31
Please join us during the month of March to celebrate the incredible art work created by Bay Path students.

Gentle Yoga
Mondays in March
10:00-11:00 AM
Join our new yoga instructor Patricia, for a blend of “on the mat” yoga class with chair yoga modifications too. This truly is a one size fits all class. Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class. Registration is required to receive weather cancellation notifications.

Movies @ The Pearle!!
Tuesdays at 1:00
This month’s theme is: Books we love that were made into movies we love. The books are available for check out too!
March 18: A Walk to Remember
March 25: Brian’s Song
No registration required.

Celtic Celebration, Songs & Stories from Ireland, Scotland, and Wales
Thursday, March 13
6:00
Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day, Celtic Culture & the impending arrival of Spring. A lively participatory program by singer and storyteller DAVIS BATES. Recommended for Ages 6 and up. Funded, in part, by a grant from the Dudley Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Visit the Library on Pi Day Friday, March 14th and you will receive a free Table Talk Pie!
*Limited Supply

“Cook the Book” Book Club- Dinner In One by Melissa Clark
Monday, March 24
6:00-7:00
“Cook The Book” Book Club will meet on the 4th Monday of every month at 6:00.
Pick one recipe from the book - Dinner In One by Melissa Clark. The dishes don’t have to be complicated or fancy, any recipe from the book is fair game, except alcoholic beverages-sorry!
Prepare the recipe at home and share it at the library. We cannot reheat or keep food warm, so consider this when choosing your recipe. You are responsible for bringing serving utensils.
We will provide paper goods and utensils for eating. Registration is required.

Crawford Library Book Group
Thursday, March 27 @ 6:00-7:30
Book: All the Colors of the Dark by Chris Whitaker
Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion.
Everyone is welcome! No registration required.

Mahjong at the Pearle
Every Wednesday in March
10:00-12:30 Fels Community Room

The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy.
Everyone is welcome.
No registration required.

Quilting Group
Wednesdays @ 1:30
Are you a quilter? Would you like to learn how to be one? All skill levels are welcome to this informal group. Bring your projects and join the fun!
No registration required.

Knit & Crochet Group
Thursday 5:30-7:30 and Friday 10:00-12:00
All stitchers are welcome for this informal group. Bring your project and enjoy the company!
No registration required.

Dungeons & Dragons Game
Thursdays, 6:00-7:30
Come play the world’s number one role playing game. This program is geared towards kids and teens that are looking to learn more about playing and some short adventures!
No registration required.

Local 4 Life- Amazing Animals!
Saturday, March 22
10:00-11:00
“LESSONS AT THE LIBRARY”
Learn about the traits of farm animals, the life cycles and needs of these animals. Hands-on educational programs for families with children ages 3-12 years old.
This program is supported in part by a grant from the Dudley Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.
Registration is required.

Digital Comic Book Design Course with Tinker & Create
Thursday March 6,13 & 20
4:00-5:00
Tinker and Create will help your ideas and visions come to life by helping you learn and use current comic book design technology! You’ll learn about graphic design, creative writing, literary analysis, and characterization.
Registration is required.
This is a 6-week series for 3rd - 8th graders (ages 8 to 14). *Please note that you are signing up for all 6 weeks.

Storytimes at the Pearle
10:00-10:45
Tuesday-Pre-K Power (best for ages 3-5)
Wednesday-Toddler Time (best for ages 0-3)
Friday-Open Baby Play (best for ages 0-12 months-pre-walkers)
No registration required. Siblings always welcome!

Graphic Novel Book Club
Thursday, March 13
6:00-6:45
Each month we will meet to discuss the graphic novel of the month. Copies of the book will be located at the circulation desk in the Children’s Room. Best for ages 8 and up.
No registration required. This is not a drop off program.

Pokemon Club
Thursday, March 20
6:00-6:45
Join us for Pokemon Club! Each month we will have exciting crafts and activities! Best for ages 6 and up. No registration required. This is not a drop off program.

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Adult Programming
YOGA – Saturdays at 9:30 AM
Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the “uniting of movement with breath.” A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS: ESL Classes – TUESDAYS at 6:00PM
The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. No pre-registration is required.

REC Farmers Market – TUESDAYS 4:00-5:30PM
Pop-up Farmers Market located in our Community Room. The REC is running the market and the accept SNAP, cash, and credit.

LIBRARY FOR ALL: Chair Yoga – Friday, March 21st 10:00-11:00AM
Join Jess for a one hour Chair Yoga class as part of our Library for All Program. Leave class feeling refreshed and calm. No experience necessary. This class is for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please call ahead if special accommodations or requirements are needed. We are happy to accommodate!

FRIENDS’ SPRING CONCERT SERIES: Claudia Schmidt and Jane Miller Thursday, March 13th 6:30-7:30PM
Claudia and Jane met by chance last summer at the Bull Run in Shirley MA. They have been getting together to build a repertoire incorporating standards, blues, some originals as well as a little spoken word here and there. Come and hear this fresh and delightful collaboration!

ADULT PUZZLE NIGHT: Tuesday, March 18th 6:00-7:30PM
Join us in assembling our 3,000 piece tiger puzzle. We’ll continue to make progress on it throughout the spring.

TAKE GREAT PHOTOS WITH YOUR SMART PHONE: Thursday, March 20th 6:00-8:00PM
This class is for those interested in producing high-quality images with their smartphone cameras. That means learning and understanding the camera controls as well as when and how to use them. Doing so will put the photographer in better control of their camera. And that will mean significantly improved photographs. Please note: this class doesn’t cover the taking of selfies. Registration required.

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 kids are 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.

PLAY-DOH PLAYTIME – MONDAYS at 10:00AM

Drop-in to our Children’s Program Room every Monday morning to play, make, and build with our collection of colorful Play-Doh, sculpting tools, and various sets. This is a fun, sensory playtime to foster creativity and exploration. Perfect for ages 2-6. Siblings are welcome.

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! In February we’re doing Origami.

TODDLER PLAYTIME--- TUESDAYS at 10:00 AM

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

STUFFED ANIMAL STORYTIME – WEDNESDAYS at 10:00AM

Join Youth Services Librarian Andrew for stories, songs, and fun with our plush pals! This storytime is geared toward ages birth to 3, but siblings are welcome.

ME AND MY MINI – THURSDAYS at 10:00AM

A creative movement group for ages 0 through 2.5. Get groovy to upbeat music with fun props and a story.

MESSY ART STORYTIME- FRIDAYS at 10:00AM

Come explore different art mediums through stories and fun creations! This program is perfect for ages 2-5 and will have your little one creating messy art weekly. Please wear art-appropriate clothing.

KIM THE LEGO LADY – TUESDAY, March 18th.

Do you love building, creating, and having fun with LEGO? Look no further! Our brand-new LEGO Club is launching, and we want YOU to be part of the adventure. Join us for interactive building challenges, new skills and create fabulous imaginative builds.

CLAY MONSTERS: THURSDAY, March 20th at 5:00PM

Join us for a fun and creative program where you’ll bring your wildest monster ideas to life! Get your hands dirty and unleash your imagination as you create a unique creature to put on display at the library using air-dry clay. This program is perfect for ages 5-12.

SNOW MUCH FUN – SATURDAYS at 11:30AM

We’ll be featuring several fun activities on Saturdays this winter. March 22nd is Breakfast with Biscuit the Puppy, join us for a storytime, breakfast, and a Biscuit the Puppy meet and greet! March 29th is Animal Adventures which is an interactive program with live animals.



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Gavel Raiders!



From left to right, members of the Rabonni Lodge of Westwood Mass brother Evan Weisenfeld, bro. Edward Alexander, bro. Michael Slyman, Master of Quinebaug Lodge Southbridge with top hat Bro. Will Proper, Master of Rabonni Lodge, Bro. William Ralph holding Quinebaug beautiful Gavel, Bro. Paul Williams holding Rabonni Lodge Gavel and Bro. Joel Reich the master mind of this Gavel Raid!

