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Auburn News

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Friday, October 18, 2024

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Local barber offers haircuts to heroes

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
 STAFF WRITER

REGION — Webster-Dudley American Legion Post 184 is teaming up with local barber Tito Delgado to support veterans through a unique program.

The Post 184 team recently launched a program called Haircuts for Heroes. Post Commander John Kardas, working closely with Delgado, will ensure that homebound and financially challenged veterans are provided free haircuts.

The service will be offered in the comfort of veterans' private residences. For those who are able to visit the barber, Delgado will schedule slots at his shop.

"Times are tough now, and reaching out to area veterans to help them even with the simplest thing as a haircut will mean so much," read a statement released by Post leaders.

In recent years, American Legion Post 184 officials have led several new efforts to support veterans and their families. Recognizing the challenges facing veterans since the pandemic, Post 184 leaders and their community supporters have stepped up to offer assistance to those who served.

"As a veterans organization, we are always looking for ways to help those



Courtesy

Barber Tito Delgado provides a haircut for Vietnam War veteran and former heavyweight boxer, James Sundstrom, as part of the Haircuts for Heroes program.

veterans in our local area that need help with anything that can help with daily life," Kardas said. "Simply getting a haircut is just one small thing that can help."

For Delgado, of Webster's Choice Barber Shop, supporting the Haircuts for Heroes ini-

tiative provides a unique opportunity to give back to those who served.

"The moment I heard about this, I told them to count me in," said Delgado, whose father served in the Army. "It's an honor to hear veterans' stories and learn from them. Their service is a

debt owed."

In recent years, Delgado has cut hair for several causes, including programs supporting first responders, children battling illnesses, and autism awareness, among others. He's always been on the lookout for ways to give back to local veterans.

"Even if they can't leave their houses, they deserve to be able to get this service on the house," Delgado said. "It's a pleasure to listen to them and learn about what they gave for us."

One of the first veterans Delgado visited as part of the Haircuts for Heroes program is Vietnam War veteran and former heavyweight boxer, James Sundstrom. Delgado enjoyed learning about Sundstrom's career and how he inspired local athletes over the years.

If you or a family member is a local veteran unable to afford or travel to a barber's appointment, please reach out to the Webster-Dudley American Legion Post 184 by phone. You may also visit the organization's Facebook page for more information.

Officials will help you schedule a session where a free haircut can be provided at your convenience.

To learn more, send an email to: amlegion184@gmail.com.

Dudley Special Town Meeting to address project funding, bylaw changes

BY JASON BLEAU
 CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Dudley Board of Selectmen has finalized the warrant for the special town meeting later this month with 15 articles including several housekeeping measures and two citizens petition up for discussion.

The first half of the warrant is comprised of normal housekeeping articles often resolved annually during the fall special town meeting. Articles 1 through 6 address committee recommendations, amendments to the 2025 Fiscal Year spending plan, unpaid bills, inspections and the utilization of free cash for the Compensated Absences Reserve Fund. Article 7 is where the town will begin addressing more unique additions to the 2024 warrant starting with a request to borrow \$704,410 to repair and expand the Richard Carmignani Sr. Memorial Playground. The initiative would allow for the rebuilding and reopening of the long-closed playground at the Dudley Municipal complex. In September the town was awarded a \$496,650 Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant that would serve as a reimbursement leaving the total actual cost to the town at \$207,760. The approval at town meeting is required to maintain and execute the grant.

Article 8 address another longstanding project in town, the PFAS mitigation along Eagle Drive. The vote seeks to borrow \$926,000 to fund the scope, design, and engineering of resolving the contaminated wells along Eagle Drive and Fairview Avenue. These costs include testing the capped landfill and water monitoring. Voters approved a waterline easement to install town lines to the Eagle Drive area during the annual town meeting in May which would allow residents to hook up to the

Turn To **DUDLEY** page **A12**

Planning Board ends Rosemont project

BY GUS STEEVES
 CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — The Planning Board closed the hearing on a proposal to build a church-related rooming house at 0 Rosemont after Planner Ann Morgan told them the town had received a letter from the project's supposed engineer "stating this is not his seal and not his signature."

"As far as this board is concerned, we really don't have an application in front of us because an engineer hasn't signed it," said Chair Paul LaFramboise, before asking the proponent "to address the fact the plan was submitted fraudulently by signing an engi-

neer's name that wasn't working on the project."

According to two documents in the project's online file that were not read at the hearing, engineer Matthew Copeland was the person in question. He wrote: "I understand that certain documents apparently bearing my name, Massachusetts Professional Engineer (PE) license number, stamp, and signature have been submitted to the Webster Planning Board for review and approval related to a project at 0 Rosemont Street in Webster. I have no involvement, currently or in the past, with the project at 0 Rosemont Street; the use of my credentials

on these documents is fraudulent. I did not prepare these documents nor did I authorize the use of my credentials."

Copeland's letter dated Sept. 28 noted Webster is investigating this issue and he'd be following up with the state licensing board.

LaFramboise asked proponent Rev. Kalimiro Akeem Bujiriri of the Jesus Church of Good News, "Who signed this plan? ... That doesn't sit well with this board," Bujiriri simply said "I don't know." He asked for more time, but the board refused to consider that.

LaFramboise added "Code enforcement has already shut down the

project."

Morgan noted they have the option of denying without prejudice, which would allow Bujiriri to refile "the exact same" plan immediately, or denying with prejudice, which requires a two year delay before resubmitting the same plan, but he could submit a different plan faster. But the board didn't formally

vote to deny a special permit yet, pending getting language reviewed by the town attorney.

Local attorney Nick Adamopoulos, representing a few abutters, noted this is "not the first time there's been a clear lie that's been filed with this application." He pointed specifically to a previous claim that the project would use Webster Five's

lot for parking, when the bank's letter refused that.

With this situation, though, he said the misused stamp and fake signature could put a person's career at risk, and noted the whole process wasted the town's time.

"Webster's not going to let people come here and present lies and fraudu-

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Oxford Town Meeting OK's land buy

BY GUS STEEVES
 CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — The primary issue sparking some debate at this month's Town Meeting was land.

Article 5 sought to approve purchasing a parcel known simply as "0 Charlton St.," next to the Town Hall and Senior Center, to expand parking and provide outdoor space for town uses. Technically, its language gives the Selectmen authority to finalize a land transfer that's already been under discussion in Executive Session, setting a maximum cost of \$200,000.

