

Rob Bouchard raises more than \$500 for Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley's After-School program

WEBSTER — On Sunday, Sept. 22, the Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley board member Rob Bouchard brought the community together for an evening of live music at Point Breeze in Webster. From 5 to 7 p.m., attendees enjoyed Bouchard's performance, with all proceeds directly benefiting the club's after-school program, which serves children ages five to 13.

Thanks to the generosity of those in attendance, over \$500 was raised to support the essential programs, which provides a safe, engaging, and educational environment for children in the Webster-Dudley area.

"We are incredibly grateful for Rob's dedication and passion for our mission," said Liz Hamilton, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Webster-



Dudley. "The funds raised will help us continue to offer enriching activities and support for the children in our community."

The Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley provides a safe space for children to grow and thrive with programs focusing on academic support, the arts, sports, and social development. Our Mission is to help youth, especially those who need us most, develop the qualities needed to become responsible citizens and community leaders, through caring professional staff who forge relationships with our youth members and influence their ability to succeed in life.

For more information about the Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley and how to support their programs, please visit www.bgcwebsterdudley.org.

Ruda receives high marks in annual review

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Dudley Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda received high marks during his annual review with the five-member Board of Selectmen revealing their grades for different categories within the administrator's job expectations during a meeting on Sept. 23.

Ruda's performance was graded on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being unsatisfactory and 4 being the highest grade of exceed expectations. Ruda received a 3, denoting meets expectations, or a 4 from every selectman on each metric within the 15-page document grading his communication, work ethic, leadership skills, and how well he has met the expectations set by the Board of Selectmen over the last year.

Ruda's cumulative average score was a 3.7 meaning his performance fell between meets and exceeds expectations. His lowest scores came in the expectations of attending training to stay fully informed of state and federal laws. Ruda received grades of 3 from four of the five selected and one 4, with the board suggesting that Ruda be more upfront with voluntarily taking trainings. Selectmen did acknowledge however that Ruda's availability for training may be limited due to his other responsibilities.

Ruda's highest marks came in categories involving his reliability, communication, and the performance of his duties when keeping the town up to date and in good standing with the state. Selectman Kerry Cyganiewicz explained how Ruda's ability to communicate with the public has been a strong asset for the town.

"I think one of Mr. Ruda's strengths is the written word. If you've ever read something that he's

Turn To **RUDA** page **A10**

Free admission for educators at Samuel Slater Experience during October

WEBSTER — Massachusetts educators are invited to visit the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster with no admission charge during the month October.

The history museum opened in 2022 to tell the story of Samuel Slater and his impact on the American Industrial Revolution. It explores technological innovation, the realities of child labor, mill communities, education, immigration, and industrialization as colonial life moved from the farms to towns.

The museum uses multimedia technology with immersive video and interactive exhibits to create a unique experience that is both educational and entertaining.

Turn To **SLATER** page **A10**

Dudley awarded \$496,650 PARC grant to rebuild playground at Municipal Complex

DUDLEY — The project titled "the Richard Carmignani Sr. Park" has been selected by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) to receive up to \$496,650 in state Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant assistance.

"I'm happy that we will now have the funding to replace our municipal playground with a modern, safe and hopefully fun venue for our kids," Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said. "Many dedicated peo-

ple were involved in the process of successfully securing this highly competitive grant. My sincere gratitude goes out to them and to our residents for their patience while we did the work necessary to secure this funding. It will be exciting to watch how the build begins to take shape."

The park, known locally as the Fun Zone located at the Dudley Municipal Complex, was closed early in the COVID-19 pandemic. When it reopened, visible damage, such as a broken equipment and deteriorating surface materials, as well as ADA

compliance deficiencies, caused its permanent closure.

Residents' call to reopen the playground in 2022 spurred a one-year fundraiser by the Dudley Woman's Club to help move along a renovation that would meet today's safety, accessibility and adaptability standards. The generosity of local businesses and residents aided the town in launching the project and will contribute to funding the new equipment.

Radner Design & Assoc. prepared the playground design and selected its new equipment after

meeting with 60 or so children of all ages during a Board of Selectmen meeting in April.

The project design includes an active recreation playscape with ten unique areas of play and a pathway with interpretive signage, boulders for climbing, hammocks, splash pad and an elevated lookout platform.

With the completed design in hand, the town worked with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to submit its PARC grant application

Turn To **GRANT** page **A10**



Courtesy

AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1964 REUNITES

The class of 1964 celebrated its 60th Class Reunion on Sept. 14 at The Manor in West Boylston. There were 36 classmates who attended, some with spouses. There are 51 confirmed deceased classmates. Our Class Advisor Mr. Donald Labrie was able to attend. A great time was had by all who were able to attend. The class graduated 202. This was the first year of the Baby Boomers and this was the largest class to go through Auburn Schools up to this point.

Bay Path nursing student and a story of dedication and compassion



Flory Muleka with Coco.

CHARLTON — As Autumn begins, the story of Flory Muleka needs to be heard or read. Muleka of Worcester is from DR Congo. As a practical nursing student on his sixth week of rigorous education and training at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, he is not letting anything deter him. He is plowing through all obstacles, nonetheless.

Proof is his approach to his practical nursing education at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. He was nominated as a student representative for the Class of 2025 and was humbled by his classmates' trust. Alas, two other female nominees won! He remains joyful. He is eager and excited to participate in other activities. He will not let gender nor the remnants of COVID disrupt

his nursing journey.

According to Muleka, "I know I will make it."

He has a learning strategy he adapted from his primary and secondary education in Congo. He has quickly learned to readjust his learning style and study techniques. Because of his previous experience at Quinsigamond Community College in 2020 for his nursing journey, he is more determined. To date, Muleka has received a few grades of "A" for examinations he well prepared for. The Practical Nursing Cohort of 2025 at Bay Path is the first to utilize ExamSoft. The questions go beyond the multiple choice and multiple response forms (in the nursing world, the dreaded select all that apply). Muleka is mastering the concepts! He completed Dementia Care training and obtained his certificate in Mental Health First Aid.

A gentle, caring new-lywed and soon to be a father, he recently shared a note and photo he holds dear to his heart.

"I was granted permission to share both the photo and the note," stated Muleka.

The handwritten note reads, "Flory, thank you for your exceptional care and kindness. Your dedication and compassion have meant the world to me. Daily you put a smile on my face and helped me through my time / moments in life. I am forever grateful and truly appreciate knowing you. You will make an incredible nurse. Love, Coco 2024."

Muleka's objective was to obtain a position at an agency where he can utilize his skills and experiences to make a positive impact. He completed his High School education at the Complex Scolaire la Borne (DR Congo, 2014) where he was a captain of the Soccer Team, led

a school choir (up to thirty young boys & girls), and concentrated on biochemistry. His initial experience as a Patient Care Assistant (PCA) at the Maman Yembo Hospital (DR Congo, 2014-2016) led him to other opportunities as both PCA and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Albany Medical Center (Albany, N.Y., 2017), Worcester Rehabilitation Healthcare Center (Worcester, 2019), Direct Support Professional at Becket Family Center (Leicester, 2020), and UMass Memorial Center (Worcester). He also has experience as a freelance preacher and motivational speaker (since 2014). He participated in the first ever accepted students' night and enjoyed the art therapy. He anticipates graduating with his class in June 2025 and is grateful for all the learning opportunities at Bay Path.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Separate with an instrument
- 5. State clearly
- 11. One-time MLB speedster Gordon
- 14. Broad in scope
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Caps
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Checked
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Having an extreme greed for wealth
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. We all have one
- 35. Lake north of the Kalahari
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. Aging persons
- 41. Small amount
- 42. Mother of Perseus
- 44. Ornamental waist box
- 45. Officials
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Extensive, treeless plains
- 55. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 56. Consumer advocate Ralph
- 60. Notable Spanish sports club
- 61. Body part
- 62. One's responsiveness
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught
- 66. Muslim ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually disappeared
- 69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brushed
- 2. Water sprite
- 3. Ones to look up to
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. We all have one
- 6. Marine invertebrate
- 7. One who institutes a legal proceeding
- 8. Outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Uncomfortable feelings
- 11. Cross to form an X
- 12. Remove
- 13. Some pages are dog-___
- 18. Capital of Ukraine
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Eighth month (abbr.)
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Acids structurally related to amino acids
- 30. Rider of Rohan in Tolkien
- 31. Wet dirt
- 32. Russian city
- 33. Observed
- 36. Irate
- 37. Travelers need them
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. Form of "to be"
- 45. Women
- 47. Inspire with love
- 48. Think Japanese ankle sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The lead dancer: ___ ballerina
- 53. Protein involved in motion
- 54. Rosalind Franklin biographer
- 57. Popular 1920s style art ___
- 58. ___ Bylton, children's author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Country Bank recognized by Boston Business Journal for charitable giving

WARE — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to announce that The Boston Business Journal has once again named Country Bank an honoree in its annual 2024 Corporate Citizenship Awards, recognizing the

region's top corporate charitable contributors. The Business Journal annually publishes this list to highlight companies that promote and prioritize giving back to their communities.

"It is with honor that we present our list of the Top Charitable Contributors in Massachusetts — companies who gave \$100,000 or more to Mass.-based charities in 2023. Collectively, they gave \$362 million in cash contributions — a true example of the business community coming together to help those in need. We are proud to celebrate these organizations who give both money and time to make our communities a stronger and better place for all," said Boston Business Journal Market President and Publisher Carolyn Jones.

During this year's celebration on Sept. 5, 96 companies qualified for the distinction by reporting at least \$100,000 in cash contributions to Massachusetts-based charities last year, as noted above. This year's honorees include companies from such industry sectors as financial and professional services, health care, technology, retail, and professional sports.

Country Bank, ranked 51st, employs 220 staff members within Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties. The Bank's team of Difference Makers actively promote the Bank's mission of making a difference in their communities by volunteering for various non-profits throughout the year.

"We are honored to be recognized by the Boston Business Journal for Country Bank's philanthropic efforts. As a community bank, it is our mission to help make a difference in the lives of others," stated Mary McGovern, President and CEO at Country Bank.

TOWN OF POMFRET
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The Town of Pomfret seeks to hire a PT Finance Manager/Treasurer responsible for the management of Town funds as required by CT General Statutes. Responsibilities to include receipt and deposit of town funds, reconciliation of accounts, investment of town monies, preparation of audit requirements and work with auditors during annual audits, perform any and all duties as may be required with this position and as required under CT General Statutes. Must work in cooperation with municipal officials and provide financial reports as needed. Must be able to work independently.

Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field or five years of related experience in accounting/bookkeeping, preferably in a municipal office. Efficient knowledge of Microsoft Office including Excel and Word and accounting softwares. This is a part-time position of up to 22 hours per week with some flexibility dependent upon varying workload throughout the year. Salary dependent upon qualifications and experience. Interested persons should forward resume/application and three references to the Selectman's Office, 5 Haven Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259. Application and full job description is available at www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office. Position is open until filled. EEO/AA

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Easement vote veers into housing

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHBRIDGE — Doing projects today sometimes reveals things weren't done right years ago.

That's what happened last Monday, when the Council approved drainage easements for the East Main Street project.

"They exist. We're already using them. It's a formality as part of construction; we have to get permanent drainage easements for these," explained Economic Development Director Peg Dean. "... Sometimes, legacy infrastructure wasn't properly documented."

Her words were in response to Councilor Joe Daou raising concerns that these easements were not on public record. To him, that was a "trick" to have the town do work for a private landowner.

His peers, however, sided with Dean, with Chair Scott Lazo noting it is on American Optical property "but it's our easement." Having it will enable the town to go in an fix it later if problems develop, and he said he thinks "half this town doesn't have easements on the drainage we have."

Manager Jack Jovan said he didn't know "why it wasn't done in the past," but the need to do it came up now as part of the project's title searches.

Dean said this project only has a few temporary or permanent easements (these ones are permanent). By contrast, the downtown TIP project has around 80.

Subsequently, Daou also objected to the council attributing \$700,000 of the road work as an "in-kind" benefit to the AO's 40/50 Optical Drive apartment project, which plans to use this letter to seek state and/or federal aid. As Mike Montigny noted, the town is spending that money on road work anyway, not actually giving it to the AO project.