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Monday, March 3, the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge had its regular monthly meeting. In attendance were a group of men not seen in our lodge before. These Master Masons from different parts of the state came to our lodge for a fraternal

visit. Come to find out these men were from the Rabonni Lodge of Westwood Mass. This Lodge is part of the 6th Masonic District which covers the southwest of Boston area. These visiting brethren were on a mission. The Rabonni Lodge heard about our huge, beautiful Traveling Regalia Gavel that the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge had in their possession and wanted to take this huge, beautiful

Gavel back to their home lodge. Other Masonic Lodges from throughout the state may come to a regular monthly meeting to retrieve these Traveling Regalia Gavels. This lodge heard about Quinebaug Lodge Traveling Gavel adventures and wanted a piece of the action. To retrieve the gavel and return it to their lodge they must have a minimum of three brothers which

must include a Worshipful Master, an officer and a fellow brother. In return the lodge that it was taken from must go to one of their monthly meetings to retrieve it back. This is one way how fellow Master Masons meet new brethren. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org and to find a lodge nearest you.

Courtesy

Petroleum to Pollinators project envisions new downtown park

OXFORD — The Town of Oxford is seeking feedback from residents on the design of a new community park at the upcoming Pollinator Forum on Saturday, April 5, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Oxford Senior Center.

Using nature based solutions, 3 Barton St., a former Fire Station and Public Works Garage, will be transformed into a passive park funded by a Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant. According to Kevin Duffy, Oxford Director of Public Works, the goal of MVP grants are to implement climate adaption strategies and actions to address climate change impacts. The site was completely covered with pavement and a building - surfaces that absorb and retain heat and restrict rainwater from infiltrating back into the ground. Converting this area into a green community space will help offset 'heat island' effect and improve stormwater management; two key approaches in preparing for climate change.

Numerous environmental, social, economic and health benefits to the community will also be realized by this Petroleum to Pollinators project. According to Judy Lochner, Oxford Conservation Agent, the project meets many of the goals of the Oxford Grow Native for Pollinators Campaign by promoting native plantings and pollinator habitat. The additional trees and plants will also improve air quality, reduce erosion and help protect existing infrastructure. The social and health benefits of the park include the welcoming space for community members to gather and socialize, stay cool on hot summer days, relax and learn about nature in a safe environment. The park will provide seating areas benefiting local restaurants whose customers can take their meal and enjoy being outside.

The design firm, Weston & Sampson, will present preliminary design options at the April 5th Pollinator Forum. Attendees will then have the opportunity to provide feedback to ensure community input in creating a usable space that meets the desires of Oxford residents as well as the goal of adapting to climate change.

In addition to the design presentation, the Grow Native for Pollinator Campaign Team will have numerous interactive stations set up for both adults and children to learn about native pollinators and the importance of native plants. The new Oxford Seed Library display will be presented, native seeds will be given away and there will free pizza for attendees. Further information can be obtained by calling the Oxford Conservation Commission at 508-987-6044.

Maeve Cahill elected to membership in Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. — Maeve Cahill of Auburn was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Sacred Heart University.

Cahill is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Its mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning."

About Phi Kappa Phi
Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Phi Kappa Phi inducts approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni annually. The Society has chapters on more than 300 select colleges and universities in the United States, its territories and the Philippines. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The Society's mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning." For more information, visit www.PhiKappaPhi.org.

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Friday's Child



Thomas
Age 14
Registration # 8537

Tommy is very passionate and enjoys engaging in conversation with adults and children. He loves a good debate with a trusted adult! Tommy loves techno music and Pokémon. He is also very active outdoors, riding his scooter around the neighborhood and helping his foster mother with gardening and yard work. He is a very entrepreneurial young man, and is creating a small business plan to mow his neighbors' lawns. Tommy is very interested in golf. He is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to club styles and putting techniques.


<https://www.mareinc.org/child/21177981306>


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.





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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

This moment will never come again

It's easy to rush through the day, to get caught up in schedules, responsibilities, and the endless loop of what's next. But the moment you are in right now will never happen again. It will pass, just like all the ones before it, and once it's gone, you don't get it back.

We think we have time. But the truth is, life isn't a dress rehearsal. This is it. The way you show up today, the way you treat people, the way you spend your time, it all matters, because every single second is a version of life you'll never live again.

Some moments seem small standing in line at the store, a conversation with a friend, a quiet drive home. But even that matters. Every interaction, every choice, every seemingly unremarkable moment adds up to the story of your life. Are you making it a story you'll be proud of?

It's not about perfection, it's about presence. It's about choosing to be where you are, instead of always looking ahead to where you think you should be. It's about speaking up when something needs to be said, reaching out when someone needs you, and appreciating the good that exists right now, even if it's not the moment you expected.

If today were the last time you had this exact moment, how would you show up for it? Would you listen more? Laugh harder? Say the thing you've been holding back? Would you let the small stuff go and focus on what actually matters?

The seconds are already slipping by. Make them count.

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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

Come and See!



Christ, the Messiah who has broken into history and changed the world. It is more than this. Philip and Nathanael, Andrew and Peter were invited to come and see, but then to come and begin a new journey of faith, to come and enter into a new relationship with God, to come and discover a new way of life, to come and start a new journey of never-ending change and transformation.

Come and see is an invitation, as the noted theologian Alexander Schmemmann puts it, "for the transformation, the deification, and the transfiguration of human life." So, this is quite the life-shattering, life-defining, life-altering invitation. It's not a simple invitation that we can push to the side and ignore. We need to make a decision which will have serious consequences in our lives.

Yet, will we come and see, and then follow where this invitation leads?

In the Orthodox Church, we read this Gospel story specifically on the first Sunday of our Great Lenten journey because Great Lent is supposed to be a season of discovery and renewal, of change and transformation. Our increased spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are supposed to open up our hearts in new ways so that we can encounter the living Christ, so that we allow the Lord to transform and deify and transfigure our lives more and more into His likeness. We are on a journey of becoming like Him!

Come and See!

BEYOND THE PEWS

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

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](mailto:news@stonebridgepress.news) — news@stonebridgepress.news

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appreciate the freedoms you have while you have them

To the Editor:

I enjoyed your Editorial in the Feb. 28 issue re: "Changing your mind about politics." Well said. As I write this on the 40th day of Trump's second time at the helm, I had been wondering if anyone else was watching and wondering what was going on in our republic — we are still able to call it that, but who knows going forward?

The rapidity of Trump's actions, dismal as they are – nomination his support group with people that have no background in their positions while terminating those who do know the jobs because he only wants "yes" people behind him.

I am not denying that there are areas in our government's finances that require or need some trimming, but wholesale slaughter of departments and staff is not the way to do it. For those that wish to look up Alfred Hugelberg (a Hitler supporter) and Candies Goode-McCoy (claimed Covid-19 tax credits of \$100 million) for then and now comparisons.

As a veteran (USAF Captain, 1961-1967), I was appalled

when Trump denigrated P.O.W. John McCain not because of his political views and actions, but "because he was captured, and I don't like people who were captured." Those words are an affront to every veteran who has served our country – but that is just our Commander in Chief showing what he really feels.

Returning to your Editorial and the gentlemen that have responded for the last three weeks, thank you for your contributions and be grateful for the opportunity to express yourselves in our magnificent country for now. The Resolute desk in the Oval Room may become kindling in the fireplace or steps leading to his throne. Remember at his second Presidential swearing in speech, when he said, "I was saved by God to make America great again..."

God save us all.

RONALD L. KOKERNAK, SR.
WEBSTER

Can Trump do any more damage?

To the Editor:

It is hard to imagine Donald Trump and his acolytes doing any more damage to this world than they already have in just six weeks.

After watching his fantasy address to Congress last week, you have to wonder what planet Trump and his oligarchy-prone Republican Party inhabit. A booming economy? That was the one he inherited from Joe Biden. Trump has rolled it downhill ever since, finally suspending his disastrous tariffs after the stock market crashed. And for all his abject pettiness blaming Joe Biden for the high price of eggs, Trump failed to mention that since he took over, those prices increased 50 percent. On Friday, eggs were selling for \$10 a dozen in New York City. Unlike Trump, most sane people understand that the price of eggs has risen not because of the person who happens to be warming the seat in the Oval Office, but because of the growing complications of bird flu, which has become even more difficult to control thanks to Trump's chaotic cuts in health, agriculture and science programs.