That figure drew some questions from the approximately 107 people in attendance. As School Committee member David Cornacchioli noted, he "wants to make sure we're being practical with money," especially after the spring Town Meeting debates that approved increasing the school budget.

According to Manager Jen Callahan, the parcel in question has a 30-foot border with the town's current property, so that would be used for access. Acquiring it has been on the town's radar screen for about three years, with consideration for both the current owners' interests, the town's needs, and its history. That parcel had a house that burned years ago.

Senior Center Director Laura Wilson advocated for the purchase by saying attendance at center events "has grown by leaps and bounds," especially the lunches. But she has heard from people she expected to attend that they didn't because the existing lot was full.

To her, having that parcel would be "a welcomed amenity," both for extra parking and possible use as "a flat walking area to the senior center."

Callahan agreed, noting the parking issue is particularly "dramatic" in winter, when the lot has mountains of snow taking up scarce spaces.

Turn To **LAND** page **A12**



Courtesy

The Dudley Woman's Club welcomed Kathy Chapman and Michelle Power of Pawsitively 4 Pink at its Oct. 10 meeting to learn about the amazing work this support organization does for women undergoing breast cancer treatment. Furry friend Gracie came along for the visit. The DWC made a \$200 donation and its members donated \$240 in gas and store gift cards to the organization to help with cancer patient expenses. The DWC thanks Kathy, Michelle and Gracie for sharing their story with us and for the work they do to uplift the lives of others. For more information about Pawsitively 4 Pink, visit pawsitively4pink.org. More about the Dudley Woman's Club at dudleywomensclub.org. Pictured from left: Kathy Chapman, DWC Vice President Cindi Gardner, Michelle Power.

Boys & Girls Club hosts 23rd Annual Golf Tournament, raising \$20,000 for youth programs

DUDLEY — The Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley is proud to announce the success of its 23rd Annual Golf Tournament, held at the scenic Dudley Hill Golf Club. The tournament, sponsored by P&P General Contractors, as well as 50 other businesses and individuals, raised an impressive \$20,000 in support of the Club's vital programs that provide youth in the Webster-Dudley area with safe and enriching opportunities.

This year's tournament featured the Hole-in-One contest, sponsored by O'Connor & Co. Insurance Agency, Inc. The event was co-chaired

by community leaders John Lefebvre, Linda Littleton, and Cheryl Hackenson, whose efforts were instrumental in making the day a success. Funds were raised through generous sponsorships, a live auction, and raffle prizes, all of which contributed to the impressive fundraising total.

Following the tournament, participants and supporters gathered for a reception at Nichols College's Bison's Den, where they celebrated the day's achievements.

Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley, Liz Hamilton, expressed her gratitude: "We are

incredibly thankful for the overwhelming support from the community. This tournament gets better every year, and it's all thanks to the dedication of our sponsors, volunteers, and the generosity of everyone involved."

The Club would like to extend a special thank you to all sponsors, volunteers, and Nichols College for their continued support in making the tournament a memorable and impactful event. For a list of sponsors, please visit our Web site at www.bgwebster-dudley.org.

About the Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley: For over 66 years 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.bgwebsterdudley.org.

Chibuchi Ike inducted into Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

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

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

have achieved scholarly distinction.

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

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

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$610,000, 7 Fox Run Cir, Wright, David R, and Wright, Ann M, to M F & Anne E Perry RET, and Perry, Anne E.

\$465,000, 14 Stone St, Shea, James R, and Shea, Maureen P, to Bedarian, Joshua, and Bedarian, Jillian.

\$446,500, 15 Burnap St, Stallings, Rebecca L, to Lambert Ft, and Lambert, Nicholas A.

\$440,000, 11 Bancroft St, Homeowner Fincl Soln LLC, to Isemwami, Edmond, and Neema, Grace.

\$439,142, 46 Harrison Ave, 46 Harrison Ave LLC, to Pichardo, Tirso A.

\$250,000, 93 Rockland Rd, Dimauro, Nicholas J, to Blackstone Dev Group LLC.

DUDLEY

\$485,000, 8 Country Club Blvd #8, W A & K A Kingsbury Ft, and Kingsbury, William A, to Calnan, Sarah L.

\$451,000, 4 Marshall Ter, Lavallee Rt-2017, and Lavallee, Richard P, to Boamah, Bryant.

\$425,000, 3 Filo Rd, Kolodziej, Jan S, to Bigelow, Lori, and Gregoire, Danielle.

\$341,000, 7 3rd Ave, Piesak Michael M Est, and Piesak, Diana, to Samia Botros LLC.

\$240,000, 31 Alton Dr, Bond Frances S Est, and Bond, James E, to Mckissick, Kyle.

\$65,000, Charlton Rd, Belanger, Donna, to Place, Christopher.

OXFORD

\$725,000, 7 Sandpiper Ln, Smith, Kathleen M, to Barry, Thomas A, and Barry, Patricia R.

\$410,000, 8 Harwood St, Makhluaf, Gil, to

Smith, Kathleen M.

\$350,000, 4 Burbank St, Parker, Sheryl A, to Belmore, Bryan J, and Belmore, Kathryn E.

\$245,000, 23 Thayer Pond Dr #4, Beckman, Patricia E, to Puzio, Peter D.

WEBSTER

\$11,200,000, 1 Cudworth Rd, Ugpg Re Webster LLC, to 1 Cudworth Road LLC.

\$779,900, 8 Fairfield St, Anderson, Scott G, and Anderson, Debra A, to Palmerino, Mark, and Garceau, Martha.

\$585,000, 14 Nelson St, 14 Nelson St LLC, to Kammer, Lineker.

\$520,000, 10 New St, T J & B A Lorkiewicz Irt, and Lorkiewicz, Robert J, to Vanegas, Jessica P, and Ramos, Heracio N.

\$467,500, 190 Lower Gore Rd, Lamothe, Nicholas F, and Lamothe, Karissa M, to W A & K A Kingsbury Ft, and Kingsbury, William A.

\$325,000, 12 Surrey Ln, Scola Jr, Ralhp J, and Scola, Lorraine, to Scola, Daniel J.

\$325,000, 52 Harris St, Lebel Jr, Henry P, and US Bank NA Tr, to Truman 2016 Sc6 Title T, and U S Bank Na Tr.

\$315,000, 11 Brian Ave, D P & D Lichtenwalner RET, and Lichtenwalner, David P, to Grzyb, Joel, and Grzyb, Nicole.