"We're not doing any other improvement on [AO] property" besides the easements, Jovan added.

Jasmin Rivas agreed, saying the roadwork will benefit other citizens beyond any living in those apartments, including

those using the Common. "Improvements to this property are going to benefit people in that area," she said, noting several parts of town need similar work. But no money is going to the AO project.

Despite that, Daou argued it was "not right for our citizens and our residents." He said the state and federal funds going to the AO project is also "our money." To him, having more apartments means needing "more police, more fire department. I think we're doing something wrong here. We're not seeing the future. Enough trying to sell the people bull****."

"I don't think the town can fit any more residents," he later added.

That sparked some later comments about housing in general, with Rivas noting there's a "housing shortage nationwide" and a "growing unsheltered population." With the recently-approved statewide housing bill "some of these things are going to be out of our control. I agree we need more business, but we can do both things at the same time. We can walk and chew gum," she said.

John Daniel noted Southbridgians "are having a hard time finding a place to live." To him,

"ethically and morally, it's the right thing to do to find housing for people who need it" because they're already coming and staying here.

"It's not the light at the end of the tunnel. It's the train coming the other way at us," he said.

Daou said he didn't want to see developers take public money, then sell the project and "take the money elsewhere."

He claimed, "Southbridge is advertised for 'Come live in Southbridge and live for free.'"

Steve Kelly said he agreed with Daou about giving public funds to private

projects, but also supports the roadwork. He said he wouldn't support AO if they came to the town seeking a grant supporting housing there, on the grounds he feels it's not needed, but with this letter "we're not appropriating any funds for their particular project."

Later, he noted housing is a "very complicated" national issue. In our area, he said, one factor is that nearby towns' zoning "dissuade[s] anybody from building any type of multi-family housing," and he'd like to see legislation "level the playing field." Although "supply and demand" largely determine housing, Kelly said "nobody's building today," and the town won't fix that. To him, the council needs to focus on economic development, not housing.

Montigny agreed, saying he doesn't "support this project at any level." He argued people should be using private funds to rehab existing homes not build more, and sees no business benefit to the AO apartment project.

By contrast, the council had earlier supported a \$37,380 CDBG commercial rehab grant for 44 Hamilton St. There, Pablo Santiago is planning to renovate the building into offices for the Vocero Hispano newspaper plus some community meeting space. He noted the paper has about four part-time staff on site, with most work being done remotely.

He had been approved for such a grant a couple years ago, but other issues caused it to fall through.

United Way launches 2024 campaign, awards \$440,000 in grants

SOUTHBRIDGE — The United Way of South Central MA (UWSCM) is pleased to announce the awarding of \$440,000 in grants to 25 local agencies serving the region. These grants will support critical programs addressing a wide range of community needs, including food insecurity, homelessness, mental health, and education.

"We are proud to continue our commitment to supporting the vital work of these local partner agencies," said Mary O'Coin, Executive Director of UWSCM. "Their dedication to improving the lives of individuals and families in our community is truly inspiring."

The 25 grant recipients include: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central MA MetroWest

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Catholic Charities Worcester County
Center of Hope Foundation, Inc.
Community Legal Aid, Inc.
Friends of St. Luke's, Inc.
Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library
Girl Scouts of Central and Western MA
Guild of St. Agnes of Worcester, INC.
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L.U.K. Crisis Center, Inc.
Literacy Volunteers of South Central MA
MASS 2-1-1
Old Sturbridge Village Museum
Open Sky Community Services, Inc.
Our Bright Future, Inc.
Pathways for Change, Inc.
Reconciliation House, Inc
Southbridge Food Share

The Transformation Center
Tri-Valley Inc.
Worcester Community Action Council, Inc.
YMCA of Central MA - Tri-Community Family Branch

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$685,000, 10-1/2 Bridle Path, Mcgovern Rt, and Rapoza, Jennifer L, to Nguyen, Tam, and Nguyen, Julia.

\$456,300, 18 Bryn Mawr Ave, Thapa, Shailesh, and Thapa, Meloney S, to Opendoor Property J LLC.

\$455,000, 9 Homestead Ave, King RET, and King, Richard F, to Gonzalez, Fanny, and Santander, German.

\$420,900, 2 South Ter, Minasian, Mark P, to Miller, James, and Skog, Dannie.

\$385,000, 9 Brook Rd, Foley, Robert J, and Foley, Caroline M, to Markvenas, Andrew.

\$248,000, 44 Federal Hill Rd #44, Zelman, Eric, to Martinek, John P, and Mercon, Amber L.

\$165,000, 442 Leicester St, Laplante Roland A Est, and Wharton, Kelly, to Ozdemir, Muhammet.

DUDLEY

\$700,000, 63 Brandon Rd, Larochele Rt-2016, and Larochele, Barbara, to Sunway Properties LLC.

OXFORD

None

WEBSTER

\$975,000, 25 Bates Grove Rd, Asam, Herman, and Asam, Douglas J, to Faiola, Marco A, and Faiola, Daniele M.

\$700,000, 42 Bates Point Rd, Morse, Avy M, and Exchange Authority Llp Tr, to Anger, Ronald.

\$400,000, 126 N Main St, Marcoux, Daniel M, to Mj Meadow Shore LLC.

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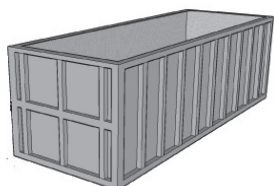
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Gentle Yoga
Mondays in October
10:00-11:00 AM
Join our new yoga instructor Patricia, for a traditional "on the mat" yoga class with chair yoga modifications. This truly is a one size fits all class. Patricia will be there to help with all your needs. Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class. Registration is Required.

Movies @ The Pearle!
Tuesdays in October at 1:00
October 1: The Bikeriders
October 8: Horizon: An American Saga
October 15: What You Wish For
October 22: Sweet Dreams
October 29: Back To Black

Mahjong at the Pearle
Wednesdays in October
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 welcome, registration not required.

Picking Parlor Jam
a "mostly" Bluegrass Focused Jam Session
Saturday, October 12
10:00-12:00 in the Fels Community Room
This is an unplugged acoustic jam. All talent levels welcome...beginners on up! Don't want to play? No problem, listeners are welcome too!

Once Upon A Crime Book Club
Murder in Connecticut by: Michael Benson
Friday, October 4
11:00-12:00
Adult Reading Area
Do you have a passion for true crime and examining the details of each case? This book club is for you! The "Once Upon A Crime Book Club" meets the first Friday of every month in the adult reading area.

All books will be pre-ordered and available for pick up at the circulation desk.

Pumpkin Etching with Lisa
Saturday, October 5,
10:00-12:00

Learn how to pumpkin etch with Lisa Kretchman. She will help you create a raven masterpiece!

Lisa will provide step-by-step instructions and all the tools to create this fun design! All you need to bring is a pumpkin that is at least 14" tall and deliver it to the library by 9/28.

Lisa will apply the design stencil so you can hit the ground running on October 5th. Must be 12+ to participate (no exceptions, it's a safety issue)

Space is limited, registration required.

Crafternoons With Lena Yarn Pumpkins
Wednesday, October 9
2:00-3:00

Spend the afternoon with our experienced and enthusiastic instructor, Lena. You'll leave with a one-of-a-kind creation to enjoy!

Registration is required.

Fall Office Hours with Senator Fattman's Staff and State Representative John Marsi
Wednesday, October 16
10:30-11:30

Meet with District Director Amanda Hellyar and John Marsi to seek guidance on issues related to a state agency, find out about upcoming events, and learn more about legislative affairs on Beacon Hill.

Crawford Library Book Group
Thursday, October 24
6:00-7:30

Book: THE WITCHES: SALEM, 1692
Author: Stacy Schiff

Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion. No registration required.

Quilting Group
Wednesdays @ 1:30

All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

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, enjoy the company!

Dungeons & Dragons Game

Thursdays, 6:00-7:30
Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama?

Come play the world's number one role playing game.

This program geared towards kid and teens that are looking to learn more about playing and some short adventures!

Town of Dudley Halloween Spooktacular
Thursday, Oct 24
4:00-6:00

Town of Dudley Halloween Spooktacular Spooky Parade starts at 4pm at the Library! Children gather at the Library in costume and march up Brandon Rd. to the Town Hall. Do not worry, the parade will be Police escorted for safety.

There will be a haunted bouncy house, fire safety house, games, hot dogs and even a fit pit for s'mores!

You will not want to miss out of the costume contest. It is easy; just upload your photo to the library Facebook page, library Instagram account: @thedudleypearle, or email to pearle@cwmar.org. There will be costume prizes for Scariest, Funniest, Most Unique, DIY & Family Costumes.

Guest Reader Storytime- Halloween Storytime with Jubilee
Monday, Oct 28
6:00

Join us for a special Halloween story and craft that will get you in the mood for the upcoming holiday! Attendees are welcome to wear their costumes!

Graphic Novel Book Club
Thursday, October 10
6:00-6:45

Do you love graphic novels? Join us for Graphic Novel Book Club! 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.

Registration not required. This is not a drop off program.

Pokemon Club
Thursday, October 17
6:00-6:45

Do you love everything Pokemon? Join us for Pokemon club! Each month we will have exciting crafts and activities! Best for ages 6 and up.

Registration not required. This is not a drop off program.

Open Baby Play
Fridays in September
10:00-10:45

Open play for babies! Parents and caregivers can let babies play while getting to know others in the community! No Registration Required

Spooky Bones & Creepy Crawlies
Saturday, October 26
11:00

What better way to combine the spooky and the scientific than with an awesome Halloween learning event for kids? Explore real bones and skeletons from native Massachusetts animals, or hold and pet some of the biggest bugs you've ever seen! Best for ages 5+.

Registration required. This is not a drop off program

GLADYS E. KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

2 Lake St., Webster
508-949-3880

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

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

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

Halloween Costume Drop off—Bring in your gently used costumes to the library and pick up one on October 5th!

FRIENDS OF THE GLADYS E KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY SECOND ANNUAL FUNDRAISER BITES, BOOKS AND BLOOMS.
October 17th at 6:00 PM

Enjoy local hors d'oeuvres, beverages, music, and books in bloom. Tickets are \$35. You can purchase them on the library website or in person at the library. This is a ticketed event!

Adult Programming YOGA - Saturday
October 12th, 19th, 26th 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.

FRIENDS CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS: Counterfeit Cash
October 10th at 6:30 PM

Being Influenced by Johnny Cash in younger years listening to the great lyrics of the "Man in Black" and the story that they told, Rodney Brunelle with his Johnny Cash voice decided his mission in life was to keep the stories of Johnny Cash going. You will swear "CASH" is in the house....

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
October 21st at 6:30 PM

This month's book discussion will be in the Library's Community Room. The Group will be discussing Dead Wake by Erik Larson. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcox@cwmar.org for inquiries.

COOKBOOK CLUB
October 22nd at 6:00 PM

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

ADULT BOARDGAME NIGHT--- (No Meeting in October) November 25th at 6:00 PM

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

COMPUTER BASICS CLASS Libby and Hoopla

Tutorial--- October 7th at 3:30

Come learn some computer basics with Assistant Director Evan Hale. Registration is required for this event. You can do that by visiting our website or calling the library.

Library for All: A drop-in event for Teens & Adults with Developmental Disabilities Mondays in October at 9:00 AM

This program 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! Sensory Bins: 10/07/24 Chair Yoga: 10/21/24 Craft Program: 10/28/24

THE HISTORY OF THE RAILROADS OF WEBSTER AND DUDLEY--- October 8th at 6:30 PM

Presented by - Webster Dudley Historical Society Presenters - Curtis Cleaves and John Mrazik

This program will cover the history of the three operating railroads in our area and the almost completed Grand Trunk! It will also include some old photos and unique stories, including the saga of Selectman Dynamite Joe, a train high-jacking, and Webster's first responder role in the 4-train wreck at East Thompson. No Registration Required

DUSTIN PARIINTIMES OF STRANGENESS--- October 24th at 6:30 PM

In this epic lecture, Dustin presents his A-Z list of strange things. Cryptid creatures, phantom spirits, and elusive legends, all come out to play in this amazingly unique presentation. Fun? You bet! Weird? You have no idea.