Another bit of phony theatrics: the United States has long been the world's largest producer of oil and gas, yet Trump somehow felt compelled to declare a national emergency on energy production. "Drill, baby drill" is a brainless solution to a problem that hasn't existed for a very long time.

In one breath, Trump railed against the power of unelected government bureaucrats. In the next, he applauded the phony achievements of Elon Musk, his unelected billionaire bankroller. With Trump's approval, Musk recklessly fired essential federal employees - among them experts who monitor nuclear weapons - then, realizing his mistake, rehired them. He announced billions in fictitious savings from cancelled government contracts, even though many of those contracts had expired years and decades before. (Of course Musk found no waste in the \$38 billion contracts that his companies hold with the federal government). In some instances, he mistakenly added a few zeroes to contracts, claiming they were worth billions when they were actually worth only millions. Then came the absurd charges of paying Social Security benefits to thousands of seniors who were supposedly several hundred years old. It fell to career Social Security administrators to explain that none of that was true - just another pathetic lie to impress a gullible television audience and give Trump yet another phony excuse to cruelly cut benefits to people who really need them.

Even Trump's storied issue of deporting undocumented aliens is all smoke and mirrors. He was supposed to house 30,000 "dangerous" aliens at Guantanamo Bay. He brought in

178, only a third of which, had charges against them, most of them minor offenses. And the 1,000 troops he brought to Cuba to oversee them? They were all sent home after he decided maybe Guantanamo wasn't such a good idea after all. Even at the southern border which has experienced huge declines in crossings since the last year of the Biden Administration, Trump pointlessly reinforced federal troops there and reopened the facilities that basically imprisoned families during his first administration.

The mindless cruelty extends as well to sectors that you might expect Trump to respect. He fired 80,000 people in the Department of Veterans Affairs, many of whom were veterans themselves, as were thousands of other employees in agencies that give veterans preferential treatment for hiring. That includes 140,000 IRS employees who were fired from the agency responsible for collecting the money that funds the government. Last week Musk listed for sale 443 federal buildings, including what very likely was the CIA Headquarters in Langley, Va., although his minions were too ignorant to realize it. Then 18 hours later they removed the entire sale list.

And if his domestic carnage isn't enough, Trump goes on to lie about the war in Ukraine, abandoning every principle of diplomatic unity, betraying allies and siding with a murderous Russian dictator: If Vladimir Putin himself were in charge of American foreign policy, he could not devise better policies than Trump's to bury Ukraine, undermine NATO and expose Europe to more Russian aggression. All of which makes you also wonder what is really going on here. The New York Times Foreign Affairs Columnist Thomas Friedman quipped that he didn't know if Trump was a Russian agent, but he certainly plays one on TV.

The most insipid part of Trump's speech, however, may have been his focus on the 13-year-old boy who survived brain cancer and clings to an ambition to become a police officer. The boy's glee was caught on camera as Trump waxed poetic about his many medical challenges and then made him an honorary Secret Service officer. But what Trump didn't tell him was that his administration had eliminated the very cancer research programs that likely helped the boy survive. Now, thanks to Trump, these advancements would be denied to him and all other afflicted children if they ever needed them again.

And with that, Vice President JD Vance and House Speaker Mike Johnson smiled smugly and applauded.

God bless America...no...God help America.

FRANK MAGIERA
DUDLEY

Samuel Slater Theater project would have been financially unfeasible

To the Editor:

Mr. Christopher Robert (owner) and Nancie Zecco-Dowgiewicz (Project Manager) would like to inform Webster residents about the reasons for terminating the Samuel Slater Theater project.

Mr. Robert stated that discussions with the Town of Webster, and Richard LaFond Town Administrator, were conducted very effectively and harmoniously, resulting in a project outline that would benefit the town. Town Administrator Richard LaFond evaluated our proposal to determine the necessary procurement requirements under Massachusetts General Laws.

Request for Proposals/Statement of Interest was advertised in the Central Register, consistent with the concept that was discussed. However, the town must seek proposals and cannot directly lease the space to a third party for such a project.

The Webster administration worked very cooperatively with us in allowing the Samuel Slater Theater project team, which included architects, engineers along with State Rep. Joseph McKenna and State Sen. Ryan Fattman to evaluate the building Auditorium as requested.

After the evaluation process, it was determined that the project would likely exceed the initial budget and be financially unfeasible. The parties worked well together to advance a project that met our interests and complied with all state and local requirements.

Mr. Robert and I extend our gratitude to the Town of Webster and Richard LaFord for their valuable input and enthusiasm regarding the vision of this project.

NANCY ZECCO
WEBSTER

Remember the Alamo!

My dad was obsessed with the Battle of the Alamo, which fell in the early morning hours of March 6, 1836—nearly 189 years ago this week.

His passion for this pivotal moment in history shaped some of my earliest memories. The first time I ever traveled on a plane was when he took me to San Antonio, Texas, just to see the Alamo.

He'd guide me through every historical marker, narrating the story with the enthusiasm of a historian. After dinner, we'd walk back to the Alamo and just stand there, staring at its walls for hours. I was only six years old, and even then, I was intrigued—less because of the battle itself and more because of how much it meant to him.

His obsession ran

deep. He owned every book ever written on the Alamo, studied every account, and took us back to San Antonio many times over the years. And if there was one night in that story that truly defined his fascination, it was the final night—the moment when the walls were breached.

For 12 long days, a small band of Texan rebels, including legendary figures like James Bowie, William B. Travis, and Davy Crockett, had held off the massive Mexican army led by General Santa Anna. Despite being vastly outnumbered—fewer than 200 men against thousands—not a single defender had fallen during the siege. But in the early hours of March 6, under the cover of darkness, the Mexican forces launched their final assault.

Wave after wave of soldiers stormed the mission, scaling ladders, battering gates, and overwhelming the defenders with sheer numbers. In less than an hour, the Alamo was overrun. Every last Texan fighter was killed, their sacrifice becoming the rallying cry of the Texas Revolution.

“Remember the Alamo!” became more than just words—it became the battle cry of those who would go on to win Texas its independence. And for my dad and so many others, the Alamo wasn't just history—it was a symbol of defiance, courage, and an unwavering stand against impossible odds.

I read one of my father's old articles that he wrote about the Alamo and he said something in that article that struck a

chord with me—something that transcends the Alamo itself.

Reflecting on the Alamo defenders, my father said, “Heroes are important. No human being today can hold up to the scrutiny we give them, but we need someone to emulate.”

Having someone to admire and emulate is important, especially when that person excels at something we aspire to do ourselves. It's natural to be drawn to greatness, to want to follow in the footsteps of those who have achieved something remarkable. But that admiration can sometimes turn into idolization, and that's where things get complicated.

I once idolized an Olympic swimmer. He

was a powerhouse in the water, someone I wanted to be like. But after getting to know him, I realized that while I respected his skill, I didn't necessarily admire his personality. And that's when it hit me—people are just people. Even those we put on pedestals.

Great people, even those with strong moral convictions, have made mistakes. And when those mistakes come to light, they can shatter the illusion we've built in our minds. The question isn't whether our heroes are perfect—they never are—but whether we can still draw inspiration from the best parts of who they were while understanding that they, too, were human.

No one is perfect, and if we expect our heroes to be, we set ourselves up for disappointment. The

truth is that greatness and imperfection exist side by side. A person can make mistakes and still leave behind something worth admiring.

Maybe we've become too harsh on our heroes, or maybe we've been too unrealistic about what it means to have role models in the first place.

Admiration doesn't require blind devotion; learning from someone's greatness doesn't mean ignoring their flaws. Because if perfection is the requirement for being worthy of admiration, we won't have any heroes left at all.

Our heroes, past and present, aren't meant to be untouchable figures. They're reminders that even flawed people can do extraordinary things. And maybe, that means we can too.

Garden longer with less muscle strain and fatigue

That first full day in the garden may find you tired, sunburned, and stiff. Whether you are a young or young-at-heart gardener, include some strategies to help extend your enjoyment and reduce fatigue and muscle strain so you can keep gardening longer each day and for years to come.