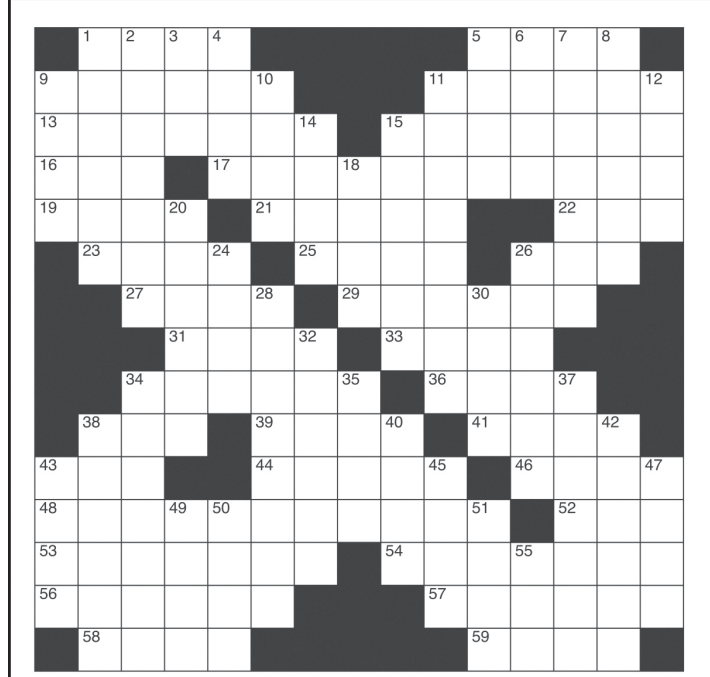
\$201,000, 12 Brookline St, Williams, Carol A, and Kiely, Roxanne, to Awad, Adel Z.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Tall, upright post on a boat
- 5. Basics
- 9. Used to refer to cited works
- 11. Folds
- 13. Former UK PM May
- 15. Cold region of Russia
- 16. Standard operating procedure
- 17. Separating
- 19. Particles
- 21. A way to map out
- 22. Referee declares
- 23. Beginner
- 25. Water (Spanish)
- 26. Gov't lawyers
- 27. Non-reproductive parts of an organism
- 29. Spanish friends
- 31. A type of tree
- 33. Walk heavily
- 34. About a wood
- 36. Free-swimming marine invertebrate
- 38. Political action committee
- 39. SB19 hit song
- 41. Scorch the surface of
- 43. Moved quickly on foot
- 44. Sacred state for a Muslim
- 46. Growl
- 48. Pearl Jam frontman
- 52. Irritating person
- 53. Something requiring a solution
- 54. Firing
- 56. Hazards
- 57. Taiwan capital
- 58. Impudence
- 59. Rock frontman Durst

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One who rides an elephant
- 2. Absence of bacteria
- 3. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 4. Men's fashion accessories
- 5. "Honey" actress Jessica
- 6. Round red root vegetable
- 7. Latin term for "charity"
- 8. Doesn't smell good
- 9. Mental health issue
- 10. Millisecond
- 11. Hairstyle
- 12. Edible starch
- 14. Middle Eastern military title
- 15. Protein-rich liquids
- 18. Indian musical pattern
- 20. Cancer and Capricorn
- 24. Country along the Arabian peninsula
- 26. A bend
- 28. Fishes of the herring family
- 30. Antelopes
- 32. Chaos
- 34. Popular music app
- 35. Cooking material
- 37. Musical instrument
- 38. San Diego ballplayers
- 40. Small amounts
- 42. Poured
- 43. Fabric
- 45. Food option
- 47. Finger millet
- 49. The U. of Miami mascot is one
- 50. Alberta, Canada river
- 51. Canadian flyers
- 55. Dry white wine drink

PUZZLE SOLUTION

D	E	R	F		S	S	V	S												
I	E	P	I	V	L		S	T	I	H	E	D								
G	N	I	K	C	V	S		W	E	T	B	O	H	D						
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						S	C	B	V						L	S	V	W		



Courtesy

ZION AND RECONCILIATION FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

Throughout October Zion Lutheran Church, 70 Main St., Oxford, and Church of the Reconciliation, 21 North Main St., Webster, are collecting donations of hot and cold cereals to be distributed through the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf and the Food Share at United Church of Christ-Federated, Webster. Both food pantries provide free emergency assistance for neighbors in our communities who are battling food insecurity. When food stamps benefits don't stretch to the end of the month or unexpected circumstances cause long term or temporary poverty, these food banks come to the rescue. Cereal is a quick, easy to prepare, nutritious breakfast or snack enjoyed by the young and elderly. If you would like to help, contact the church office at either parish.

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Dudley's Halloween Spooktacular returns Oct. 24

DUDLEY — An eerie full moon will soon rise over Dudley Town Hall and in its glow, ominous shadows will scurry about transforming parking lots and lawns into a free Halloween family event for ghosts and goblins of all ages.

Dudley's annual Spooktacular returns on Thursday, Oct. 24. And this kid-friendly event

runs during the less-scary daylight hours of 3–6 p.m.

It all begins at 3 p.m. when families are invited to gather in costume at the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library, 40 Scholfield Ave., for fun family activities.

At 4 p.m. the gaggles of ghosts and goblins will receive a police escort as they parade up Brandon

Road to Town Hall.

There, families will be greeted with lots of free food, games and prizes. Highlights include the Dudley Fire Department SAFE House, a Haunted Bouncy House, a Cauldron of S'mores, Hot Dogs and Drinks.

It wouldn't be a Halloween party without a costume contest, so be sure to upload your wee

ones' photos to the library Facebook page: www.facebook.com/crawfordlibrary, Instagram: @thedudleypearle, or email to: pearle@cwmmars.org.

Costume prizes will be awarded for: Scariest, Funniest, Most Unique, DIY and Family.

Please direct questions to sewerwater@dudley-ma.gov.



Webster house fire started in cannabis grow room



WEBSTER — A fire that displaced eight people started in an illegal cannabis grow room, said Webster Fire Chief Brian Hickey, Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw, and State Fire Marshal Jon Davine.

The Webster Fire Department responded to 57 N. Main St. at 10:05 a.m. Friday morning for a report of a fire in a two-story duplex home.

Firefighters observed smoke and flames on arrival and made entry, containing the fire to the second floor. The fire was knocked down in about 10 minutes.

One resident was transported to an area hospital for observation. That resident and seven others from two families were displaced from their home.