JEFF BELANGER PRESENTS: GHOST AND LEGENDS---- October 29th at 6:00 PM

Drawing from a well of dozens of stories, this program changes every time it's given. For over 20 years, Jeff Belanger has been exploring the unexplained. He seeks out history, folklore, ghosts, monsters, and legends all over the world and in your backyard. His talk presents highlights from his own adventures, a look at the investigation process, and compelling audio and visual paranormal evidence. Not just focused on ghost stories, Belanger's presentation will delve into the reasons behind the legends. Drawing from a huge library of locations, this program is different every single time it's presented. Perfect for the Halloween season!

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

MAKER MONDAYS - Mondays from 3:30

4:30 PM

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

KIM THE LEGO LADY: October 15th and November 5th at 4:00 PM

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. For ages 5 to 11.

LEGO CLUB--- Tuesday October 8th at 3:30 PM

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

No registration Required

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

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

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

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

STORYTIME--- October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th at 10:00 AM

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

W E D N E S D A Y STUFFED ANIMAL STORYTIME--- October 16th at 10:00 AM

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

ME AND MY MINI--- October 17th, 24th and 31st at 10:00 AM

A 45-minute creative movement group for ages birth through 2.5 with a grown-up. Group is focused on adult and baby spending quality time together, fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others their age. Get groovy to upbeat music with props, instruments, and a story. Adult participation is required and 1-2 children per adult is recommended.

PETITS PICASSOS: October 23rd and November 6th at 10:00 AM

This art class for ages 2-5 will have your little one creating and exploring art in different mediums and styles! Each class will feature a story related to the project, and a finished work to take home and admire. This class series prepares the students to paint on canvas for their final project. A toddler art show and art opening will be held featuring these works in November! While not every program will be messy, please wear art-appropriate clothing. In order to prepare materials and keep the class size manageable, registration is required for each session. Registered spots will only be held for 15 minutes after program start time. A baby play area will be available for siblings if needed.

SPECIAL STORYTIME: FLOWER DISPLAYS--- October 8th at 10 AM

Please join us for stories and fun as we create flower displays for the senior center. This program is perfect for ages 2-5, but siblings are welcomed.



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Apply for Tillie at pawfectliferescue.org



Milford Federal Bank is proud to sponsor the Pawfect Life Rescue **PAW of the WEEK!**

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WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
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Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov
Senior Center hours are Monday- Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., with every first Thursday 9 a.m.- 7 p.m.

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least forty-eight hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 10/8, Meatballs with Onion Gravy, bowtie pasta, Scandinavian vegetables. Wednesday, 10/9, Marinated Pork Loin, herbed potatoes, beets. Thursday, 10/10, Chicken Picatta, wild rice, roasted broccoli. Friday, 10/11, Soup du Jour, cranberry chicken salad, pasta

salad.
Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least two business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays- Fridays 8:30 am- 3:00 pm.
A SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) counselor is available at the Webster Senior Center. Please call (508) 949-3845 to schedule an appointment.

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

We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided. No registration needed. The movie for October 9th is We Have a Ghost, October 16th is Queen Bees, October 23rd is The Secret: Dare to Dream, and October 30th is Death Becomes Her.

As of October 3rd, the first Thursday of every month we will be open until 7:00 pm with entertainment starting at 5:45 pm. No registration needed.

Craft Fair on Monday, October 21, 2024 from 10:00am- 2:00pm. This event is hosted by the Friends of the Senior Center, and will offer assorted handmade, and seasonal items. FREE ADMISSION.

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

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

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

Do you like to play Cribbage? Our weekly Cribbage group meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm. Feel free to join us!

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

Mahjongg group meets every Friday at 1:00 pm. Beginners welcome!

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

Senior SAFE is a program that supports fire and life safety education for seniors. The Webster Fire Dept. will do a home visit to ensure that you have the correct smoke and CO2 alarms, and that they are working properly. This is at no cost to you! All you have to do is give them a call at (508) 949-3875.

Rod Stewart the Ultimate Tribute Show by Rick Larrimore is a must-see high energy show on Thursday, October 24th.

Rick has been touring the globe with his amazing tribute to Rod Stewart. This show takes place at Davenport in Danvers, MA. The cost for this show is \$129 per person and includes transportation, plated luncheon of chicken piccata or baked schrod, meal tax, gratuity, and show ticket. There will be no refunds for cancellations made after September 20th. For more information call (508) 949-3845.

The Sicilian Tenors Downton Abbey special live concert is a journey to Highclere Castle with the Sicilian Tenors- as seen in Downton Abbey with a reproduction of their nationwide broad-

cast. Featuring Aaron Caruso, Elio Saccio, and Sam Vitale. Combined with lighthearted fun, this is a concert for all ages and musical tastes. This show takes place at Lake Pearl in Wrentham, MA on Wednesday, November 13th. The cost for this show is \$131 per person and includes a plated luncheon of Thanksgiving dinner, or vegetable lasagna, meal tax, gratuity, show ticket, and transportation (not including driver gratuity). For more information call (508) 949-3845.

Kenny and Dolly- A Smoky Mountain Christmas is the country's number one tribute show to two of the biggest

names in country music. This incredible show stars Wendy T and Dave Karl, and recreates Dolly and Kenny's Once Upon A Christmas album. This show takes place at Danversport Yacht Club in Danvers, MA on Thursday, December 5th. The cost for this show is \$131 per person and includes transportation, plated luncheon of chicken parmesan or baked schrod, meal tax, gratuity, and show ticket. There will be no refunds for cancellations made after October 31st. For more information call (508) 949-3845.

OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

323 Main St.
(508)987-6000

Laura Wilson, Director

Open Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Email: seniorcenter@oxfordma.us
Website: www.oxfordma.us
Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior Center

*The Oxford Senior Center will be closed on Monday, October 14th in Observance of Columbus Day

*There will be NO BEANO on Friday, October 25th

Lunches are served on Tuesdays and Fridays, prepared by our own in-house cook! Please call at least 48 hours in advance to reserve a lunch or come in and sign up. We offer DINE IN for \$5.00 and TAKEOUT for \$6.00.

Weekly Activities:
Mondays and Fridays @ 10:00 am - Cribbage

Tuesdays @ 9:15am - Strength & Balance w/ Donna Freeland - Cost \$3.00 per class

Wednesdays @ 9:15am - Chair Yoga w/ Heidi Gambaccini - Cost \$3.00 per class

Tuesdays and Wednesdays @ 10:00am - Needleworkers (Knitting, Crocheting, Needlepoint)

Bring your favorite project and come join the group for conversation and laughs.

Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm - Chair Volleyball - Lots of laughs and only two rules (1) stay seated (2) have fun!

Thursdays @ 10:00 am - Dominoes
Fridays @ 9:00 am - Walking Club (weather permitting)

Monthly Activities:
Let's Talk Oxford History - 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1pm

- Sponsored by the Oxford Historical Commission

Blood Pressure Clinic - 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 11:00am

Senior Safety Education - 3rd Friday of each month @ 12:30 - Sponsored by Oxford Fire & EMS

Men's Coffee Group - 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 10:30am - coffee and pastry are served.

Tri-Valley Inc. Options Counseling - 3rd Tuesday of each month from 12:30pm - 2:30pm. By appointment.

SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) - 3rd Wednesday of each month. By appointment.

Book Club - 1st Friday of each month @ 12:45pm - reserve your book from the Oxford Public Library

Movie Matinee - 2nd Friday of each month @12:45

BEANO - 4th Friday of each month @ 12:45pm - arrive by 12:30pm to purchase your BEANO sheets.

Special Presentations:
Medicare Open Enrollment Presentation- Friday, October 11th @10:00 am

Deeds and Probate-Tuesday, October 15th @ 12:30pm

AARP MA Speakers Bureau presents- "Decluttering & Downsizing" Tuesday, October 22nd @ 1pm

BUS TRIP:
The Reagle Music Theatre presents "Christmas Time" with lunch at The Chateau- Sunday, December 15th \$135 pp

Like to make puzzles, but don't have the room - we always have a puzzle going on - come add a piece or two!

Need help completing paperwork? Fuel Assistance, MassHealth applications or re-certifications, SNAP etc., we can help. Call us @ 508-987-6000 to make an appointment.

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER - The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Sept. 22-28.

A 33-year-old male from Worcester whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 22 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Kevin Michael Andrews, age 38, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 23 in connection with a warrant.

Courtney Stinehart, age 35, of Worcester was arrested on Sept. 24 in connection with a warrant.

A juvenile, age 15, was arrested on Sept. 24 in connection with a warrant.

Lisa Anne Avelino-Pacheco, age 37, of Worcester was arrested on Sept. 24 in connection with a warrant.

Jason J. Denham, age 51, of Webster was arrested on Sept. 25 in connection with a warrant.

Shamuel A. Perry, age 29, of Providence, R.I. was arrested on Sept. 25 for Uttering a False Check, Forgery of a Check, Disturbing the Peace, Disorderly Conduct, Resisting Arrest, and in connection with multiple warrants.

A 42-year-old female from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 27 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.



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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Don't believe everything you hear

Election season is upon us, and with it comes the barrage of campaign ads, glossy fliers, and endless political chatter. While these tools are designed to catch our attention, it's crucial to remember that not everything we hear or see in campaign materials is the truth. Smear campaigns are the dark side of politics—filled with half-truths, cherry-picked data, and sometimes outright lies meant to sway our opinions.

It's easy to get caught up in the sound bites and headlines, but it's our responsibility as voters to dig deeper. Before you decide on a candidate, do your own research. Look beyond the fliers in your mailbox and the dramatic ads on TV. Seek out multiple sources of information, read up on the issues, and fact-check statements. Use reliable, unbiased resources to get a clearer picture of where each candidate truly stands. Be an informed voter.

Remember, the most genuine candidates are the ones who show up to serve their communities and work for what's best for all of us, not just to win votes. These candidates can be found at every level of government, but they may not always be the loudest or flashiest. By doing your own homework and looking for those who prioritize the well-being of their fellow Americans over party politics or personal gain, you can cast an informed vote that reflects your values. So, don't just take campaign ads at face value—take the time to research and choose the candidate who is truly committed to making a difference.

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

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

Come follow me

"Come Follow Me." When Jesus said this to the Apostle Peter, what did He mean? What does it mean for one to truly become a follower of Jesus? Our Lord invited Peter and Andrew, James and John to follow Him, to become His disciples. We could even say Christ called them to become His apprentices. Jesus surely called His followers to become Apostles. Yet, each of these terms reflect a different aspect of what it means to follow Jesus. Let's look at each of these terms.

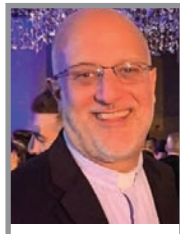
A disciple is one who becomes a student. We are to remain lifelong learners of Jesus Christ. We are on a constant journey of growing in our knowledge of who God is, of what He has done for us, of who we are, and what He wants us to do in life. No one can ever say they know God completely, or that they know enough about Him, because the Lord Almighty is Infinite and Eternal. He is a Mystery of whom we can only get a tiny glimpse. Yes, the Lord revealed Himself to us by becoming one of us. God became human, so in Jesus, we can know Him. Yet, He is still a deep Mystery we are constantly learning about.

But are we good students? Or have some of us stopped learning about Jesus after our Sunday School classes? Are we ongoing students even into our adulthood? Are we daily students reading Holy Scripture daily, listening to God's voice through these Sacred words, opening up our hearts and minds for Him reveal to us in new ways who He is and what life is all about?

I remember Archbishop Anastasios Yannoulatos sharing with me what happened when he became a bishop in Greece and a full professor at the University of Athens in 1972. Reaching the pinnacle of these two major events in his life was a milestone, and yet he understood the danger that stood before him. A bishop and a professor in Greece were very honorable positions and he could become full of himself, allowing his own ego and pride to ruin him. Thus, he pledged to himself on the day of his ordination to the episcopacy and his appointment as a full professor that he would always remain a deacon who serve, not a bishop, and would stay a student who is learning, instead of a professor.