No matter your age, it's important to protect your joints when gardening. Use a kneeler pad or knee pads to protect your knees. Knee pads secured to your legs allow you to conveniently and comfortably protect your knees as you move from one garden bed to another.

If you need help kneeling, consider a garden kneeler with handles. The handles provide needed support when kneeling and standing up. The ones that can be flipped over and used as a garden bench provide double the benefit. The seating position reduces bending and helps

minimize the need to kneel.

Elevating your garden can also help. It is a great way to save space and eliminate the need to bend when planting, weeding, and harvesting. Elevated gardens and raised beds also offer a place to garden where planting space is limited or nonexistent. You'll enjoy planting and harvesting with minimal weeding needed. Just be sure to monitor soil moisture and water as needed. Use self-watering containers, add irrigation or employ water-extending products to help lengthen the time between watering.

Further expand planting options by dressing up walls, fences, and more with vertical gardens. Monitor soil moisture in wall-mounted gardens regularly as many have limited soil that dries out quickly.

Clean and sharpen your tools, including pruning equipment, digging and weeding tools.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
• • • • •
MELINDA
MYERS

This allows you to make cuts more easily and dig into the soil and weed with less effort.

Consider investing in ergonomic tools designed for comfort to help prolong your time in the garden. Select lightweight tools with non-slip comfortable grip handles aligned to keep your wrist extension straight, which helps reduce muscle strain.

Use pruners with ratcheting, compound, or Dual Link action for more cutting power with less effort. You'll be able to spend more time pruning with less muscle strain and fatigue. Consider investing in shovels with an anti-skid plate above the

blade, providing more foot support for more digging power. Or retrofit an existing shovel with a commercially available anti-skid foot plate.

Don't overlook the importance of protecting your hands as well when gardening. Quality gardening gloves provide support and protection when digging, planting, pruning, and more.

Start with some pre-season training. Every gardener knows gardening is a workout and often involves different motions and muscles than other exercises. Always warm up your muscles and do a bit of stretching before getting out in the garden.

Enlist the help of wheeled carts and wagons to move plants, mulch, soil, and other heavy loads. Don't be afraid to break heavy loads into smaller batches or ask for help. You'll spare your muscles and probably save time in the



Melinda Myers

Kneeler pads provide comfort and protection for knees

long run.

Wear a pair of safety glasses to protect your eyes and don't forget the sunscreen. Take frequent breaks and drink plenty of water.

Preseason planning and preparation can help reduce muscle strain as the garden season begins. You'll boost your enjoyment and be able to garden longer.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, includ-

ing Midwest Gardener's Handbook, Revised 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.

Meatless Meals Roundup Part II

Still searching for creative and tasty meatless meals to serve this season? Read on for a second compilation of delicious dishes - sans the meat.

And remember readers, your hints will put you in the running for a fabulous three course dinner for two at the Publick House!

**

A reader suggested this meatless favorite that is quick, easy, and a tried and true favorite during Lent.

An inexpensive recipe for Lent is frozen pierogis w/potato or cheese or fresh pierogis (some of the churches make them) with sautéed onions & mushrooms.

Jean Ciesluk

**

Mock Crabmeat and Artichoke Casserole Rich, filling and delicious, this recipe, making the rounds on the internet, is a five star favorite!

Ingredients: 8 ounces uncooked small shell pasta; 2 tablespoons



TAKE
THE
HINT
KAREN
TRAINOR

stir in 1/4 cup cheese until melted. Combine crabmeat, artichokes and pasta in a buttered two quart casserole. Add sauce mixture and stir until blended. Top with remaining 1/4 cup cheese. Bake about 40 minutes or until hot, bubbly and lightly browned.

Simple Soufflé This souffle uses canned soup as a shortcut, but it still tastes impressive

Note: If you object to canned soups, you can make homemade condensed cream of celery soup with celery, onion, flour, butter, vegetable stock, s & p. Recipes are easy to find online.

Ingredients: One (10 3/4 oz) can of condensed Cream of Celery Soup (or homemade); 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, grated; 3 eggs, separated

Directions: Mix together soup and cheese in a saucepan and heat slowly until cheese melts, stirring occasionally. In a large bowl, beat egg yolks until thick and lemon col-

ored. Slowly stir soup mixture into beaten egg yolks. In a separate bowl, and using clean beaters, beat egg whites until stiff peaks form. Fold into soup mixture. Pour into ungreased two quart casserole. Bake at 300°F for about an hour or so until the soufflé is brown. Serve immediately. Makes four to five servings.

**

Classic Mini Clam Cakes

This classic mid-century recipe can easily be doubled or tripled for hearty family servings:

Ingredients: two eggs; one half cup clam juice; one half cup milk; dash pepper; one and one half cups flour; one quarter teaspoon salt; three teaspoon baking powder; one 6.5 ounce can minced clams or equal weight of fresh, chopped clams.

Directions: Beat eggs. Add milk and clam juice. Sift flour, baking powder, salt and pepper. Add the minced clams to the sifted flour and then add enough of the liquid to make a thick, lumpy batter. Drop batter by tablespoon into 375 degree oil.

When one side is cooked, the cakes will roll over by themselves. Drain on brown paper and serve immediately with chowder.

Baked version: Drop by tablespoon on a parchment lined cookie sheet. Cook at 425 degree oven for about 20 minutes until lightly and crispy - or try the air fryer with the same temperature (time till doneness will vary)

**

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counting on you readers out there to share your best helpful hints!

**

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

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Saint Joseph School traditions: Burying the Alleluia during Lent

WEBSTER — According to the Web site loyolapress.com, the word “Lent” comes from the Old English word “lencten,” meaning “springtime” or “lengthening of days.” Some scholars suggest that Lent may also be linked to the Latin “quadragesima,” meaning “fortieth,” in reference to the forty days of fasting and preparation leading up to Easter: Lent is a sacred time of reflection, renewal, and growth in faith. Following Ash Wednesday Mass, Saint Joseph School students gathered for a special tradition: Burying the Alleluia.

Now in its second year, this tradition was led by Mrs. Susan Gallivan’s Fifth Grade students. They explained that during Lent, the Church refrains from speaking or singing “Alleluia” as a sign of solemn preparation for Easter. Just as we set aside something precious for a time to better appreciate it later, the school symbolically buries the Alleluia. Saint Joseph School Principal Mrs. Beth Boudreau presented a handcraft-

ed wooden plaque with “Alleluia” painted in vibrant colors.

After the reading of Psalm 112:1-7, a student leader proclaimed, “It’s time to say goodbye to our friend, the Alleluia, to let it rest for a while so that it will return to us at Easter full of enthusiasm to remind us again who we are: loved children of God.”

Another student recited a prayer: “Lord God, our creator, as we bury this sign of heaven’s song, help us to turn ourselves to living a good Lent. Help us to give up things that stand between us and your love and walk with Jesus on the road that leads us closer to you. We give up our Alleluia only for a while so that we may make more beautiful music in our hearts and lives when we sing it again at Easter. Amen.”

The wooden Alleluia plaque was sealed in a protective bag and placed inside a handcrafted wooden crate. Each student then took turns adding a cup of soil over the crate as a symbolic act of

Courtesy

Saint Joseph School kindergarten student Julia Mazzone empties her cup of dirt over the wooden Alleluia plaque while other students wait for their opportunity to participate in the annual tradition.

preparation.

Concluding the ceremony, the Fifth-Grade students prayed, “Lord, we have given up for a time the song of heaven so that we may prepare our hearts and minds to be ready for heaven. Help us, in Jesus, to die to selfish habits that keep us from you and to live more fully with your peace and joy. Please help us to be renewed in your Spirit as we live this Lent. Amen.”

The crate, marked with the word “Hope,” is displayed in the school’s main hallway throughout Lent. At Easter, the Alleluia will be unearthed, lilies will be planted in the crate, and the plaque will be displayed once more. This tradition helps students understand the significance of Lent and Easter in a tangible way.