Firefighters observed hundreds of cannabis plants, as well as pesti-

cides, fertilizers, and other illicit drugs on the scene. In an abundance of caution, they requested members of the State Police Bomb Squad and Department of Fire Services' Joint Hazard Incident Response Team to assess and help mitigate the hazards. The JHIRT is composed of Hazmat technicians with specialized knowledge in reactive and energetic materials.

The investigation by

Webster Fire personnel, Webster Police, and State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal's office determined that the fire started in a second-floor grow room with abundant cannabis plants. They determined that the most likely cause was an overloaded power strip that powered lights, fans, and other electrical devices.

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the month of September.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 3 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 3 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and in connection with a warrant.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 3 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Rachel Rondeau, age 44, of Woodstock, Conn. was arrested on Sept. 3 for Operating Under the Influence of alcohol and Failure to Stop or Yield.

Baelyn Kyle Blackmore, age 28, of Dudley was arrested on Sept. 5 for Disorderly Conduct, Leaving the Scene of Property Damage, Resisting Arrest, Refusal by the Operator of a Motor Vehicle to Identify Themselves, and Disturbing the Peace.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 6 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

An individual whose identity has

been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 7 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Shaun Michael Perry, age 34, of Dudley was arrested on Sept. 8 for Operating Under the Influence of alcohol (second offense), Failure to Stop or Yield, and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Robert J. Copper, age 30, of Oxford was arrested on Sept. 16 for Vandalization of Property, Disorderly Conduct, and Disturbing the Peace.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication

was arrested on Sept. 20 for Assault & Battery and Assault & Battery on a Person over the age of 60 and/or Disabled.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Sept. 29 for Domestic Assault & Battery.

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DUDLEY TOWN HALL (508) 949-8000

Monday: 8:00 AM-6:30 PM (second floor offices),
Tuesday-Thursday: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Friday: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM.

DUDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-4411)

Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week

DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040)

Monday-Sunday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OXFORD

OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027

Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours:

Monday, Tues., Thurs..... 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156)

For emergencies, call 911

OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)

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

WEBSTER

WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850

Office Hours:

Monday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-1212)

For emergencies, call 911

WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875)

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

United Church of Christ Federated announces community Halloween party and dance

WEBSTER — The United Church of Christ Federated invites the community to participate in a community-wide Halloween Family Party followed later that day with a Halloween Dance taking place on Saturday, Oct. 19. The party will be from 1-3 p.m., and then the dance will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Activities at the Party will include a costume contest with prizes for the best costume in 4 age categories, special music, a treasure hunt, face painting, Halloween cookie decorating, Pumpkin decorating, games (for example: bowling, prize wheel, ring toss, and more) with prizes for all participating, a Halloween Pinata, and more. Entrance is free. There will be food available for a nominal fee (popcorn, hot dogs, drinks) with the money going towards continuing our outreach programs such as the Threads of Hope and Feed My Sheep.

The Dance will simply be a dance and a chance to have a good time. There will be some refreshments available. Entrance is free though we are asking that people bring a non-perishable food item for Food Share.

The United Church of Christ Federated is 4 Church St. in Webster; and can be reached at 508-943-0061 or uccfedwebster.org.

For more information, contact the church office at 508-943-0061 or office@uccfedwebster.org.

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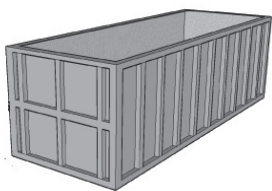


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GLADYS E. KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Join us for one of our programs at the Pearle! Do you want to be the first to know about events happening at the Library? Check out our event calendar at www.crawfordlibrary.org or sign up for our eNewsletter by calling 508-949-8021.

Adult Programs

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 15: What You Wish For
October 22: Sweet Dreams
October 29: Back To Black

Mahjong at the Pearle
Wednesday 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.

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!

Teen Programs

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 is geared towards kids and teens who are looking to learn more about playing and some short adventures!

Kids Programs

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.

Bat-tastic Glow Stick Decorating
Thursday, October 24
3:00-3:45 Fels Community Room
Let's light up the Spooktacular Parade with a colorful bat-themed glow stick craft! Registration is required.

Spooktacular Parade and Costume Contest
Thursday, October 24 3:45-6:00
Town of Dudley Spooktacular Spooky Parade kicks off at 4pm at the Library. Children will gather at the Library, in costume, and march up Brandon Rd. to the Town Hall. There will be games, prizes, food, and a s'mores fire pit in the parking lot behind Town Hall. Prizes will be awarded for the scariest, funniest, most unique, DIY, and family costumes!

Spooky Bones & Creepy Crawlies
Saturday, October 26 @ 11am
Join us for this spooky and scientific Halloween event for kids. Discover and explore real bones and skeletons from MA native animals and hold or pet some of the biggest bugs you have ever seen! Best for ages 5+ . Registration required.

Spooky Story Time
Monday, October 28 @ 6:00
Join Guest Reader Jubilee 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.

Story Times
Begin week of October 28th!

Pre-K Power Story Time - Tuesday at 10:00- 10:45
For ages 3-5 and their caregiver (siblings always welcome!). Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays, scarves, shaker eggs, moving our bodies to music, activities, bubbles, a craft, and free play!

Toddler Story Time - Wednesday at 10:00 - 10:45
Best for ages 0- 2.5 and their caregiver (siblings always welcome!). We'll have fun with songs, fingerplays, a story, moving our bodies to music, shaker eggs, scarves, and bubbles! There will be time for free play and socialization, too.

Baby Open Play - Friday at 10:00 am
Best for ages 0-12 months (pre-walkers only please) Parents and caregivers can let babies play while getting to know others in the community!

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.

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 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: Eduardo Ortiz --- November 14th at 6:30 PM
Eduardo Ortiz is a professional musician, director, bass player, and composer. Son of the trumpet player maestro Dante Ortiz, his career began 50 years ago in his native country, Dominican Republic. During the past 20 years, he has been an ambassador representing Dominican culture through his artistry in Massachusetts and locally in the city of Worcester. Eduardo has also a rich deep background in Jazz and Latin music for both live audiences and in recording and studio production. He has composed over 20 pieces. Just released his first album “El tiempo pasa” and is currently working on his second production. Eduardo lives in the city of Worcester with his beautiful and supportive wife Niurka Ortiz, close to his grandkids and daughters.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP— October 28th at 6:30 PM
This month's book discussion will be in the Library's The Nest. 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!