We also are called to always remain students and servants in our discipleship with the Lord Jesus.

A second way we can understand our call to follow Jesus is as an apprentice, one who learns from a Master and strives to imitate Him. Of course, a student must learn intellectually, to understand the foundations of the faith. Yet, understanding with the mind certain beliefs and teachings is not enough. An apprentice learns to imitate his Master, does what his Master does, and slowly become like his Master.



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

In our everyday walk with Christ, do the people around us see Jesus in us? Saint Paul reminds us that "it is no longer I would live but Christ who lives in me." Do the people we encounter every day see the Lord Jesus in our actions, hear Him in our words, and feel His Presence through us?

An apprentice learns and imitates and then becomes like his Master. This is a central part of what it means to follow Christ.

Becoming a student and an apprentice is not enough in our walk with Jesus. The Lord then asks us to become His Apostle, one who is sent out into the world to share His Good News. We don't simply learn from Jesus about the Faith. We don't only imitate Christ in our actions. But we then become the one who is sent by Him to go into the world, this fallen world, and boldly proclaim His Good News!

A disciple is one who learns what are the proper beliefs. An apprentice strives to imitate the Master and become like Him in our everyday life. The Apostle understands that he is a co-worker with the Lord. God is doing His good works through each one of us.

Now, we may find this hard to believe, that the Lord Almighty would call me or you to be such a follower of His. Who are we? We are surely unworthy, ill-prepared, sinful people. How could God offer us such a call?

And yet, this was the exact reaction of Peter when Jesus invites him to follow Him. "Depart from me for I am a sinful man." Peter understood how unworthy he was to become a follower, an apprentice, and an apostle of the Lord Jesus. And yet, Christ knew what was in the heart of Peter. The Lord understood the untapped potential of faith waiting to come forth from the fisherman. And Jesus focused on what Peter could become, not who he was at the present moment.

The Lord Almighty looks at each one of us in the same way. He doesn't see who we are but He sees who we can become. He doesn't focus on our limited life here and now but sees the divine potential that lies untapped deep within.

And He asks us to follow Him, to trust in Him, to learn from Him, to apprentice under Him, and then to become a co-worker with Him.

We are called to become His disciples, His students. We are called to become His apprentices, learning under Him. We are called to become His apostles, co-workers with Him.

We are unworthy. We may not see or understand our potential. Yet, the Lord Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. And He calls us to come and follow Him.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

America at a crossroads

To the Editor:
I do not believe, in the history of this country, that there has been a more important election than the one this November. It will be for the future of our Nation, our Constitution republic, our rights, and our freedoms, which are being destroyed by the Biden/Harris administration and the deep state.

I will start with something that was visible to all Americans, namely the border invasion by over seven million illegals. For me, that was an act of treason, especially since American lives have been taken, and there blood is on the hands of the Democrats.

Biden because of his hatred for the ruling by SCOTUS concerning abortion, which gave the states the right to decide for or against it, has had his corrupt Federal agencies harass the people that supported the ruling, and has along

with Planned Parenthood unlawfully filed lawsuits in an attempt to take away states' rights.

The deep state has been shredding the Constitution, not only under Biden, but they did the same thing under Obama. Lies, deceptions, leaks, the intelligence community aimed at Americans, spying on political opponents, IRS targeting conservative groups. The radical Left, empowered by Biden, now has its sights set on you, it wants to intimidate, silence, shut down, and yes, cancel conservatives.

There are so many more Atrocities committed by Biden/Harris that cannot be listed. It's simple, freedom with Trump, or Chaos and destruction with Harris.

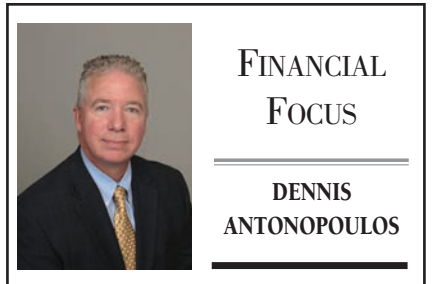
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Take advantage of open enrollment



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DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

If you work for a midsize or large company, you may soon be able to review your employee benefits package, as we are entering the open enrollment season. So, consider your options carefully, with an eye toward making changes appropriate for your needs.

Here are some of the key areas to look at:

Retirement plan – Depending on your employer, you could change your 401(k) or similar retirement plan at any time of the year, but you might want to use the open enrollment season to review your contribution amounts. If your salary has gone up over the past year, you might want to boost your pre-tax contributions (including catch-up contributions beginning at age 50). At a minimum, try to put in at least enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered. At the same time, look over how your contributions are allocated among the various investment options in your plan. You'll want your investment mix to reflect your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

Life insurance – If your employer offers group life insurance at no cost as an employee benefit, you may want to take it – but be aware that it might not be enough to fully protect your family should anything happen to you. You may have heard that you need about seven to 10 times your annual income as a life insurance death benefit, but there's really no one right answer for everyone. Instead, you should evaluate various factors — including your mortgage, your income, your spouse's income (if applicable), your liabilities, the number of years until your retirement, number of children and their future educational needs — to determine how much insurance you need. If your employer's group policy seems insufficient, you may want to consider adding some outside coverage.

Disability insurance – Your employer may offer no-cost group disability insurance, but as is the case with life insurance, it might not be sufficient to adequately protect your income in case you become temporarily or permanently disabled. In fact, many employer-sponsored disability plans only cover a short period, such as five years, so to gain longer coverage up to age 65, you may want to look for a separate personal policy. Disability policies vary widely in premium costs and benefits, so you'll want to do some comparison shopping with several insurance companies.

Flexible spending account – A flexible spending account (FSA) lets you contribute up to \$3,200 pre-tax dollars to pay for some out-of-pocket medical costs, such as prescriptions and insurance copayments and deductibles. You decide how much you want to put into your FSA, up to the 2025 limit. You generally must use up the funds in your FSA by the end of the calendar year, but your employer may grant you an extension of two and a half months or allow you to carry over up to \$640.

Health savings account – Like an FSA, a health savings account (HSA) lets you use pre-tax dollars to pay out-of-pocket medical costs. Unlike an FSA, though, your unused HSA contributions will carry over to the next year. Also, an HSA allows you take withdrawals, though they may be assessed a 10 percent penalty. To contribute to an HSA, you need to participate in a high-deductible health insurance plan.

Make the most of your benefits package — it can be a big part of your overall financial picture.

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

Spice Up Your Space with DIY Fall Scents

Scents are powerful - just a small whiff of certain smells can fuel emotions. From altering moods and sparking memories to creating calm and promoting focus, fragrance can be very influential in our everyday lives.

Autumn in New England offers an abundance of native sights and scents that can be captured as everlasting fragrance for the home. Read on for a few simple recipes to bring the spectacular fragrance of the fall season indoors for months to come.

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Autumn Potpourri Mix: This all natural potpourri mix recalls walks along country roads this time of year. A few drops of essential oil may be added to boost the scent as the mixture ages.

Note: This makes a great host or holiday gift.

Ingredients: Dried slices of red or Golden Delicious apples (or other hardy New England variety); dried slices of one orange; eight cinnamon sticks; one tablespoon nutmegs; three tablespoons whole cloves; 2 Whole nutmegs; Filler: acorns, dried leaves, bark pieces, pinecones, etc.

Directions: Break up (or smash) the cinnamon sticks and some of the

whole cloves to release fragrance. Mix together all ingredients, gently folding in apple and orange slices last. Place in an open bowl or pack in a clear glass jar for gift giving or later use.

**

Pie Spice Sachets: The sweet scent of freshly baked apple and pumpkin pies can be resurrected every time you reconstitute these essence filled sachets. Best of all, these can be used both to scent the air and to spice up cider!

Ingredients: 2 tablespoons pumpkin pie spice; 4 teaspoons ground cinnamon; 2 teaspoons nutmeg; 2 tablespoons applesauce

Mix the applesauce and spices together in a bowl. Dough will be very stiff. Pinch off small pieces of dough and roll into balls. Press down to form discs, about an inch or so. Bake in a 275 degree oven for about two hours or until fully dry and firm. Allow to cool and harden.

To use for simmering potpourri: Drop one disc into a couple of inches of simmering water.

To use as spice sachet: Drop disc into Preheat oven to 275 degrees and bake for 1 1/2 hours until dry and firm. Cool. Use as a simmering potpourri by simply dropping in



TAKE
THE
HINT

KAREN
TRAINOR

boiling water. To use as a spice, drop into container of simmering cider.

**

Autumn Wax Tarts (Recycled candles): Making fragrance tarts is easy (and free) if you've collected all your autumn fragrances candle ends throughout the year.

Ingredients: Leftover candle wax; foil cupcake wrappers.

Directions: Carefully melt leftover candle bits in a double boiler or in the microwave. Remove wicks and black bits from melted wax. Line a cupcake pan with aluminum foil cupcake wrappers. Pour about an inch of wax into each aluminum wrapper. Allow to cool, then remove wrapper from tin and peel off tart.

**

Great Gourds!: Now that your house boasts the aroma of autumn, why not do a little decorating, compliments of Mother Nature? Gourds

are plentiful this time of year, and let's face it, gourds have only one main claim to fame: Their interesting colors and shapes make them a fantastic fall decorating tool.

Talented and imaginative artisans have formed everything from utilitarian bowls to musical instruments out of gourds, although mainstream offerings are likely to include a creative mix of baskets, candleholders, birdhouses and vases. Gourds, both large and small are plentiful and whimsical, with a high "personality quota." Tossing interestingly shaped gourds in a bowl creates an instant centerpiece. Or place handfuls of colorful gourds around an outside entryway display to fill the gaps between pumpkins, mums and cornstalks.

Gourds, with their contrast of color and textures, are the perfect candidate for an interesting craft project. Whether you choose to make a vase, bowl or birdhouse, drying, cutting and cleaning the gourds are important chores to complete. Much like carving a Jack-O-Lantern, the top of a gourd must be cut off and the inside scraped clean. Here's the method to dry gourds, as noted in previous columns:

To do: Scrape out all inside dried membranes and seeds. This can be tedious, but it is necessary to avoid rot. To ensure a smooth inside surface as for gourd bowls, sand inside with a wire brush drill attachment.

To dry out decorative thin-skinned gourds, clean them in warm, soapy water containing a household disinfectant. Dry gourds with a cloth and spread them on newspaper in a warm, dry place. After a week, wipe them with a cloth moistened only with disinfectant. Again, spread gourds to dry, now in a warm, dark, damp-free spot for about a month. Every other day, turn them. When seeds rattle inside, they are properly seasoned. Small, thin shelled gourds will dry in less than a month, and large ones can take up to six months. If mold appears during the drying process, scrape it off with a knife. Thin-shelled gourds dry best when hung in a mesh bag.

You can finish your bowl or vase by staining, painting, or using leather dye on it. The leather dye provides a vintage look and is easiest to apply for a first time project. After the dye has dried, apply a protectant, such as varnish or wax.

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Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

Selling antiques and collectibles



The antiques business has changed over the years with the internet creating new ways to sell antiques and collectibles. That said, some of the tried-and-true methods continue to provide good returns.

I've found that offering antiques and collectibles to a wide range of bidders at auction will yield the best results for more

valuable items. Attorneys and estate personal representatives understand that consigning to a well-publicized auction is a way of doing their due diligence to ensure that either the estate or themselves are getting fair market value for their items. Many estate companies also consign top pieces to get the best results for their clients.

There are many different options for selling the belongings in an estate. Here are some things to consider when selling your personal property. Central Mass Auctions and many other local auction houses focus on antiques and collectibles. We handle a wide variety of antiques and collectibles, but I occasionally suggest another auction house for certain types of

items.

Some people need to sell the contents of finely appointed homes with name brand furniture, the latest electronics, snowblowers, and other power equipment and don't have antiques. One option available to them is a traditional estate sale. An estate sale company prices the items prior to the sale. The sale is advertised and scheduled to run for a day or two (typically on a weekend). If it's organized by an estate sale company, they'll let their followers know the sale will be taking place and advertise elsewhere. With a big sale, potential buyers may line up at the door with only a limited number being admitted at a time. Buyers typically pay cash (some companies accept credit cards) and take the items home that day.