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OBITUARIES

Edward J. Grady



DUDLEY – Edward J. Grady died Wednesday, March 5, 2025 in Hartford Hospital, Hartford, CT with his wife at his side after an extended illness. He leaves his loving wife of 43 years, Jane T. (Pierzchala) Grady; several nephews and nieces; 3 cousins, twins Jean Ricci and her husband Mike and Joan Maillet and her husband Brian, and Deb Gilbert and her husband Craig. He was born and raised in Northampton, the son of Austin and Margaret (Corbett) Grady. He graduated from Westfield State College and earned his Master's Degree from UMass Amherst. Mr. Grady began his career as a science teacher in the Northampton School System. He worked as the guidance counselor/school adjustment counselor at the Oxford Middle

School for many years, retiring in 2002. He taught night classes of "Powder Puff" mechanics in Oxford and owned and operated Ed's Auto Service in Dudley. He also served as an auxiliary police officer for the Town of Dudley. Ed was a devoted husband and enjoyed restoring and working on antique cars. He will be deeply missed by those who knew him. The funeral will be held on Wednesday, March 12, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 24 Dudley Hill Road. Burial will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. Visitation will be held Tuesday, March 11 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM and again Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 AM in the funeral home, prior to the Mass. Donations in his name may be made to Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 24 Dudley Hill Road, Dudley, MA 01571.

Yvonne C Lubecki, 75

DUDLEY- Yvonne C (Gadoury) Lubecki, age 75, of Dudley passed on Saturday, March 8, 2025. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Edward J Lubecki, two daughters: Theresa Lubecki and husband Scott Brodeur of Dudley. Ann Miller and her husband Edward Miller Sr. of North Adams. and one son: Edgar Lubecki and his wife Kerry Nawrocki Lubecki of Oxford. Grandchildren Justin, Payton, Samantha, Edward Jr., Shawn, Amanda, Sebastiano, Matthew, Craigan and Gavin, along with great grand children, nieces, nephews and cousins; Sisters Louise (Noella), Georgette (Dooley). Brothers Edgar (Dean) and Gerald (Jerry). Predeceased by her brothers, Prosper

(Jeep) and Peter (Pete), and sister Florence (Tina). She is the daughter of the late Edgar Gadoury and the late Yvonne (Renault) Gadoury. She has lived in Dudley her entire life. She attended St. Louis High School and graduated in 1968. She was a telephone operator before working at Guardian Glass. Yvonne was a devoted foster parent. She enjoyed taking walks with her husband and her dogs. To Yvonne family was everything. Calling hours will be Monday March 17th from 9 AM to 11 AM at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley. A graveside service will be held after calling hours at Sacred Heart Of Jesus Cemetery, Old Worcester Rd. Please visit www.bartelfuneralhome.com for condolence book.

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

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 1 Westwood Drive, Auburn, MA 01501

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by William J. Richinick to Sovereign Bank, and now held by **Santander Bank, N.A. f/k/a Sovereign Bank, N.A. f/k/a Sovereign Bank**, said mortgage dated September 28, 2011 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 47972, Page 164, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on** April 17, 2025 at 12:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: *The land in Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, being lot #3 on plan of Westwood Acres, recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 270, Plan 106, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the northwesterly corner of the lot herein described at land of owners unknown on the easterly side of Burnett Street; THENCE S. 2 degrees 18 minutes E. by said Burnett Street, eighty-nine and forty hundredths (89.40) feet to a point; THENCE by a curve to the left having a radius of 10 feet, connecting Burnett Street and Westwood Drive, fifteen and seventy-one hundredths (15.71) feet to a point on Westwood Drive; THENCE N. 87 degrees 42 minutes E. by Westwood Drive, ninety-five (95) feet to lot #4 on said plan; THENCE N. 2 degrees 18 minutes W. by said lot #4, ninety-two and eighty-one hundredths (92.81) feet to a point; THENCE N. 88 degrees 42 minutes 20 seconds W. by land of owners unknown, one hundred five and twenty-one hundredths (105.21) feet to the point of BEGINNING. Being the same premises conveyed to the grantor by deed of J.E. Murray ET UX dated October 18, 1963 and recorded at Worcester district registry of deeds, book 4414, page 1. Subject to restrictions, reservations, easements, covenants, oil, gas or mineral rights of record, if any. Being the same premises conveyed to William James Richinick from William J. Richinick by deed (subject to a life estate of William J. Richinick) dated 1/8//2003, and recorded on 9//3//2003, at book 31498, page 18, in the Worcester County, MA. Assessors Parcel Number: MAP: 3: BLK: 32 ATI order Number: 201109210604 Source of Title: Book 31498; Page: 18*

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated January 8, 2003 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 31498, Page 18.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762

Attorney for Santander Bank, N.A. f/k/a Sovereign Bank, N.A. f/k/a Sovereign Bank

Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
March 14, 2025
March 21, 2025
March 28, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROJECT: 311 Thompson Rd Lakeview Marine

LOCATION: 311 Thompson Rd PROPONENT: Lakeview Marine The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form ("ENF"), Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF) and

Proposed Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in pursuit of a Rollover EIR (REIR) to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on or before April 11th, 2025.

This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA," M.G.L. c. 30, ss. 61-62L). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from: Steven Riberdy, Goddard Consulting LLC, steven@goddardconsultingllc.com, 508-393-3784

Electronic copies of the filings are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Webster.

The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, receive public comments on the project, and then decide if an Environmental Impact Report is required. A site visit and/or remote consultation session on the project may also be scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit and/or remote consultation session, should email MEPA@mass.gov or the MEPA analyst listed in the Environmental Monitor. Requests for language translation or other accommodations should be directed to the same email address. Mail correspondence should be directed to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project.

By Lakeview Marine
March 14, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 6 Wall Street, Webster, MA 01570

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Michael Bhatty to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC, and now held by **Guild Mortgage Company LLC**, said mortgage dated June 15, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67753, Page 241, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC to Guild Mortgage Company LLC by assignment dated July 23, 2024 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 70831, Page 257; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on April 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

Closing Date: June 15, 2022 Borrower(s): Michael Bhatty Property Address: 6 Wall Street, Webster, MA 01570 A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon, on the south side of Wall Street, in Webster, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at an iron pin driven into the ground on the south line of the said Wall Street distant thirty-nine and one hundredth (39.01) feet east of the intersection of the south line of said Wall Street and the east line of Pearl Street so-called, and being the northwest corner of land herein conveyed; Thence South 73° 30' East by the southerly line of said Wall Street, a distance of forty-six and seven tenths (46.7) feet to an iron pin driven into the ground at land of Olivia Courteau and Dorothy Courteau; Thence South 14° 42' West by the land of said Courteaus, a distance of sixty seven and sixty-two (67.62) feet, to an iron pin driven into the ground at a point in a line parallel and thirty-three (33) feet distant from the base line of the former location of the Southbridge Branch of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Co: Thence westerly along a curve to the left and by a line parallel and thirty-three (33) feet distant from the former base line of said Railroad location, a distance of sixty-one (61) feet, more or less. to an iron pin driven into the ground at land of Norrey Robert Hislop and Christina R. Hislop; Thence North 18° 30' East by the land of said Hislops, a distance of one hundred one and thirty-four hundredths (101.34) feet to the point of beginning. For title reference see deed recorded herewith.

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated June 13, 2022 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 67753, Page 238.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Guild Mortgage Company LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
March 7, 2025
March 14, 2025
March 21, 2025

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket Number: 25 SM 000585 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO: Ricardo Sanchez-Perez
And to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*): PennyMac Loan Services, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 11 Progress Avenue, given by Ricardo Sanchez-Perez to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Norwich Commercial Group, Inc. D/B/A Norcom Mortgage, dated February 12, 2021, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 64452, Page 169, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before April 14, 2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on February 27, 2025.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder

March 14, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Levester L. Burrell to Mackinac Savings Bank, FSB, dated October 8, 2014 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 52901, Page 298, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on April 7, 2025, on the mortgaged premises located at 45 Mill Street, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

Parcel I
The land in said Dudley, at the junction of Mill Street and Pine Street, and described as follows:

Beginning at a spike at the intersection of the northwesterly line of said Mill Street with the southwesterly line of

said Pine Street:
THENCE S 33 degrees West one hundred twenty-four (124) feet by the northwesterly line of said Mill Street to a stake at land of the grantors; THENCE Northwesterly at right angles to said Mill Street by land of the grantors, a distance of one hundred twenty (120) feet to Lot #17
THENCE Northeasterly one hundred twenty (121) feet, more or less, by land of the grantors and being Lot #17 to a pike on the southwesterly line of said Pine Street;
THENCE Southeasterly one hundred twenty (120) feet by the southwesterly line of said Pine Street to the point of beginning.