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: Chair Yoga: 10/21/24 Craft Program: 10/28/24

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

MAKER MONDAYS – Mondays from 3:30-4:30 PM
Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Every month we will rotate our craft material, stop in to see what we're making this month!

KIM THE LEGO LADY: 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 November 12th 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 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.

WEDNESDAY STUFFED ANIMAL STORYTIME--- October 27th 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 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.

TOWN OF POMFRET
PART-TIME FINANCE PROFESSIONAL/TREASURER
The Town of Pomfret seeks to hire a PT Finance Professional/Treasurer responsible for the management of Town funds. Responsibilities 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. Work in cooperation with municipal officials and provides financial reports as needed. Must be able to work independently. Flexible work hours. Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field or five years of related experience in accounting/bookkeeping, municipal work is a plus. 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 or email Selectmansclerk@pomfretct.gov Application and full job description is available at www.pomfretct.gov/first-selectmans-office. Position is open until filled. EEO/AA

PET of the WEEK



5months

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Though she may be a bit shy at first, her warm and loving nature will quickly win you over. Elise is best suited for a calm household with teens and adults who can provide the gentle care she needs. She will thrive in a quiet, peaceful environment away from the hustle and bustle of city life. If you're looking for a tender-hearted and playful companion, Elise might just be the perfect addition to your family.

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WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
(508) 949-3845

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, 10/22, Hot Dog, baked beans, coleslaw. Wednesday, 10/23, Baked Potato with Chili and Cheese, broccoli. Thursday, 10/24, Buttermilk Chicken, lemon potatoes, mixed vegetables. Friday, 10/25, Soup du Jour, NY Pastrami sandwich, coleslaw.

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, October 30th is Death Becomes Her, November 6th is His Girl Friday, November 13th is The Lego Movie, and November 20th is Elvis. There will be no movie on November 27th.

The first Thursday of every month we will be open until 7:00 pm with entertainment starting at 5:45 pm. For November 7th we will have Dan Kirouac. Step back in time and groove to the classics! Get ready to dance the night away to the unforgettable beats of the 60s and 70s. No registration needed.

You are invited to our HALLOWEEN PARTY! Friday, October 25th, 1:00 pm at the Senior Center. There will be drinks, food, live music, and prizes for costumes. No registration required.

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 Davensport 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 Downtown Abbey special live concert is a journey to Highclere Castle with the Sicilian Tenors- as seen in Downtown Abbey with a reproduction of their nationwide broadcast. 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 Davensport 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.

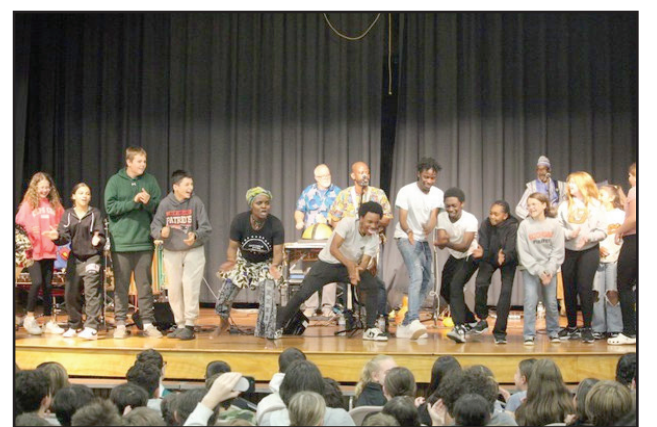
Visiting musicians introduce OMS students to African music



OXFORD — Oxford Middle School was fortunate enough to have Crocodile River Music at OMS this past week.

Crocodile River Music's mission is to connect audiences with African artists and cultures through performance and artifact education. Our partnership with them included the loaning African art pieces and artifacts for our art classes so that they could learn about the art mediums and create art in the likeness or style of the piece. Crocodile River Music also provided drum circle lessons on the djembe and dundun drums as well as the kashishi to our grade 7 students. Grade 7 students rotated through these drum circle lessons as an extension of our music program on Thursday, Oct. 3. Students learned about each instrument, how they are made, the sounds they make, and how to play the instruments with rhythm.

Finally, our entire student body attended a performance by Crocodile River Music where Crocodile River Music performed native pieces from across Africa for our students, explained their meaning and welcomed students to engage through singing along in a call in response, clapping, dancing, and joining them on stage to learn an instrument as well. Enjoy some photos below



of our day with Crocodile River Music.

OMS would like to extend a special thank you to OMS teachers Ms. Krutcher, art teacher, and Mr. Kim, music teacher, for their collaboration in writing a grant application to bring this experience to us, and thank you to the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for providing this grant opportunity to bring Crocodile River Music as well as musical instruments to Oxford Middle School. Our students had a fantastic time learning about a variety of African cultures, dance, instruments, and music and engaging with the performers.

Poets At Large continues fall season Oct. 26

POMFRET, Conn. — Poets at Large will continue their fall series on Oct. 26 at The Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Road, Pomfret. That evening Massachusetts poet and publisher Lee Derosiers will be the featured reader. Desrosiers (they/them) is a native New Yorker who has lived in western Massachusetts for the past 30 years. They are the editor of The Naugatuck River Review and Wordpeace, an E-zine.

Derosiers holds an MFA in poetry from New England College and teaches writing at Westfield State University and Poetry at Lesley University's MFA program.. They have three full-length collections from Salmon Poetry; The Philosopher's Daughter (2013), contains poems about their parents, and a "rather eccentric family" and about their journey out of domestic abuse; Sometimes I Hear the Clock Speak (2016), about "music, voices, time and memory," and Keeping Planes in the Air (2020), a volume about "loss, ghosts, aging and ephemera."

These Saturday evenings of spoken word and poetry are from 7-9 p.m. Admission is \$15, and includes a give-away. Poets at Large is a regional group of poets who read in Connecticut and Massachusetts, now in its fifth year. Contact Poets at Large coordinator Karen Warinsky if you are interested in reading in the open mic at karen.warinsky@gmail.com. There is a five-minute limit for open mic readers and these events are recommended for ages 14 and up.

Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts. The Vanilla Bean is ADA compliant.

Halloween at the Museum

AUBURN — Come join the Spooky People at the Auburn Historical Society and Museum, 41 South St., Auburn, on Monday, Oct. 28, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. You'll be able to meet some "characters" that will be telling you scary stories of Auburn's past, solve some vampire jokes, and partake in "Trick or Treat" bags. A tour of the museum, a glass of cider, and Boo!