Sometimes a seller prefers an online auction at the estate. With an online auction, a sofa might be



ANTIQUES,
COLLECTIBLES
& ESTATES
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WAYNE TUISKULA

labeled lot # 1, end tables lot # 2, table lamps lot # 3, etc. The auction runs for several days. Bidders place bids until the auction end date and time. The winning bidders have a scheduled pick-up date, typically on a Saturday. Many online auction companies also offer shipping of items for winning bidders who live outside of the sale area.

There are times when there may not be enough items to run a sale at the site, but there are still different options available. It isn't as prevalent as it once was, but some companies still do entire estate buyouts. After the family has divided up an estate there may be just a few pieces of furniture left and a consignment shop could be an option. Donating remaining items helps local charities and may make you eligible for tax benefits. Sometimes things are of

little to no value, and you may need a trash removal company or dumpster.

Selling a collection or estate contents can be a difficult process. Along with selling the more valuable items for clients, I try to offer them a roadmap for getting remaining items sold.

We have a major two session online auction taking place right now. Session I with historical and gambling memorabilia and a wide variety of other items ends on Oct. 22. Session II with art, gold and estate jewelry, sterling silver flatware and holloware, and coins ends on Oct. 23. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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

Synchronicity

Have you ever felt that no matter how hard you push, things won't work out? We all have goals—big dreams or small wins. Maybe it's starting a business, landing that dream job, or leaving early to catch the game.

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING
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MOORE

every obstacle, what if the solution was something different—something called Synchronicity?

Take the guy who wants to leave work early for the big game. He spends the morning coughing, hinting that he's "a little off," and Googling fake illnesses to sell his story. By lunchtime, he's sneezing dramatically and whispering, "I think I'm contagious." But just as he's about to slip out, his boss drops a stack of reports on his desk. "I need these done before you go." Now, he's stuck working twice as hard because he tried too hard to force things.

Now, imagine someone else with the same goal, but instead of scheming, they're honest: "Hey, I've got tickets to

the game. Any chance I can leave an hour early?" Maybe the boss says yes, maybe not. But, letting go can open the door to Synchronicity—when things align ideally it's like life is giving you a little nudge. Perhaps the boss is a fan and says, "No problem, I'm leaving early too!" Or an afternoon meeting gets canceled, and leaving is suddenly easy.

I first became intrigued by this idea of Synchronicity after listening to a lecture by physicist and ex-NASA scientist Tom Campbell.

He said, "When you stop trying to control life, the magic happens."

He made me realize that sometimes we get so caught up in forcing our plans to work out that we miss the unexpected

opportunities when we just let go. When you step back and allow things to happen naturally, it's like the universe quietly whispers, "Relax, I've got this."

Campbell says, "When something does happen—a hurdle that pops up in front of you—that's okay. You deal with it and go on. Don't get upset with it... You'll find that things start happening just as you need them, just when you want them. You'll go from having nothing but hurdles to no hurdles at all—everything just starts to work well."

Think about that for a second. What if you trusted that things would work out instead of stressing and struggling to make everything perfect?

Campbell's point is

simple: "When you realize that you don't have to control anything, you'll see that you don't need to control anything."

Maybe life isn't about pushing harder—it's about stepping back and letting the puzzle pieces fall into place on their own.

Imagine you're headed out to watch the big game and suddenly hit a major traffic jam. Your first instinct might be to freak out, curse your luck, and start weaving in and out of lanes to compensate for lost time. But what if there's a reason you're stuck? What if that traffic jam is working in your favor?

Later, you find that without the traffic jam, you would have ended up in the middle of a deadly five-car pileup just a

few miles ahead. That frustration of being late could've actually saved your life.

When you stop fighting every obstacle and let things unfold, you might find that setbacks are Synchronicity in disguise, keeping you exactly where you need to be.

So, the next time life throws a wrench in your plans, take a deep breath and consider that maybe, just maybe, it's not a roadblock—it's a detour leading you somewhere better.

When you let go of control, life surprises you in ways you never imagined. Trust the process, embrace the unexpected, and remember that sometimes, not getting what you want might be life's way of giving you exactly what you need.

Bay Path LPN gives back to Class of 2025

CHARLTON — Brianna Laforest, LPN of Webster, a Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy graduate, Class of 2021, recently returned to Bay Path. She assisted at Skills Laboratory practice and delivered words of encouragement to the Class of 2025. There are many reasons why Bay Path Practical Nursing

Academy Alumni returns on campus: to show appreciation for the education that Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy has provided them; to give others a chance to have a similar experience; to stay connected to the Bay Path community.

At many colleges and universities,

Alumni Giving starts even before graduation day. At Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, it begins at Orientation and Acceptance Ceremony when soon to be graduates are paired off with incoming nursing students. It may begin as a request for mentorship, or as an inquiry about used textbooks. Eventually alum-



Brianna Laforest

Youth mental health First Aid training completed by Bay Path Nursing students



Courtesy

Lynn Lynch, MBA front row, second from right, with members of the Practical Nursing Class of 2025.

CHARLTON — September is National Suicide Prevention Month and Bay Path practical nursing (PN) students continue to do their share in learning. Research states that suicide is the 10th leading cause of death overall in the US and that the overall suicide rate has increased by 35 percent since 1999. The PN class of 2025 learned the signs of suicide to prevent home or workplace-based tragedy.

Some members of the PN Class of 2025 completed the Youth Mental Health First

Aid (MHFA) training lead by Lynn Lynch, MBA, Director of Business Operations and MHFA Instructor of the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services, Inc. (www.SYFS-MA.org). The 6-hour curriculum, completed in one full professional development day, gives the participant a three-year certification upon completion.

Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy has been working

with the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services for the PN students MHFA training for over five years.

"We are grateful to have Lynn return to Bay Path annually and the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services for their continued provision of the MHFA training for the PN students!" said Bolandrina.

"I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for our nursing students to have the skills and knowledge to identify and respond

to signs of mental disorders and how to provide initial help and support," Bolandrina added.

MHFA trained individuals may assist someone experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis. In the MHFA course, the PN students learned risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help in crisis and non-crisis situations and well as where to turn for help for both adult and youth.

Topics covered include depression, mood disorders, anxiety, trauma, psychosis, and substance use disorders. Participants learned how to apply the MHFA action plan in situations when someone is experiencing panic attacks, suicidal thoughts of behaviors, non-suicidal self-injury, acute psychosis (hallucinations or delusions), overdose or withdrawal from alcohol or drug use, and reactions to a traumatic event.

"Providing education to the PN students and supporting them so they're in the best state of mind for their nursing journey is a wonderful tie-in," Bolandrina said.

The feedback on the MHFA training remains positive. We continue to engage in conversation, education, and breaking the stigma of mental health disorders.

ni giving evolves and alumni themselves find ways to talk about the importance of alumni giving to the school.

On assisting with Skills Laboratory practice Laforest stated, "I enjoyed it. It was actually kind of funny to see them and hear some of their concerns, it brought back some PTSD. But I reassured them to trust the process and as long as they are working hard, they will succeed."

Laforest is currently with the UMass Memorial at Worcester (since August 2023) as an LPN in the Ambulatory Care Float Pool- Primary care/ OBGYN responsible for immunizations and outpatient care. At the UMass Memorial Harrington in Webster (since December 2023) as an LPN in the Methadone outpatient dosing clinic and at the UMass Memorial Harrington, Southbridge (since June 2022) as an LPN in the Medical/Surgical inpatient where she is both IV and IVP certified. She is also with ADCARE as an LPN (since November 2021) experienced with inpatient detox, sharp count, narcotic count, assess patients for withdrawal symptoms, medication administration, admissions, and blood draws. Prior to becoming an LPN, she was a nursing administrative coordinator (2020-2022) at UMass Memorial, Worcester and a PCA (2006-2014).

According to Hank Coleman, publisher of the finance blog Money Q & A, "Alumni should consider their diplomas like a share of stock in a company, alumni have a personal interest in ensuring that their university's prestige grows."

Giving back, regardless of the act, or a or a donation in any size, "plays an essential role in maintaining the value of your own degrees."

Laforest stated, "I love being a nurse and I love being able to share the things I know/ have learned to help take care of people. I ask a few of them, (nursing students of the Class of 2025) why they wanted to be nurses to kind of feel them out and see what their why was. I told them being a nurse is something to be proud of and it is a field that takes more than it gives, so you really have to love it because you are going to have some really bad days."

As a student at Bay Path RVTH Practical Nursing Academy (2020-2021), Laforest was voted as one of the Student Representatives, she was a member of the UNICEF Club, Mock Code Team, and the Admissions Panel. She participated in the Fall and Spring Advisory Board meetings and was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. She values education. In 2014 she obtained an associate degree in Criminal Justice and Science with honors from the Quinsigamond Community College (QCC). "I like volunteering/ mentoring others because I did start my career in healthcare delivering dietary trays to patients, then was a CNA, now I am an LPN and have just started my last two pre-requisites for the RN bridge at QCC," stated Laforest. "I've literally worked my way up and can appreciate every job/ role that goes into healthcare and the importance of them."

She maintained her BLS/HCP CPR certification, Law Enforcement Certificate, Demetia Care Certification, and Mental Health First Aid Certification.

To this day some practical nursing Students struggle to find the funds to cover educational expenses. Scholarships and grants ensure that these students can manage costs while getting an excellent education. When alumni give back, they invest in the practical nursing students and are providing a legacy for future generations. Many alumni state that the benefits they received from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy are intangible, and what alumni give back are not always easy to measure, but one thing is clear: alumni giving back makes a difference. Laforest stated, "I've literally dabbled in every type of nursing. I have done home health, behavioral health, addiction medicine, outpatient, and inpatient care. You are always learning and growing and that's what I love about it." In a message to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director Laforest expressed that she is ready to help.

"Any time you need help, if I can, I will be there," said Laforest.

Bolandrina stated that "alumni giving makes Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy different. Unlike large educational institutions, we look to alumni, parents, and friends of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy to help connect quality nursing education and a caring, supportive Bay Path Practical Nursing Community."

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Bag-of-Books Sale at Sturbridge library Oct. 19

STURBRIDGE — With Winter about to knock on our doors we are looking ahead to quiet times with a good book or two or three. Or a whole bagful. Fortunately, the annual Bag-of-Books Sale will be returning to the Joshua Hyde Public Library in Sturbridge on Saturday, Oct. 19, with great books for all ages. And lots of them.

may stuff a small bag with gently used books for a total price of only \$5. Fill a medium bag for only \$10. Small and medium bags will be provided. If you'd like, you may fill your own tote bag for \$15 to \$20 depending on size. That's a lot of good reading! Cash or check only, please.

Here's a great opportunity to stock up on books for your children and for yourself. A large selection of children's books

will be available on the tables, from board books to advanced readers, along with many young adult books. Library patrons have been donating favorite books all year long and this October sale includes hundreds of books for adults. Mysteries, romance, historical fiction, science fiction and just about all your favorite genres. Visitors to the sale can expect to find a large selection of nonfiction books including biog-

raphies, history, sports, crafts, cooking, arts and more. Many audio books, CD's and DVD's will be available as well.

All proceeds will be used by the Friends of the Joshua Hyde Library to pay for all the extras

that the town budget for the library doesn't cover, like museum passes and special programs for children and adults. The sale will be held indoors in the basement meeting room, with some outdoor tables on the library's back lawn fac-

ing the Town Common, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The sale coincides with the Sturbridge Harvest Festival, Saturday, Oct. 19. Come harvest some books and stock up for the winter.

Sponsored by the Friends of The Joshua Hyde Library, visitors



Courtesy

In preparation for the Oct. 17 library fundraiser Bites Books and Blooms, the Gladys E. Kelly Library in Webster hosted a presentation on "How to Do a Book in Bloom" on Sept. 26. Friends of the Library members Elaine Davies and Ashley Starzec provided information on how to create a floral arrangement from a favorite poem, short story, or novel. They shed light on the creative process and provided examples. Seen here is the first 2024 entry—Sea Fever—an interpretation of a favorite poem of Gladys Kelly, written by John Masefield. Since it has to last, the arrangement is made of dried floral material—grasses, yarrow, hydrangea, baby's breath, and pinecones. Proceeds from the fundraiser will provide funding for library programs for children and adults. Tickets can be purchased for \$35 at the library or online from the library Web site.

VILLAGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Historical Walking Tour October 19th

Have you ever wondered about why our Village church looks the way it does? Or what our stained-glass windows symbolize & what our bell tower looks like inside? Or did you know that there is a VCC Ministers section of Pine Grove Cemetery? These, and many questions about our church history will be answered by Rev. Ethan Drutchas during a historical walking tour of the VCC and Whitinsville area this Fall. During this tour, we will address the places, people and events who have shaped the story of our congregation. Join us at **10:30am October 19th** for a 2-hour exploration of the history and architecture of the VCC and its relationship to the wider story of Whitinsville, MA. We will begin at Village Church 5 Church St. Whitinsville, MA. All planning to attend should RSVP at office@vccucc.org

Free VCC Sunday Seminar Series

Rev. Ethan Drutchas will be hosting a seminar series titled, "What is Protestantism?" Over the course of 9 sessions, we will be covering the origins, history, strains of thought, and core beliefs of the Protestant tradition. During these seminars, we will cover the important context of who and what shaped the tradition we witness today. Join us once a month at 11 am in Mason Hall. Schedule and topics will be:

- September 29th - Definitions & Earliest Origins
- October 20th - Antecedents & Context of the Reformation
- November 17th - The Reformation and the Reformers
- December 8th - Growth & Conflict: Protestantism, late 16th & 17th c.
- January 19th - Faith & Reason: Protestantism, 18th c. Enlightenment
- February 16th - Religion, Romantics, & Revolution: Protestantism, 19th c.
- March 16th - Modernism & its Discontent: 20th c. Protestantism in Europe, America, and the World/Cold Wars
- April 6 - The Sacred and the Secular: Protestantism in the 21st Century
- May 11th - Protestantism: A Summation

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Vice President
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Fall Clearance Sale!

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OBITUARY

Catherine Aase Nieski, 70



Catherine Aase Nieski, age 70, passed peacefully yet unexpectedly at her home in Woodstock, CT. on Thursday, September 12, 2024. Catherine, daughter of the late Olaf Aase and Catherine (Owens)

Aase, was born August 3, 1954, in Brooklyn, NY.

Catherine was married to Martin Nieski for over twenty-five years. Together they owned Marty's Liquors in Dudley, MA. They later settled into their farm in Woodstock, CT. They brought out the best in each other while supporting their individual endeavors.

She was deeply devoted to her community always offering a helping hand and serving as a guiding light to those around her. She was a nurse for over twenty years, eventually retiring from UMASS. She celebrated thirty-seven blissful years of sobriety while being active in the AA community. Catherine's passion in sharing her profound under-

standing of living in the moment and through the heart benefited every life she touched. She lived for and through her grandchildren and her great grandchild, finding immense joy and purpose in their lives.

Catherine is survived by daughters, Karen Eisen, Donna, her husband Robert Puchalski Jr., Marjorie, her husband Michael Gardner Jr.; step son, Matthew Nieski; grandchildren, Ian, Gabe, and Jameson Landry, Marina Szydlik, Stella, Audrey, and Robert III Puchalski, Hunter and Delaney Anderson, Henry and Mable Gardner; great grandchild Callum Landry; and siblings, Eileen Bakos, Richard Aase, Mary Aase, Patricia and her husband Michael Dumpert.

A celebration of life will be held on October 13th at twelve noon at their family home located at 485 Barlow Cemetery Rd., Woodstock, CT.

Online guestbook is available at www.bartelfuneralhome.com. Bartel Funeral Home & Chapel

33 Schofield Avenue Dudley is assisting the family with arrangements.

GRANT

continued from page A1

by a July deadline.

Dudley was notified of the \$496,650 award in a Sept. 23 letter. The grant represents an amount of up to 70 percent reimbursement of the project cost, which is estimated at \$704,410. The local contribution, therefore, is expected to be \$207,760.

The next step is the October 21 town meeting where Dudley voters will be asked to approve

a 704,410 borrowing. The state requires a certified affirmative town meeting vote by Dec. 31, or the town risks grant forfeiture.

Once the \$496,650 reimbursement is received and applied to the borrowing, the remaining debt, Mr. Ruda said, will be paid from available funds over the course of years.

Other grant requirements include the start of construction on July 1, 2025, with work completion by June 1, 2026.

The PARC grant also requires that this site remain open to the general public and prohibits any other use other than public outdoor recreation.

The PARC program was established to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. These grants can be used by municipalities to acquire parkland, build a new park, or to renovate an existing park.



Consider fall leaves a gift from nature

Put fall leaves to work in your landscape. This valuable resource makes a great mulch in planting beds, adds organic matter and nutrients to the soil, provides habitat for many beneficial insects, and is insulation for ground-dwelling queen bumblebees, toads, and more.

Leave any disease-free leaves in garden beds but pull them away from the trunks of trees and stems of shrubs. Mulch piles against trunks or stems create a moist environment that is more subject to rot and disease. It also provides a hiding place next to these plants for voles that feed on bark over winter.

Avoid thick layers of leaves, six or more inches deep, in garden beds. They can block sunlight and smother the plants below. Pull leaves off the crowns of perennials and move the excess leaves to gardens with little or no mulch.

Use your mower to recycle fall leaves that land on the lawn. As you mow the grass you'll shred the leaves into smaller pieces. If they are the size of a quarter or smaller your lawn will be fine. As these leaf pieces decompose, they add organic matter and nutrients to the soil.

When the lawn is overwhelmed with leaves burn a few extra calories and rake them into nearby planting beds. Whole leaves provide the best habitat for overwintering insects. Spread the leaves over the soil surface to help insulate the roots, conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil as it breaks down.

If your garden beds are already filled with leaves or this is not practical, attach the bagger to the mower to shred and collect the excess leaves on the lawn. Only use grass clippings collected from lawns and leaves not treated with a weed killer



Melinda Myers

Mowing fallen leaves on lawns to shred them into smaller pieces adds organic matter and nutrients to the soil as the leaf pieces decompose.

this fall.

Dig extra shredded leaves into vacant annual flower and vegetable gardens or incorporate them into the soil as you

back in the garden in the compost.

Oak and large maple leaves make great mulches and additions to the compost pile but break down slowly. Shred them with your mower or leaf shredder first for quicker results.

You can compost black walnut, laurel, and eucalyptus leaves that contain chemicals toxic to other plants. Shred them first to speed decomposition and when they are fully decomposed the compost is safe to use in the garden.

As you begin putting the fall leaves to work in your landscape you will start considering them a gift, not a curse, from nature.

Melinda Myers has written over 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



GARDEN MOMENTS

MELINDA MYERS

prepare new planting beds. They will break down over winter, improving the drainage in heavy clay soils and increasing the water-holding ability in fast-draining soils.

Bag shredded leaves you want to save for next season. Tuck them out of sight for winter under trees or around the foundation of your house for added insulation.

Create compost with fall leaves, plant-based kitchen scraps, and other landscape trimmings. Do not use meat, bones or dairy that can attract rodents, charcoal ash, and human, pet or bird droppings that may contain disease organisms. Avoid diseased and insect-infested plant debris, perennial weeds, and weeds gone to seed. These can survive in compost piles that don't produce sufficient heat to kill them and end up

Edward Jones hosting presentation on retirement & health care

AUBURN — Medicare Open Enrollment begins Oct. 15 and runs through Dec. 7, where you can join or change a Medicare plan. The increasing cost of health care is a growing concern for current and future retirees. In fact, 25 years ago, retirees spent almost twice as much on food as on health care; now the amounts are nearly equal.

Join Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Dennis Antonopoulos & Medicare Specialist, Lynne Mussulli Thursday, Oct. 10 at 6 p.m. (with registration beginning at 5:45 p.m.) at Brookdale Eddy Pond West, 669 Washington St., Auburn, for our presentation, "Health Care & Your Retirement," where we will discuss:

- Medicare coverage and traditional medical expenses
- Long-term medical care expenses
- Strategies for addressing uncovered expenses

We hope you will join us for one of our most popular seminars of the year! Please feel free to bring a friend, relative, colleague or neighbor who may find this seminar topic of interest.

RUDA

continued from page A1

written, it's like an attorney's briefing. He communicates extremely well through writing," he said.

Ruda's communication with different departments and his focus on serving the best interest of Dudley also proved to be a highlight of his review, as stated by Sullivan.

"Mr. Ruda's planning of the goals and objectives have clearly been done with the town's best interest as an ultimate end result. He's able to aid any commission or board not just under his jurisdiction. We've heard Water & Sewer come up several times over the course of the year thanking Mr. Ruda for helping them whether it was aiding with the contact with town counsel or aiding

with applications. So, I think the end result of his work is the best interest of the town," Sullivan said.

Ruda is in his fifth year as Town Administrator of Dudley. He was hired in May of 2019 after serving over 35 years in government services and nearly five years as a Dudley Selectman before he resigned to seek the administrator position.

SLATER

continued from page A1

Teachers, curriculum developers and administrative staff are all welcome to tour the museum and speak with staff about school field trips,

logistics, and transportation funding.

Regular museum open hours are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Other touring times can be

arranged.

For more information, email admin@samuel SlaterExperience.org or call 508-461-2955. Samuel Slater Experience is located at 31 Ray St., Webster.

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



Friday's Child



Isaiah
Age 6
Registration # 8921

Hi! My name is Isaiah and let's sing "Bingo" together!

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<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8921>

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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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LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Bruce J. Grici and Angela J. Grici to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated December 5, 2006 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40314, Page 1 (the "Mortgage"), as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated October 1, 2023, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 69663, Page 219 of which mortgage Nationstar Mortgage LLC is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc. to CitiMortgage, Inc. dated September 13, 2010 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 46367, Page 333, and Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns to CitiMortgage, Inc. dated May 25, 2012 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 49089, Page 318, and Assignment from CitiMortgage, Inc. to Federal National Mortgage Association dated February 11, 2014 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 52042, Page 122, and Assignment from Federal National Mortgage Association to Nationstar Mortgage LLC dated August 16, 2022 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 68113, Page 88, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 650 Oxford Street South, Auburn, MA 01501 will be sold at a Public Auction at 1:00 PM on October 15, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

TRACT I:

The land, with the buildings and improvements thereon, situated on the westerly side of Oxford Street South in the Town of Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and being shown as Lot 3 on a plan of property owned by Joseph A. Tonelli, Jr. and John E. Johnson, Oxford Street South, Auburn, Massachusetts by Cullinan Engineering Co., Inc. dated July 22, 1974, which plan is recorded with the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 403, Plan 40, and to which plan reference is made for a more particular description.

TRACT II:

The land, with the buildings and improvements thereon, situated in the Town of Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and being shown as Lot 4A on a plan of land entitled: "Plan Showing Land" in Auburn, Mass. owned by Stephen Messina, to be conveyed to Joseph C. Messina et ux prepared by George E. Smith, Jr. R.L.S. dated May 17, 1983, which plan is recorded with the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 509, Plan 19, and to which plan reference is made for a more particular description.

Subject to and with the benefits of any and/or all rights, restrictions, covenants and easements of record insofar as the same may be in force and applicable.