Parcel II

The land on Pine Street, Dudley, Massachusetts as shown on Plan of Land in Dudley, Mass. Surveyed for Daniel Carmody, scale 1"= 40', June 11, 1974", Robert F. Para, Land Surveyor, Southbridge, Mass. Recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 400, Plan 46, further bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pipe on the southerly side of Pine Street at the northwest corner of tract herein described, said pipe also being one hundred forty-nine and seventy-one hundredths (149.71) feet westerly of a Worcester County Highway bound at the end of a curve on the westerly side of Mill Street.

THENCE South 58 degrees 01' 45" East along the southerly side of Pine Street a distance of sixty (60) feet to an iron pipe;
THENCE South 31 degrees 35' 15" West along land of LaParde, a distance of one hundred twenty-four and eighty-one hundredths (124.81) feet;
THENCE North 58 degrees 226' 15" West along land of LaParde a distance of sixty (60) feet;
THENCE North 31 degrees 35' 15" East along land of Joseph Wysocki, a distance of one hundred twenty-five and twenty-one hundredths (125.21) feet to the iron pipe at the point of beginning.

Together with a right of way twenty (20) feet in width, leading from Mill Street and running westerly for a distance of eighty (80) feet; the northerly six (6) feet being over land of Carmody and the southerly fourteen (14) feet being over land now or formerly of Hector and Mary LaPrade.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 52901, Page 295.

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 Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) 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.

ITHINK FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION F/K/A IBM SOUTHEAST EMPLOYEES' CREDIT UNION SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO MACKINAC SAVINGS BANK, FSB

Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
26235
March 14, 2025
March 21, 2025
March 28, 2025

For Legal Advertising Information,
Call 508-909-4127
email: legals@stonebridgepress.news

DCRSD

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tractual obligations in the process. “Your commitment to ensuring that our students and educators have the resources they need to succeed has been instrumental in shaping this year’s budget that reflects our shared priorities. With your deep understanding of the challenges before us, we have developed a balanced bud-

get that maintains fiscal responsibility with our efforts to provide high quality education for all of our students,” said Lamarche. “This year, the budget represents not just an investment in our schools, but in the future of our community. The partnership between our district, local officials, and the school committee had been invaluable. Together we are making strategic decision that will support student

achievement, enhance educational programs, and maintain the financial stability of our district.” The budget as approved on March 5 shows an increase of \$1.6 million for Charlton and \$316,394 for Dudley over the current fiscal year. The plan assumes the continuation of minimum Chapter 70 funds and that Excess & Deficiency, and School Choice and Charter Assessments remain stable and level funding for supplies and technology. Reimbursements remained in question as of the March 5 meeting. The budgets will now be sent to the towns to be incorporated into their individual spending plans as Dudley and Charlton enter their respective budget debates. The school assessments will be addressed along with the town budgets at each town’s annual town meeting which, for the second

Assessments				
	FY25	FY26	\$ Change	% Change
DCRSD	\$ 59,885,638	\$ 62,219,434	\$ 2,333,796	3.90%
Charlton (53.79%)				
Minimum	13,953,628	15,494,647	1,541,019	11.04%
Transportation	1,116,704	1,158,776	42,072	3.77%
Additional	3,148,490	3,289,061	140,571	4.46%
Subtotal Operating	18,218,822	19,942,484	1,723,662	9.46%
Capital				
Sewer Charges	25,776	25,776	-	
Shepherd Hill Field (Debt Excl)	68,904	58,639	(10,265)	
Sept. 2022 Capital (Voluntary)	-	-	-	
July 2024 Capital-Bond	272,467	230,050	(42,417)	
Subtotal Capital	367,147	314,465	(52,682)	-14.35%
Total Assessment	18,585,969	20,256,949	1,670,980	8.99%
Dudley (46.21%)				
Minimum	8,077,755	8,359,605	281,850	3.49%
Transportation	978,819	995,484	16,665	1.70%
Additional	2,759,729	2,825,571	65,842	2.39%
Subtotal Operating	11,816,303	12,180,660	364,357	3.08%
Capital				
Sewer Charges	9,224	9,224	-	
Shepherd Hill Field (Debt Excl)	64,039	64,039	-	
July 2024 Capital-Bond	351,313	303,350	(47,963)	
Subtotal Capital	424,576	376,613	(47,963)	-11.30%
Total Assessment	12,240,879	12,557,273	316,394	2.58%
Total Assessment	30,826,848	32,814,222	1,987,374	6.45%

Courtesy

The proposed FY 2026 Dudley-Charlton Regional School District budget as presented and approved on March 5.

consecutive year, will be held on the same night, May 19. A copy of the approved budget proposal has been made available as part of the March 5 School Committee meeting agenda on the district’s Web site.

OXFORD

continued from page A1

ed costs atop that. Furthermore, the state’s Student Opportunity Act also requires districts to annually increase spending while providing aid for seven years. McKenna said Oxford has seen years of shifting from state aid to local taxes. In 2008, she said, the budget was about 51 percent local tax levy, 42 percent state aid and 7 percent local receipts. This year, it’s 62.5 percent levy, 31.3 percent aid, and 7 percent local receipts – for a much higher budget.

She said towns in general are “very limited effectively by the constraints of (Proposition) 2 ½,” which “isn’t working well for most of our communities.” They have often come to rely on grants instead, and “maybe its just a broken system” all the way to the federal level, she added.

Historically, she added, the budgeting process circa 2016 “wasn’t fair to the schools,” but since then (except during Covid), the district has gotten an average of \$515,000 extra every year. Last year, there was a fight over it at Town Meeting, with the schools seeking and getting a budget hike of \$1.2 million from stabilization to cover the fact the town wasn’t giving them that amount which came in from the state’s Chapter 70 increase. McKenna said the town won’t penalize the district for winning that vote, but it did come from one-time money, and it’s made this year’s starting point for budgeting “artificially higher.”

When they got their chance to speak, both student representatives noted the cuts would hit students hard. One said athletics and activities help build student college resumes that can offset not doing that well on standardized tests; the other said the cuts would save money now, but cost the kids a lot more in college costs if they lose scholarship access.

“The only possible way the student population isn’t drastically affected is to have an override,” one said.

The committee will have its formal budget hearing on March 17, and probably vote on whether to seek an override then. The proposed budget is on the district Web site.

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

ALL SAINTS

continued from page A1

held to celebrate the exceptional achievements of these students. Sophia MacKenzie, ASA chapter president, presided over the ceremony and current All Saints Academy NJHS members read the description of each pillar and lit the pillar’s candle. The candidates for NJHS were called up to light their candle from the Candle of Knowledge. The candidates then recited the NJHS pledge and received their NJHS pin and certificate. The ceremony concluded with congratulatory and encouraging remarks from Joan Matys, ASA Head of School, and a blessing from Fr. Lucas LaRoche, Administrator of Sacred Heart of Jesus parish.

As members of the ASA National Junior Honor Society, these students will join the current members to participate in personal and ASA service projects while being role models and positive influence to the students of ASA.

Congratulations to the newest members of the All Saints Academy chapter of the National Junior Honor Society — Logan Andreotta, Olivia Brooks, Lydia Burke, Sydney Caissie-Desautels, Raegan Duquette, Kassidy Hamm, Quinn Meehan, Lucy Messenger, Gianna Monticelli, and Charlotte Wentworth.

DUDLEY

continued from page A1

spending plan.