This is free and open to all ages.

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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Celebrating the spooky season

As the air turns crisp and the leaves crunch beneath your boots, there's something about this time of year that feels both cozy and a little eerie. Halloween is upon us, and with it comes the unmistakable pull of ghost stories, pumpkin carving, and a sense that maybe—just maybe—we aren't as alone as we think.

Halloween has roots that go way back, all the way to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. Imagine bonfires lighting up the dark, chilly night, with people in animal skins and masks, hoping to keep the spirits from noticing them. It was believed that the veil between the living and the dead was thin on Oct. 31, and the spirits were out and about. Fast-forward a few centuries, throw in some Irish immigrants bringing their traditions to America, and here we are—still dressing up, still feeling that touch of magic (and maybe fear) in the air.

But there's something special about Halloween here in New England. Maybe it's the old houses, some of which seem to creak with secrets of their own. Maybe it's the fog that rolls in just right, making everything feel like the opening scene of a ghost story. New England has been the setting for some of the most chilling tales—stories that seem to hang in the cool, still air this time of year.

Take the eerie tale of the "Lady in White" of Union Cemetery in Connecticut. Picture it: a moonlit night, and a woman in a flowing white dress wandering the cemetery's edge. She's been spotted by countless people over the years, always disappearing into the mist just as quickly as she appears. Then there's "Emily's Bridge" in Vermont, where the ghost of a heartbroken young woman is said to linger, her presence felt by those brave enough to walk the bridge at night. And in New Hampshire, we have the haunting of the Mount Washington Hotel, where guests still report seeing the ghost of Carolyn Stickney, the original owner's wife. She's often spotted in Room 314, brushing her hair, or simply strolling the halls as if still watching over the grand hotel she loved.

But Halloween isn't just about the ghosts; it's about that cozy feeling that comes with the bright foliage and chilly air. There's something magical about this time of year. The world feels like it's slowing down, wrapping itself in the warm colors of fall—heavy sweaters, mugs of hot cider, the crackle of a fire. And yet, even as we snuggle in, we can't quite shake the feeling that we're sharing this season with something... otherworldly.

As you settle into the comforts of fall, don't forget to indulge in a few good ghost stories. Whether it's huddling around a bonfire or sitting by the fire with friends, these tales are as much a part of the season as the turning leaves. Maybe it's because they remind us that even in the coziest of moments, there's always a little bit of mystery in the air.

Enjoy your cider, carve your Jack O'Lanterns, and pull your sweater a little tighter; remember that you're part of something much bigger and older. And if you happen to catch a shadow out of the corner of your eye or feel a chilly breeze sneak in through the window, well, maybe that's just New England reminding you it's not just the living who love this time of year.

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

The mystery of life

Hurricane Helene creates chaos in Florida, Georgia but unexpectedly in the mountains of North Carolina. Who was prepared for such devastation far from the coast. And yet an unexpected 150 deaths and counting. Homes destroyed. People's lifetime of memories sunk under water. Another natural disaster that devastates the lives of millions of people.

Then we have war in the Middle East, with an uncertain future. Israel and Iran on the brink of all out war. Tens of thousands dying and hundreds of thousands suffering in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, northern Israel. And of course, we have the ongoing war and suffering in Ukraine and Russia, while few Americans even think about or are aware of the tragedies happening in South Sudan and other places of the world.

In our own Church family this past week, we had the death of 45 year old Stacey Bergeron, the daughter of Bill and Christine Kiritisis and the mother of Alexis and 12 year old Anthony. A beautiful woman full of life and faith now gone from our midst. Life is full of mysteries - with rare diseases like Castleman's Disease from which Stacey suffered, to natural disasters and wars, to all kinds of suffering around the world.

I often talk about how Life is a Mystery because this unfair mystery can be quite confusing and unsettling at times. Especially when people are in the midst of that deep, dark mystery of life, they cry out, "Where is God? Why did this happen to me? What is life all about?"

For some, this deep mystery of life leads to despair, skepticism and even abandonment of faith. Such people allow the darkness to overwhelm them and can't see or believe in the light. They allow what they see and experience to fill them with a darkness that creeps into their hearts, distorts their faith and taints how they look at life.

Some fall into this darkness because they have a misunderstanding of what faith is all about. They think that suffering is a sign that God has abandoned us or that their faith isn't strong enough when we suffer. Or some even think that they can bargain with God, where they will do so much and then expect God to respond by doing what they want - I've been a good, faithful Christian, praying for a miracle, therefore God must perform the miracle I want. And if he doesn't, then my faith is shattered.

This is an immature understanding of faith. Nowhere in the Church does it say that if we believe in God and follow Him, we will not suffer and even die. Actually, Christ promises us the opposite. "In order to follow Me," He says, "you must be prepared to carry the cross." The cross is a symbol of suffering and death, which of course, ultimately leads to resurrection and life. Yet, we have to accept this suffering and death as a part of our faith. Saint Paul puts it this way - "We have been given the privilege of not only believing in Christ but of suffering for Him."

Imagine, the privilege of suffering. A mature faith understands that God is with us no matter what we suffer; that He is with us precisely in the midst of whatever darkness we face. It is in such darkness that the light of Jesus Christ shines most brightly. In the midst of death, arises the Resurrected Lord. He has all authority over the living and the dead and promises to comfort our pangs of sorrow and give us hope even in the throes of utter despair.

Throughout history, and throughout this mysterious journey of human existence, darkness has always been present and death will always be nearby. Whether through unexpected natural disasters, sudden deaths, or precon-



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

ceived acts of evil and violence, darkness has always been a part of this fallen world.

Our Lord Jesus, however, came into such a dark world precisely to bring light, to offer hope, to remind humanity that we are never alone. God sees our suffering, and even when He allows us to struggle along in darkness, He assures us that His Divine Light will eventually shine forth. God confronts the evil of the world and conquers it. And if we choose to live under the light of His victorious love, we will experience this Mystery of Life in a new way. We won't "conform to this world (in confusion and despair) but we will be transformed by the renewing of our minds" in the Risen Christ Jesus.

Remember that our Lord Jesus proclaims, "You will have tribulation in the world but do not fear. I have overcome the world!"

Do not fear. I have overcome the world! This reminds us to not to give in to the fear of these uncertain days. Don't fear the wars and chaos around the world. Don't fear the political divisions and tensions that tells us that if the other side wins, the world will fall apart. Don't fear the violence and confusion we see in society all around us. Don't fear unexpected health concerns, even if we hear of tragic deaths of loved ones who pass away prematurely.