For title, see deed dated 8-13-1996 from Edward A. Pouzar to Bruce J. Grici and Angela J. Grici, recorded with the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Book 18230, Page 152.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 18230, Page 152.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851

(978) 256-1500
Grici, Bruce J. and Angela J. Grici,
24-045144
September 20, 2024
September 27, 2024
October 04, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. W024P3232PM
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION TO EXPAND THE
POWERS OF A CONSERVATOR
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**

In the interests of:
Mary Ann Bushnell of Oxford, MA
RESPONDENT

(Person to be Protected/Minor)
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Tri-Valley, Inc. of Dudley, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Mary Ann Bushnell** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Jewish Family & Children's Service** of Worcester, MA

(or some other suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve With Personal Surety on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that a protective order or appointment of a Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **10/15/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 20, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman
October 4, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by: Anything Automotive INC, 8 E Main street, Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, section 39A, that on: 11 October 2024 at 5:00 PM at 8 E Main street, Webster MA by private sale the following motor vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle description: Year 2009
Make: Honda Accord
Registration#/State: 1DPG18/ MA
VIN: 1HGCP25799A063617
Name and address of vehicle owner: Carlos A Diaz 630 Main St North Oxford, MA 01537
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L.C.225, Section 39A
September 20, 2024
September 27, 2024
October 4, 2024

Notice is hereby given by: Anything Automotive INC, 8 E Main street, Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, section 39A, that on: 11 October 2024 at 5:00 PM at 8 E Main street, Webster MA by private sale the following motor vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle Description: Year 2014
Make: Chrysler 200
Registration #/ State: 2JDD71/ MA
VIN: 1C3CCBAB7EN124491
Name and address of vehicle owner: Melissa Marie Greeson 79 E Main St Apt 2 Webster, MA 01570
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L.C.225, Section 39A
September 20, 2024
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Notice is hereby given by: Anything Automotive INC, 8 E Main street, Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, section 39A, that on: 11 October 2024 at 5:00 PM at 8 E Main street, Webster MA by private sale the following motor vehicle will be

sold to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle Description: Year 2007
Make: Kia Optima
Registration/State: 2NJB73/ MA
VIN: KNAGE124875145819
Name and address of vehicle owner: Cheyene Crete 41 Brook St Webster, MA 01570
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. C.225, Section 39A
September 20, 2024
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Notice is hereby given by: Anything Automotive INC, 8 E Main street, Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, section 39A, that on: 11 October 2024 at 5:00 PM at 8 E Main street, Webster MA by private sale the following motor vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle Description: Year 2011
Make: Mercury Mariner
Registration/State: 162EA9/ MA
VIN: 4M2CN9B76BKJ01333
Name and address of vehicle owner: Arpad M Garamy 84 Chaplin St Southbridge, MA 01550
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. C.225, Section 39A
September 20, 2024
September 27, 2024
October 4, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. W024C0347CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE
NAME**

In the matter of:

Aviana Stella Leahy-Rojas
A Petition to Change Name of Minor
has been filed by
Aviana Stella Leahy-Rojas of **Webster MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Aviana Stella Leahy

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10/08/24 at 10 a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 5, 2024
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 4, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P3309EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Elaine M Dunleavy
Date of Death: 05/01/2024**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Karen M Kaminski** of **Augusta ME** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Karen M Kaminski of **Augusta ME** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve 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 10/22/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets

and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 25, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 4, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 57 Hillside Avenue, Webster, Massachusetts

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Elizabeth A. Hatch and Walter M. Lewinski, wife and husband to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), as mortgagee, as nominee for Urban Financial Group its successors and assigns and now held by WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, not individually but solely as trustee for FINANCE OF AMERICA STRUCTURED SECURITIES ACQUISITION TRUST 2018-HB1, said mortgage dated August 6, 2012, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49450, Page 383, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated November 4, 2016, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56262, Page 227, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated March 20, 2023, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68964, Page 108, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on October 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land with all improvements thereon situated at 57 Hillside Avenue, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts. Said land and improvements being more specifically described as follows:

Land with all buildings thereon of every description and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in Webster, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on the easterly side of Hillside Avenue, and being lot #77 on, "Plan of Lots at Hillside Avenue, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts", dated October 14, 1943 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan book 161, Plan 12, and bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a stake in the easterly line of said Hillside Avenue at Lot #78 as shown by the above captioned plan; THENCE easterly, two hundred six and thirty-nine hundredths (206.39) feet by said lot #78 to a stake in the westerly line of parcel "B" as shown by said plan; THENCE northerly sixty (60) feet at right angles to the last mentioned line by said parcel "B" to a stake at lot #76 on said plan; THENCE westerly two hundred one and sixteen hundredths (201.16) feet by said lot #76 and parallel to the first mentioned course to a stake in the easterly line of said Hillside Avenue; THENCE southerly with an interior angle of 60 degrees 00 feet a distance of sixty and twenty three hundredths (60.23) feet by said Hillside Avenue to a point of beginning.

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 August 9, 2012, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49450, Page 381.

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.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a 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 by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road, Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, not individually but solely as trustee for FINANCE OF AMERICA STRUCTURED SECURITIES ACQUISITION TRUST 2018-HB1
Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: 401-234-9200
MLG File No.: 23-00910

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder

September 27, 2024
October 4, 2024
October 11, 2024

CASA Project Worcester County hosts record-breaking fundraising and awards event

WORCESTER — CASA's 6th annual Champions for Children signature fundraiser brought in a record-breaking amount of more than \$150,000 to support their mission to advocate for and support youth impacted by the foster care system in Worcester County.

The event was hosted for the second time at the Top of the Tower, Worcester's newest and hottest event venue located at 446 Main St., owned and managed by Synergy, a Boston-based real estate investment and services company. An evening to celebrate and sustain CASA's work, honor supporters, and share stories of impact, the event shattered last year's record of \$110,000 raised. Champions for Children was held on Thursday,

Sept. 12, and featured several local restaurants and food vendors serving their unique multicultural cuisine, live entertainment, and a chance for guests to win a trip to Costa Rica.

The event honored select members of the CASA community, thanking them for their important roles in advancing the work of the organization. Honorees included District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr.; Mary O'Coin, director of the United Way of South Central MA; and long-time volunteers Deborah McDonnell and Elizabeth Young.

Under the leadership of executive director Julie Bowditch and event chairwoman and board member Liz Estabrooks, the event celebrates the diverse community of Worcester County and

brings together supporters from all over the region. Attendees included city and state representatives such as Mayor Joe Petty, school committee member Molly McCullough, state senators Robyn Kennedy and Michael Moore, state representative David Lebeouf, and Governor's Councilor Paul DePalo, as well as business and community leaders in the region. Lead sponsors included Top of the Tower, Lee Tesconi & Family, JoyGuru Humanitarian Services, Inc., Central MA Productions, Wednesday's Child, Plumb House, Carr Financial Group, and Peter Wyman & Family.

Bowditch said, "We are overwhelmed with gratitude. Each time I believe our community cannot outdo itself in supporting

the youth and families we serve, it does!"

During her remarks at the event, she challenged guests to remember a pivotal adult who positively changed their lives when they were growing up and reminded them that each of us has the power to fill that role for today's most vulnerable youth — as family members, neighbors, educators, mentors, and as part of the

CASA community. CASA Project Worcester County is a nonprofit organization appointed by juvenile court judges to the most challenging cases to provide best-interest, unbiased information to the court and amplify the needs and wishes of the youth on the cases. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are carefully screened and trained community vol-

unteers who support hundreds of foster-involved youth throughout the county each year. CASA Project Worcester County is a member of the National CASA Association and the oldest and largest of seven programs of its kind in the state. Learn more or get involved at www.thecasaproject.org.

Upcoming events at Samuel Slater Experience

WEBSTER — The Samuel Slater Experience is planning two topical lectures in October, both related to local Native American history.

The Apostle to the Indians

Sunday, Oct. 20, 3-4 p.m.

The Rev. John Eliot, an early arrival to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, believed his life's mission was to convert the Native Americans to Christianity. He established a series of "Praying Indian" villages in Central Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut.

These villages were the beginnings of the communities of Webster-Dudley, Thompson, Conn. Woodstock, Conn., and Oxford-Sutton, among others. Linda Casey, local historian and author, will relate the fascinating story of John Eliot, the "Apostle to the Indians."

The talk will be given on Sunday, Oct. 20, at 3

p.m. at the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster. It will last about one hour.

The lecture is free; to register, go to samuelslaterexperience.org. Tours of the museum, prior to the talk, will be available for the normal ticket price. Samuel Slater Experience is at 31 Ray St., Webster. For more information, email admin@samuelslaterexperience.org or call 508-461-2955.

Discover the Nipmuc Lithic Trail, October 26

Saturday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Native Americans in the Nipmuc Territory in southern Worcester County and northeast Connecticut left tangible artifacts, called lithic structures, and some can be found today in our fields and woods. Examples are cairns, chambers, anthropomorphic stone art and weirs. Local historian and expert Joseph Iamartino

will present evidence, photographic and from written history, the purpose of these historic structures. Enthusiasts are working diligently to preserve and document the remaining structures. Hear about recent exciting finds that expand the wonderful story of Nipmuc culture.

The talk will be given on Saturday, Oct. 26, at 11 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. at the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster. It will last about one hour.

The lecture is free; to register, go to <http://samuelslaterexperience.org>. Tours of the museum will be available for the normal ticket price.

Samuel Slater Experience is at 31 Ray St., Webster. For more information, email admin@samuelslaterexperience.org or call 508-461-2955.

Girls on the Run Worcester County hosts first Sneaker Soirée sponsored by UMass Memorial Health

WORCESTER — Girls on the Run Worcester County is excited to announce its first annual Sneaker Soiree, set to take place on Oct. 24 at Worcester Country Club in Worcester. This special event, proudly sponsored by UMass Memorial Health, aims to celebrate and support the empowerment of young girls through the transformative power of running.

Kicking off Girls on the Run Worcester County's 10th anniversary, the Sneaker Soiree will feature an evening of fun, inspiration, and community spirit. Attendees can look forward to:

• Silent Auction: Bid on exclusive items and experiences generously donated by local businesses and supporters.

• Guest Speakers: Hear inspiring stories from Girls on the Run participants and community leaders, including a special keynote address by Molly Barker, founder of Girls on the Run

International. • Delicious Food and Drinks: Savor a variety of culinary delights and beverages.

• Music and Entertainment: Wear comfortable sneakers and hit the dance floor.

"We are thrilled to host our first Sneaker Soiree and bring together our community to support the incredible work of Girls on the Run," said Karen Spencer, Executive Director of Girls on the Run Worcester County. "This event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our girls and ensure we can continue to provide impactful programs."

UMass Memorial Health, the largest healthcare system in the region, is committed to supporting community initiatives that promote health and well-being.

"We are proud to sponsor the Sneaker Soiree and support Girls on the Run Worcester County in its mission to empow-

er young girls," said Victoria McCandless, UMass Memorial Health, Chief of Staff and CEO Communications Officer. "Their work aligns with our commitment to fostering a healthy commu-

nity." Girls on the Run Worcester County is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering young girls through a unique program that combines physical activity with important life skills. The program encourages girls to develop self-confidence, build healthy relationships, and make positive decisions.

Tickets for the Sneaker Soiree are available now and can be purchased online at www.gotr-worc.org/sneaker-soiree. All proceeds from the event will directly support Girls on the Run Worcester County's programs and scholarships.

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LEGALS

The Attorney General's deadline for a decision on Warrant Article 24 (General) of the Annual Town Meeting held on May 20, 2024, is extended for an additional 60 days under the authority conferred by G.L. c 40, § 32. A decision on Article 24 will be issued on or before October 26, 2024. Warrant Article #12 (Zoning) of the Annual Town Meeting held on May 20, 2024, has received approval from the Attorney General's Office on August 27, 2024. The Attorney General's Office has disapproved the text in Section 101.11 in Article 16 (General) of the Annual Town Meeting held on May 20, 2024, declaring that a person violating the by-law "is guilty of a misdemeanor", however the remainder of Article 16 is approved by the Attorney General's Office on August 27, 2024, as it does not conflict with the Constitution or laws of the Commonwealth. The entire text of these by-laws is posted in the following five places in accordance with G.L. c. 40 § 32: Dudley Municipal Complex, Pearle Crawford Memorial Library, Mason Road School, Dudley District Court House and Shepherd Hill High School.