“I will not recommend any cuts in FY25 or FY26 or propose cuts to any operational budgets to pay for remediation. The finance committee and Board of Selectmen build and approve budgets. The finance committee in turn recommends those budgets to the Town Meeting. Contrary to the recommendations of my office, Town Counsel, the finance committee and the Board of Selectmen, Town Meeting has failed to approve the proposed remediation funding twice. Unfortunately, voting ‘yes’ or ‘no’ against a plan without replacing it with an alternative plan leaves the town in a very disadvantaged situation. This is the nature of our form of government and will be considered as we proceed with

our legal discussions for the next steps. The residents of Eagle Drive shouldn’t be forgotten in all of this,” said Ruda.

The Town Administrator argued that borrowing the money would have protected the town’s financial stability while doing right but the citizens of Eagle Drive in the interest of public health and meeting their obligations in regard to PFAS. While for now the loss of the LSP has been the only consequence, Ruda feels there are more challenges on the horizon as the town faces potential repercussions from the state and tries to do right by its citizens still impacted by PFAS.

“Failing to pay for the costs has created a legal risk and failing to remediate poses a health risk to the residents of the neighborhood,” he concluded.

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. WO25P0671EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Richard M. Reddick
Date of Death: 01/12/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Brandi A. Reddick of Dudley 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:

Brandi A. Reddick of Dudley 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 04/01/2025**.

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: February 27, 2025

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

March 14, 2025

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. WO25P0475EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Louis Robert Guenther, Jr.
Date of Death: 01/21/2025

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lu Ellen Guenther-Smith of Sturbridge 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:

Lu Ellen Guenther-Smith of Sturbridge 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 04/01/2025**.

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.

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

Date: February 27, 2025

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

March 14, 2025

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Thomas R. Millett Jr** to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Nominee for America’s Wholesale Lender dated October 30, 2003, recorded at the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 32113, Page 88; said mortgage was then assigned to The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York as Trustee for the Benefit of the Certificateholders of the CWABS Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-1 by virtue of an assignment dated September 20, 2011, and recorded in Book 47920, Page 375; of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at 09:00 AM on **April 3, 2025**, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of 13 Goddard Street, Webster, MA 01570. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:

The land with the buildings thereon situated near Goddard Street in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, formerly called Oak Street, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin at the northeast corner of the premises at intersection of land of one Maciej Szczepniak, Helen M. Joslin and Itha Vinoelette now or formerly;

THENCE: Northwesterly eighty-three feet and three inches by and to land of said Vinoelette now or formerly of a drill hole in a rock;

THENCE: Southwesterly by land of Vinoelette sixty feet to drill hole in a rock at land now or formerly of Johanna R McGlynn;

THENCE: Southeasterly by land of said McGlynn eighty-one feet to an iron pin at the southwest corner of the said land of Helen M. Joslin and at the southeast corner of the premises;

THENCE: Northeasterly by land of the said Helen M. Joslin sixty feet to the point of beginning.

The distances herein given are approximate only.

Also a certain tract of parcel of land situated on the westerly side of Goddard Street, formerly called Oak Street in said Webster, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pin at the northeast corner of the premises on said Goddard Street, formerly called Oak

Street, at land now or formerly of Jaciej Szczepniak;

THENCE: Northwesterly by land of said Szczepniak one hundred feet to an iron pin at land now or formerly of A. Waldo and Antoinette L. Joslin;

THENCE: Southwesterly by land of said Joslins’ sixty feet to an iron pin at the southwest corner of the premises and at land of said McGlynn;

THENCE: Southeasterly by land of said McGlynn one hundred feet to an iron pin at said Goddard Street;

THENCE: by said Goddard Street northeasterly sixty feet to the point of beginning.

The distances herein are approximate only.

For title reference see Deed dated December 4, 2001 and recorded Book 25421, Page 367

Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements, rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.

Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier’s or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier’s or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC (“DG&L”), time being of the essence. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Dated: February 19, 2025 The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York as Trustee for the Benefit of the Certificateholders of the CWABS Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-1 By its Attorney DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 303C, Beverly, MA 01915 (978) 921-2670 www.dgandl.com 57780 (MILLETT JR) March 14, 2025 March 21, 2025 March 28, 2025

Dehydrating gives “DIY convenience”



Lanette Lepper holds up one of her sample jars, with several others in the background.

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – With higher winds and more unpredictable weather, we’ve been seeing more power outages in recent years. Sometimes they’re brief, sometimes they last days.

Of course, the latter is a problem when you have food in the fridge.

But if it’s dehydrated, it’s “shelf stable,” local farmer Lanette Lepper told a small group at Dudley library last weekend. “If the power goes out, it doesn’t matter.”

Lepper, of the Dudley Agricultural Commission and

Grange, has been dehydrating food “probably 15 years,” since before she even started growing her own food.

But human beings have been doing it, in one form or another, for at least 1000 times that long.

She notes “everyone’s going to have different reasons for doing it.” Among them are “you’re overrun with zucchinis” in summer and don’t want to buy in winter, or you want to send loved ones their favorite recipe, or you want lightweight and space-saving food for camping, or you have stuff that’s stale or just about to go bad and don’t want to waste it. The list is pretty long.

boiling in a large pot and being very careful to make sure the cans seal to avoid botulism. Dehydration doesn’t have that risk, although if you don’t make sure it’s truly dry, you might see it mold in storage. (That said, though, Lepper notes “Some things just need to be canned.”)

One commonly canned thing – tomato sauce – is also ideal for dehydrating. Lepper showed her audience it in two forms – a jar of powder and a crinkly sheet that looked like a fruit rollup (which it essentially was). Both of them will reconstitute into sauce by simply adding water, and you can



Lanette Lepper and Maureen Doyle look over one version of a dehydrator.

do the same thing with apple sauce and many other things.

She said dehydrating provides a lot of “DIY convenience,” giving her a lot of ingredients to throw in soup, often with more nutrients than stuff that’s “fresh” at the supermarket (especially in winter). Beyond that, it’s preparation for the unexpected; “It’s good way to have things on hand when you don’t know if you can get them,” Lepper said.

“Almost anything” can be dehydrated, “but there are a few things I don’t recommend,” she said. One of the latter is meat – very lean meat is OK, but fats will spoil (true also of fatty plant products like avocados; she urged just freezing them).

Historically, meats and fish were typically cured with salt and/or various spices and dried either in the sun or smoked in a dry, hot place. According to the online essay “Historical Methods of Food Preservation” by Brian Nummer, “Evidence shows that Middle East and oriental cultures actively dried foods as early as 12,000 B.C. in the hot sun.” (Chances are it was actually far older than that.) He also notes, “In the Middle Ages purposely built ‘still houses’ were created to dry fruits, vegetables and herbs in areas that did not have enough strong sunlight for drying. A fire was used to create the heat needed to dry foods and in some cases smoking them as well.”

His essay is at <https://nchfp.uga.edu/resources/entry/historical-origins-of-food-preservation>. Lepper noted there are many online resources for curing meat, something she doesn’t do.

Lepper said she typically starts by chopping, slicing or shredding the fruit or vegetables, and frozen veggies will dehydrate quite well. Apples and pears are “easy-peasy,” – and apples are one of her family’s favorites; “They hardly ever make it to a storage bag, they’re so good.” Also easy are peas, tomatoes, peaches, strawberries, nectarines and cherries. Some, like cherries and cherry tomatoes,

need to be cut in half first, with the cut side up to retain the nutrients; full size tomatoes get sliced (as do most others).

Lepper is not fond of dehydrated blueberries; she’ll freeze them instead, and notes you can’t get banana chips from dehydrating because they’re actually fried in oil. Carrots, celery, broccoli and many other things dehydrate easily, but onions, hot peppers, and garlic will “stink up your house,” so she recommends doing them outdoors.

She also noted potatoes “are one of the types of vegetables you have to blanch before dehydrating” or they’ll turn black. They’re still edible, but not very appealing; blanching is simply boiling them for a few minutes before slicing them. She recommends running them under cool water before sticking them in the dehydrator.

Most herbs don’t need a dehydrator; just hang them in a dry, dark place. But you need to harvest them before they go to flower to collect the most essential oils and nutrients. If doing them in a dehydrator, they need a temperature of 95 degrees “so it doesn’t ruin the essential oils,” she said.

Other things need the following: vegetables, 125 degrees, fruit, 135 degrees, and 160 degrees for meat jerky (because it has to cook, too). Some ovens can get that low, but most can’t. Most dehydrators have thermostats, but she notes they’re “helpful but not necessary.” Timers are useful, but also unnecessary; the key is simply to check on the drying process occasionally.