Do not fear! Yes, life is a mystery and we may face unexpected events at any time, like the people in North Carolina. We live in an uncertain world that may fall into chaos, and yet, our trust is not in the world and the powers of the world, but in the Eternal God, "the One who Is, who Was and who Is To Come, the Lord Almighty." He is the beginning and the end and will have the final say in life - in our lives and in world history!

There is a story in the Gospel of Luke where Jesus raises a man from the dead. He reveals His ultimate authority when He responds to the despair of a widow whose only son passes away. This hopeless woman feels that her life has ended. She mourns in unconsolable sorrow and despair. A desperate widow with no hope for the future. And yet, Jesus comes unexpectedly and turns her sorrow into joy. He brings life and hope. He performs an unbelievable miracle by raising her son from the dead.

Sometimes, Christ acts in such a miraculous way as to literally raise the dead. Most times, however, His miraculous ways are different. He may allow us to travel through the "valley of the shadow of death," yet in the midst of this dark Mystery, He comforts our hearts. In the midst of utter darkness, He offers us light. In the midst of our absolute despair, He gives us hope. When it seems that life has come to an end, He shows us the way forward.

Let us remember the foundation of our Christian faith is a God who was rejected Himself and yet who kept loving the world; a God who suffered terribly and was crucified, and yet who didn't despair but prevailed and conquered death itself. Our hope is in the God of miracles, the God of wonders, the God of love, the God of life.

Yes, we have the privilege to not only believe in Him, but to suffer with Him. Yet we also have the privilege to prevail and conquer with Him.

Keep this Almighty Lord in the center of everything. Look at the Mystery of Life through His prism and never despair. Hurricanes may come. Wars and tumults may happen. Fearful news may assail us. Yet, we hold on to a different perspective because we know that God is with us. God is in control. God is the Lord of history and the universe. In God will we trust!

Saving for college? Or retirement?



FINANCIAL FOCUS
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

If you're a parent, you want to do everything you can to help your children succeed in life. Therefore, you might think that one of the best things you can do is to save for your children's college education. And this is certainly admirable, but could it conflict with your ability to prepare for another key goal — your own retirement?

Of course, this would not be a problem if you had unlimited means, but most of us don't fall into that category. So, given the financial resources and income you do have, how should you approach the college-versus-retirement issue?

Fortunately, it's not necessarily an "either-or" scenario. However, it may make sense to prioritize saving for retirement over college, for two reasons.

First, your children have a lot more time to pay for college than you have to save for retirement. In addition to any grants or scholarships your children may receive, they might need to take out loans. While it's a good idea to keep this debt load as manageable as possible, it's also true that most student loans can be repaid over a long period of time.

And here's the second point: One of the best gifts you can give your children is to be self-sufficient in your retirement. You could easily spend two, or even three, decades as a retiree, so you will need to build considerable financial resources to pay for all those years. Your adult children will have their own financial needs to address, so you'll be doing them a great favor by relieving them of any financial responsibilities on your behalf.

Taking these factors into account, you may want to direct most of your saving and investing efforts toward achieving a comfortable retirement. Consequently, think about putting away as much as you can afford into your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

Even with this focus on retirement, though, you may find opportunities to save and invest for your children's education. For example, if you receive bonuses or income tax refunds, or your salary goes up, or you're able to free up money from your budget by reducing your debts, you could use these funds to invest in an education savings vehicle, such as a 529 plan. When you invest in a 529 plan, your earnings and withdrawals are federally tax free, provided the money is used for qualified education expenses such as tuition, room and board, books, and computers. Depending on where you live, you may also get some state tax benefits from your 529 plan. And a 529 plan isn't just for college — it can be used for K-12 private school tuition costs, plus expenses from qualified apprenticeship programs, such as those found at trade schools eligible for Title IV federal student aid.

It might not be easy to save and invest consistently for your retirement and your children's education. But both goals are worthy — after all, retirement can last a long time and college is expensive. So, try to develop a financial strategy that can allow you to make progress in both areas — your efforts may well be rewarded.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remember in November

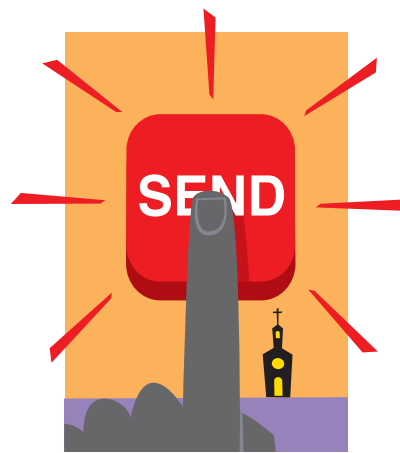
To the Editor:
For God. For country. For family.
Trump for US. Remember in November.

CARL W. WILSON
OXFORD

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Fall Lawn and Garden: What to Do & When to Do It

As the chill in the air and falling leaves signify the autumn season is well underway, mid October gardens still require care and upkeep. As many a backyard gardener will attest, chores don't end at harvest time. From planting to pruning, efforts now will be celebrated next year. It is the anticipation of these future crops that sustains weary gardeners through the roster of fall chores.



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

should receive at least an inch of water a week, preferably more.

If you test your soil and add any needed amendments now, the soil will be ready for planting in spring.

Cut back and mulch fall chrysanthemums after blooming.

Christmas cactus should rest in a cool, dim room with little water. Bring it back out November 15 for holiday bloom.

Protect pumpkins from frost.

As leaves begin to fall, remove them long before snow arrives. They not only shade the grass during late fall, but become wet and mat down to smother the grass over winter.

Raked leaves make an excellent mulch on the bare, winter garden. They can prevent weeds next year, and as they decom-

pose add organic matter to the soil.

Continue to mow your lawn until growth ceases. Make the last mowing a notch or two lower, in order to remove much top growth. This will avoid the need to rake off dead growth in the spring, and will help prevent snow mold disease.

Other Fall Garden Chores and Pleasures

S t o w i n g the Stash: Proper storage of your bountiful harvest will ensure your family the fruits of your labor throughout the New England winter. Generations ago, a root cellar was a basement staple. Today, the temperature can be achieved via a little creativity. Whether you are growing your own root vegetables or are buying in bulk from a local farm or farmers market, proper storage is imperative to its flavor and quality.