Attest: Lori A. Smith, Dudley Town Clerk

October 4, 2024
October 11, 2024

MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Shawn E. Benway and Daryl J. Benway to THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK as successor in interest to JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Trustee for Structured Asset Mortgage Investments II Trust 2006-AR4 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2006-AR4, dated May 4, 2006 and recorded in Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 38926, Page 218, for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will

be sold at Public Auction at 3:00pm on October 18, 2024 at 128 Main Street, Oxford, MA 01540, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

TRACT I
THE LAND IN OXFORD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS WITH BUILDINGS THEREON, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT #30 ON A PLAN OF HUGUENOT TRACT, OWNED BY THE HALL REALTY CO., WEBSTER DATED AUGUST 26, 1927, DRAWN BY J.R. KLEINDIENST, SURVEYOR, RECORDED IN THE WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN PLAN BOOK 51, PLAN 16, BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: NORTHERLY 189.7 FEET BY LOT 31 ON SAID PLAN; EASTERLY 60.2 FEET BY LOT 59 ON SAID PLAN; SOUTHERLY 207.1 FEET BY LOT 29 ON SAID PLAN; WESTERLY 61 FEET BY THE STATE HIGHWAY.

TRACT II
THE LAND IN OXFORD BEING LOT #31 ON PLAN OF HUGUENOT TRACT DATED AUGUST 26, 1927 RECORDED IN WORCESTER DISTRICT OF DEEDS, PLAN BOOK 51, PLAN 16 AND BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF SO. MAIN STREET, BEING THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF LOT #30 ON SAID PLAN;

THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY BY SAID LOT #30 BEING OTHER LAND OF THE GRANTEEES HEREIN ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINE AND SEVEN TENTHS (189.7) FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY BY LOT #58 ON SAID PLAN SIXTY AND TWENTY HUNDREDTHS (60.20) FEET TO POINT; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY BY LOT #32 ON SAID PLAN ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX AND SEVENTY HUNDREDTHS (176.70) FEET TO SAID HIGHWAY; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY BY A CURVE TO THE RIGHT,

THE RADIUS OF WHICH IS SIX HUNDRED SEVENTEEN AND TWO HUNDREDTHS (617.02) FEET BY SAID HIGHWAY SIXTY-TWO AND SEVENTY HUNDREDTHS (62.70) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. The premises are to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$10,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be Paid by the purchaser in the form of certified funds at the time and place of sale. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified funds to Albertelli Law, 5404 Cypress Center Dr., Ste 300, Tampa, FL 33609. A deed will be provided to the purchaser for recording upon receipt of the full purchase price. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK as successor in interest to JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Trustee for Structured Asset Mortgage Investments II Trust 2006-AR4 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2006-AR4, Present Holder of

said Mortgage
By Its Attorney
Patrick D. Beaton, Esq.
Albertelli Law
400 TradeCenter, Suite 5900
Woburn, MA 01801
Phone: 813-221-4743
24-005756
September 20, 2024
September 27, 2024
October 4, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. WO24P3225EA
Estate of:
Sandra A. Jacob
Alison Known As:
Sandra Jacob
Date Of Death: May 1, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner

**Scott M Corbin of Carson CA
Scott M Corbin of Carson CA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties

are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

October 4, 2024

Knights of Columbus Webster Council #228 holds successful charity drive

WEBSTER — On Saturday, Sept. 21, the Knights of Columbus Webster Council #228 held a successful 'Toll Booth' event, raising an impressive \$1,157 from generous motorists. All money collected will go directly to state-wide charity that supports children with physical or intellectual disabilities.

Over the years, funds raised by the council have gone toward life-changing projects for children with disabilities, such as the purchase of wheelchairs, assistive technology, and the construction of ramps, ensuring greater access and independence for children. The Knights of Columbus Council #228 is proud to continue its annual fundraising efforts in the Webster and Dudley area, thanks to the unwavering support of the community.

We extend a special thanks to Dudley Gas and Auto Service for their generous donation, which significantly contributed to the success of this event.

The Knights of Columbus Council #228 remains committed to charitable giving and service throughout the year. We give and serve throughout the year, and we are truly grateful for the continued generosity of the greater community.



MARK TONKIN PUTS HIS CHEF HAT BACK ON! YUMMY PASTA!!!

The First Congregational Church of Dudley (aka Dudley Hill Church, 135 Center Rd.) will host a pasta and meatball supper on Saturday, Oct. 19. Mark Tonkin, formerly head chef at Oxford's, and other church members will cook this meal. It is sure to be yummy! There are 2 seatings, one at 4:30 p.m., and the other at 6 p.m. The menu includes pasta, meatballs and sauce, salad with Italian dressing, garlic bread, and applesauce. The price is \$15 for ages 13 and up, \$8 for children ages six to 13, and free for those ages 5 and under. Reservations are recommended, as there is limited seating. To make a reservation, please call 508-943-7320. Leave your name, telephone number, time of seating (4:30 or 6 p.m.), and the number of seats you are reserving for. If you are unsure if you can come, tickets will be sold at the door.

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Call David (508) 688-0847. I'LL COME TO YOU!



Fiber Arts club for tweens & teens at Charlton Public Library

CHARLTON — Calling all tweens and teens ages 9-18! Are you interested in knitting, crocheting, needle felting, or other fiber art? Charlton Public Library's Fiber Arts Club is for you. Join us on Fridays, Oct. 11 and Oct. 25, from 3:45 to

4:30 p.m. to practice your craft, learn from more experienced friends, or teach others. We may have some special guests stopping by to give some pointers. Don't forget to bring your current projects! This group is for those

between the ages of nine to 18. Please register on our event calendar: charltonlibrary.org. Please only register the tween or teen attending the program, not parents/caregivers. (Younger siblings are not allowed to attend this program due to

the presence of sharp objects.) Charlton Public Library is located at 40 Main St. in Charlton. Additional parking available across Main Street at Town Hall.

Ruth Wells Center hosting Harvest Fair

SOUTHBRIDGE — The Ruth Wells Center for the Arts is hosting a Harvest Fair on Sunday, Oct. 6 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on the grounds of the center, 111 Main St. in Southbridge.

Featuring a dozen craft vendors, the lawn will have a variety of crafters selling jewelry, collectibles, handmade items for all ages. There will be a kids' area where for \$10 kids can make a scarecrow to bring home.

Pumpkin painting for \$2 will allow kids to express their artistic talents- and bring home decorations! The Angry Panda food truck will be available from 1-4 p.m.

The galleries will also be open- with an exciting exhibit of ghoulish, spooky and Halloween themed art. For more information, go to the Web site, ruthwellscenter.com, or call 508-764-3341.

SNHU announces Summer 2024 Dean's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2024 Dean's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term are named to the Dean's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Nicholas Piekarczyk of Dudley
Alex Hetherman of Webster
Miko Schiavoni of Oxford
Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

SNHU announces Summer 2024 President's List

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2024 President's List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Dina Holmes of Auburn
Lillian Berry of Auburn
Jordan Keefe of Dudley
Dennis James Stelmach of Dudley
Stephanie Tetlow of Dudley
Karissa Lamothe of Webster
Michael Duteau of Webster
Abigail MacLagan of Webster
Jacquelyn Ricard of Webster

Paige Chaifetz of Webster
Meighan McCarthy of Webster
Emma Snow of Oxford
Corben Bowen of Oxford
Jessica Socia of Oxford
Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

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Marysol Cruz of Southbridge
Matthew Hall of Southbridge
Shana Caisse of Southbridge
Gregory Swift of Charlton City
Ryan Manners of Sturbridge
Peter Perez of Holland

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 92-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 accredited undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, New Hampshire. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

Bay Path LPN receives DAISY Award

CHARLTON — Kelsey Roman, LPN, an alumna of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and an LPN at the Baystate Medical Center, has received the prestigious DAISY Award.

A national program, the award is presented to nurses who go above and beyond for their patients and community. She was nominated by Katie Dambeck, RRT, for her determination and life-saving patient advocacy.

Roman's recognition is particularly special because it is the first time in Baystate Medical Center's history that an LPN has been honored with the DAISY Award. The DAISY Award recognizes the outstanding professionalism and compassion that nurses bring to patients and families every day. It was established by the DAISY Foundation in California in memory of J. Patrick Barnes, who died at age 33 of an autoimmune disease. DAISY is an acronym for "diseases attacking the immune system."

According to Dambeck, "Kelsey activated RRT to the bedside of a patient with concerns regarding his extremely large, semi rigid abdomen. He had increasing pain and shortness of breath. My immediate assessment, as a seasoned surgical nurse, was completely in line with her con-



Kelsey Roman

cerns. I knew upon sight of this patient's abdomen that we were moving towards a surgical emergency. I was able to discuss the plan of care with the providers at bedside, who agreed to consult surgery. The following

day, while rounding, Kelsey brought me back to the bedside with continued concern. I agreed with her and assisted in administering a Harris drip enema per the medical recommendations. I had to leave the bedside for

an emergency, but upon my return that evening, it was very clear that Kelsey continued to strongly advocate for her patient throughout the day. As it turned out, the patient had an impending perforation. Kelsey continually communicated with her providers, performed multiple time-consuming interventions, and brought RRT to the bedside to support her concerns."

Dambeck added that that the patient was out of Surgical ICU, "alive and ambulating on the post-op unit, all because Kelsey trusted her instincts and did not give up and showed tremendous compassion to her patient."

Roman graduated from Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy with the Class of 2019. While at Bay Path she was a Horatio Alger CTE scholarship recipient, an officer for the UNICEF Club, a student representative, and a district champion for SkillsUSA Health Knowledge Bowl earning a Gold Medal. She volunteered for MRC, the Paxton Fair, the Bay Path College Fair, and the Safety Fair in Marlboro. She is certified in Mental Health First Aid and Infusion Therapy/Central Line Care.

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

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Quinebuag Masonic Lodge holds special event at Old Sturbridge Village



Courtesy

Master Masons that attended this special degree event from throughout the state of Massachusetts standing on the steps in front of the Meeting House at Old Sturbridge Village.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBUAG MASONIC LODGE

STURBRIDGE — On Wednesday evening,

Sept. 25, the parking area near the bright blue Security and First Aid building at (OSV) Old

Sturbridge Village was packed full of cars. The security attendant at the gate providing directions

to the Master Masons to walk towards the main OSV common area. It was a cool cloudy evening with chances of scattered showers. This did not deterrent the Master Masons to attend and participate in this special ceremony in the main common area. Master Masons from throughout Massachusetts and representatives from the Grand Masonic Lodge in Boston were there to witness this historic ceremony. This special ceremony was performed by the Quinebuag Masonic Lodge members and volunteers in the main common area in front of the Salem Towne House building were Master Masons use to meet 228 years ago. Here is a brief histori-

cal summary of the Salem Towne House. It was built in 1796 in Charlton for the Towne family who was a very prominent family in the community at this time. General Salem Towne was active in the community. Both the father General Salem Towne and his son Salem Towne Jr. were Master Masons. They used to hold Masonic meetings in their home from about 1796 through 1804, according to research information obtained from Masonic genealogy. Master Masons from the surrounding community would travel to the General Salem Towne house to meet for these meetings.

The Quinebuag Masonic Lodge members and volunteers set

up a small portion of the OSV common area with tiki torches to light up this area for their meeting and to reenact what these Master Masons did during that time frame. A couple of pop-up tents was provided along with benches by OSV for the brethren if they choose to stay dry if it rained. Prior to the degree work, dinner was served in the Bullard Tavern

which is right next to the common. The food that was served was enjoyed by those who had dinner at the Bullard Tavern. The final stage of the degree work ended in the Meeting House at the other end of the common. This beautiful building and its huge steeple pointing skyward, along with huge pillars in front of the meeting house was a dominant symbol of every New England town. What a way to end the final stage of this degree work meeting in this beautiful building. This ambiance, the type of pews you sat in and the echo when the speaker spoke brought you back in time to how life was lived back then. As one of our Master Masons that attended the meeting stated. One of the most memorable ceremonies he has ever witnessed. The execution was great, and the ambiance couldn't have been better. From the chiming steeple bells to the candle-lit tiki torches. Every detail created a perfect atmosphere of the time era. The meeting house with its creaky floorboards and a packed crowd, added to the unique energy of the night. Even the lite up cemetery contributed to the hauntingly beautiful setting.

A special thank you go to all the Master Masons who volunteered and participate in this special degree event. Also Thank you to Sandra Polanik Assistant Director of Events and Public Programs at the OSV for her assistance in making this a memorable event. If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our Web site at www.massfreemasonry.org.

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