“If you have any doubt, leave it in an extra hour or two, but don’t leave it in overnight,” she added. Things are dry if they pass the “snap, crackle, pop” test – they break easily when folded, for example.

One useful tool is a portable vacuum-sealer for cans; they’re available online and in some stores. You can reuse cans of various kinds (with or without vacuum seals) for storage, unlike in canning.

Lepper said a basic startup costs \$50-\$60, her dehydrator cost about \$300, and commercial varieties can cost thousands.

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

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Help Wanted

The Spencer Housing Authority has an opening for a Full-Time Administrative Assistant

The Spencer Housing Authority is seeking a qualified full-time Administrative Assistant to assist with a variety of tasks including, but not limited to, processing applications, maintaining waitlists, calculating rent determinations, and general reception duties including answering phones, entering work orders, filing and assisting the public. This is a full time (40 hours) benefited position. Retirement is through the Worcester County Retirement Office. Successful candidates must have excellent written and verbal communication skills and be proficient in computer skills. Working knowledge of EOHLC, CHAMP, or PHA-Net software. The selected applicant must be able to pass a criminal background check (CORI). The full job description can be found on the SHA website. Pay: \$20.00 per hour

Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to:

Spencer Housing Authority 13 McDonald Street Spencer, MA 01562 Attn: Kimberly Hurlbrink

You may also email cover letter and resumes to Kimberly Hurlbrink: kim.hurlbrink@spencerhousing.org

Resumes will be accepted until 2:00PM on March 21, 2025

Spencer Housing Authority is an equal Opportunity Employer.

Local students named to Holy Cross Dean’s List

WORCESTER — More than 1,700 students were named to the College of the Holy Cross’ Dean’s List for outstanding academic achievement during the Fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year. The following local students made the list: Lily-Ann C’Miel of Auburn, class of 2027 Nora Foley of Auburn, class of 2027 Claudia Oliver of Auburn, class of 2025 Sabrina Tang of Auburn, class of 2025 Caroline Villa of Auburn, class of 2027 Maxine Adu-Boahen Jones of Webster, class of 2027 Samuel Lavallee of Oxford, class of 2026 To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

About Holy Cross

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester is among the nation’s leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.



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\$469,000

* June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan* Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * Bryan Pelletier

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\$1,300,000

Featured New Listing!!


WEBSTER - 25 SLATER ST



ON DEPOSIT

Location! Location! This Oversized & Well Maintained 2 Family offers 2,472 sq Total! Apt 1 ->1st Floor Unit ->has 1,052 sq ft, 3 BRs & 1 Bath! Apt 2 ->2nd & 3rd Floor Unit has 2 levels ->1,420 sq ft, 5 BRs, 2 Baths. Corner lot w/30 acre, 22'x22' Two Car Garage! 12'x16' Concrete Patio. Apartments fully occupied. PLEASE DO NOT TRESPASS onto the Property.

\$559,900




ON DEPOSIT

WEBSTER - 22 COOPER RD.

New Construction! 2nd of 4 Homes to be built! Imagine Yourself in a New Craftsman Style home - Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Near Webster Lake w/Access to Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 4 BRs., 2-1/2 Baths! Walkout slider from Basement. 2 Car Garage!

\$649,900

OXFORD - 25 SUTTON AVENUE




ON DEPOSIT

Location ~ Location! Move-in ready Commercial Office &/or Retail Space ! Ideal for >>> Small Businesses, Companies looking to expand, Banks, Medical facilities etc...2 Level Free Standing Building on a Corner Lot - Located in an Active area of Restaurants & Retail 1 Minute to Rt 395 & Rt 20...Zoned GB 10 units - .71 Acre - 26 Parking Spots

\$1,150,000


STURBRIDGE - 66 WESTWOOD DR

1640' FRONTAGE - 11.61 ACRES! WATERFRONT LAND



1640' direct waterfront on Cedar Lake! Secluded 11.61 Acres - Pristine, Undeveloped, Private & Serene! Potential for up to 5 house lots! 119' road-front w/Gravel Drive Access to Land & Lake! 183 ac+- Cedar Lake is full recreational - A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity!

\$899,000



SORRY, SOLD !

WEBSTER - 38 COLONIAL RD. LAKE RESIDENTIAL

Webster Lake Area! Investors take notice! Charming Ranch with possible extra buildable lot! Home has 2 bedrooms, 1 Bath. 1 Car Garage. Recent Furnace and Ductless Mini-Split System. Vinyl Siding, Replacement Windows. 100CB. Interior needs updating*

\$399,900

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Featured Listing!!



Webster Lake Waterfront- 88 Union Point

Excellent opportunity! Natural Western Facing Shoreline- Beautiful Sunsets - Views of Middle to North Pond! 7,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Waterfront Lot! Utilize this one Bedroom Winterized cottage while making plans to construct your dream home! Or just live in, as is! Fireplaced living room 11'2" X 30' one car garage. Beautiful Pine trees at the water's edge! - **\$660,000**

Featured New Listing!

Webster Lake Waterfront Lots

Bates Point Rd

In Beautiful, Calm, *Winter Cove*

Lot# 1004R Natural Level Shore Line 5000+/- Sq Ft **\$350,000**

Lot# 1005R Natural Level Shore line 7800 +/- Sq Ft **\$380,000**




Webster Lake Waterfront


44 West Point Rd

1st Time Offered!! On Killdeer Island! Beautiful Waterfront Property. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, custom kitchen, Indoor/Outdoor Fireplace! Entertainers Dream! Beautiful Sunsets! Large Garage

SORRY, SOLD \$1,270,000



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*Open Floor Plan
*Hardwood Floors
*Enclosed Porch

54 Hill St. \$385,000

OXFORD - 3 Units on 2.2 Acres



*2 (1 bedroom) units
*1 (2 bedroom unit)
*Great Commuter location- near all major routes
* Inventory Opportunity

65 Charlton St. \$395,000

CHARLTON - NEW CONSTRUCTION - 6 ACRES



12 Elliot Drive located in Glenview Estates \$675,000

*Hardwood floors throughout
*3.5 Baths
*Gas Fireplace
* Cathedral Ceilings Living Room
*cabinet packed Kitchen w/ center island seating 6
*Finished lower level family room



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Local correctional officers promoted in rank



Sgt. James Mullin (left) and Sheriff Lew Evangelidis (right).



Sgt. Anthony Bonneville (left) with Evangelidis.

Courtesy



Sgt. Bryan Almstrom (left) with Evangelidis.



Sgt. David Goyette (left) with Evangelidis.



Sgt. Michael Dean (left) with Evangelidis.



Sgt. Scott Bowory (left) with Evangelidis.



Sgt. Shayne Samia (left) with Evangelidis.

WEST BOYLSTON — Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is pleased to announce the recent round of sergeant promotions at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office. These new sergeants will assume greater responsibilities at the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction. Among those promoted from the rank of officer to sergeant are James Mullin of Auburn; Bryan Almstrom, Michael Dean, and Shayne Samia of Oxford; David Goyette and Scott Bowory of Dudley; and Anthony Bonneville of Webster.

As sergeants, these individuals will be responsible for commanding and supervising the officers and staff under their charge. They will also oversee the care, custody, and control of inmate activities, ensuring the safety of both staff and inmates.

"Promotions at the Worcester County Sheriff's Office are awarded to individuals who demonstrate exceptional merit, a strong work ethic, and unwavering dedication to their duties," stated Evangelidis. "This group has shown themselves to be leaders during their time with the sheriff's office. I look forward to seeing these sergeants take on their new roles, mentor newer staff, and fulfill the sheriff's office mission for the residents of Worcester County."

The Worcester County Jail and House of Correction is responsible for pre-trial detainees and inmates sentenced to two and a half years or less. The facility can accommodate over 1,000 inmates and is in West Boylston. Additionally, the sheriff's office operates community centers in Fitchburg, Worcester, and Webster.

To learn more about the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and how to become a Correctional Officer, please visit www.WorcesterCountySheriff.com.

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