Here's the rundown on proper temps to keep your harvest safe and flavorful: Potatoes, beets, carrots, parsnips, tur-

nips, cabbage and celery should be kept in a humid atmosphere at about 35-40 degrees. Squash and pumpkins should be stored in a dry area at 40-60 degrees. Onions and dry beans should be kept at 33 degrees in a dry area.

Generations ago, a root cellar was a basement staple; today some improvising is in order. As noted in a previous column, those with unheated basements report success creating a substitute root cellar by partitioning off one corner, installing insulation and a heavy, solid door. Keep in mind the temperature inside the root cellar will be coolest near the floor, so place roots there atop an old door or boards.

Another strategy shared in a past column is to create a root box by filling a large, sturdy cardboard box with a few inches of sawdust or sand. Place a layer of roots such as carrots, leaving two inches along the sides. Cover lightly with sawdust and alternate layers, adding a final three inches of sawdust on top. Store in a cool basement or in the cel-

lar bulkhead area. Roots can touch each other in storage, just don't pack them in tightly, as some moist air must be able to circulate.

Lawn Care: New England lawns can be a challenge, but there are some shortcuts to ensure a lush lawn come spring. Raked leaves make an excellent mulch on the bare, winter garden as they can prevent weeds next year, and as they decompose add organic matter to the soil. Or add them to the compost pile. Some people prefer to run over the leaves with a rotary mower, shredding them into fine pieces.

Continue to mow your lawn until growth ceases, often sometime in October. Make the last mowing a notch or two lower, in order to remove much top growth. This will avoid the need to rake off dead growth in the spring, and will help prevent snowmold disease.

**** Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House**

Your tips can win you a great dinner for two at the historic Publick House Historic Inn in

Sturbridge! Simply send in a hint to be entered into a random drawing. One winner per month (or whenever I receive enough tips for a column) 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 E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Fall Garden Chore Roster

OCTOBER
October Stats: Average temperature (Worcester, MA): 54°; Possibility of Sunshine: 58%; Precipitation: 4.7".

October is the month to:

Plant spring flowering bulbs such as tulips, crocuses and daffodils.

Prune roses to prepare for winter. Cut non-blooming roses back half way.

Rake leaves from lawn; add to compost pile.

Make sure evergreens have a good deep watering before the ground freezes. They

Auction news

It's been nearly a month since my last auction news update. Since then, a range of collectibles have hit the auction block, some items dating as far back as 1776 and some as recent as last month. I'll start by discussing an 18th century coin that just sold.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

The coin dating back to the beginning of our nation just sold at a British auction house. The 1776 coin was found in a toffee tin and sold earlier this month. It was a Continental Currency dollar which was one of the earliest U.S. coins. The coin features a sun and sundial and was designed by Benjamin Franklin. It was found in the toffee tin along with "jewelry, objet d'art and curiosities," according to Fox News. Around 6,000 of the pewter coins were minted and only around 100 are believed to exist

now. It sold to a U.S. collector for \$25,000 (approximately \$32,000 U.S.).

Moving to an item from much more recent times, one of two Macintosh #M0001 prototype computers from 1984 is heading to the auction block this month, according to NewAtlas.com. The computer used a proprietary 5.25 "Twiggy" drive instead of the 3.5 drive that had previously been used. It's believed that Apple co-founder Steve Jobs ordered the pre-production computers to be destroyed because the Twiggy drives were error prone. A group of software developers had saved this PC from the crushers. This machine was exhibited at the Mac@30 Anniversary in 2014 where it was booting up by Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. When an M0001 prototype last

sold in 2019, it brought \$150,075, setting the record for a Macintosh computer. This sale is expected to surpass that previous auction record. Other Apple computers have brought even higher auction prices, though. A Lisa 1 sold for \$882,000 and an Apple-1 brought \$945,000.

A baseball from a game played last month is already making auction news. On September 19th, LA Dodger Shohei Ohtani hit his 50th home run of the season. He had already stolen 50 bases, making him the first Major League Baseball player to reach the 50/50 milestone. The ball was quickly put up for auction.

The ownership of the home run ball is in dispute though. When the ball left the park in Miami, Florida, fans scrambled for it in the stands. As the ball rolled between some flipped over lawn seats, video footage shows Chris Belanski on his knees holding the ball

while 18-year-old Max Matus has his left hand on the ball. Belanski eventually stood on his feet and raised the ball to the crowd. Matus filed a lawsuit claiming that he had the ball first and that Belanski took it from him. The court has ruled that for now, "the ball cannot be sold, concealed or transferred until there's a ruling in the case," according to ESPN.

Previously, the ball from Barry Bonds' 73rd home run of the season was the subject of a lawsuit and the \$450,000 it sold for was split between two owners. It will be determined whether the auction proceeds will be split again this time, but there is much more at stake than with the Bonds ball. As of Oct. 13, bidding had reached \$1.7 million. Some experts believe bidders will hit it out of the park and the ball will fly up to \$3 million or more.

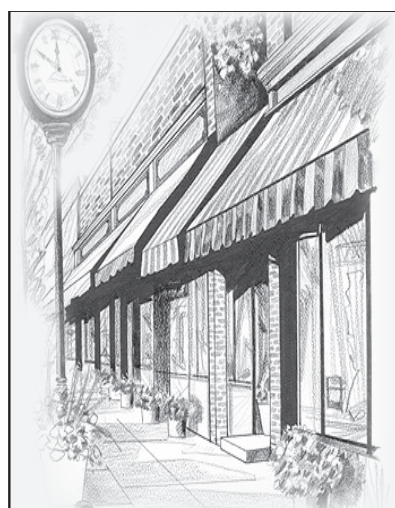
We currently have two auctions running online.



The auction with an eclectic mix of historical memorabilia, gambling memorabilia, glassware, and other items ends Oct. 22 and the art, jewelry, sterling silver flatware and holloware, watches and coins auction ends on Oct. 23. We will next be auctioning antiques in a Beacon Hill Boston estate and a large Civil War collection from a local estate. We are accepting consignments of all

types for future auctions. 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).



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Marianhill Class of 1974 holds 50th reunion



REGION — The former Marianhill High School of Southbridge may be gone but their Alumni never forget their valuable formative years together and look forward to congregating every 5 years! Marianhill Central Catholic High School was at the current location of Trinity Catholic Academy on the corner of Hamilton and Pine streets from the years 1965-1986. Our students were from local areas that included: Southbridge, Sturbridge, Charlton, Dudley, Webster, Oxford, Warren, and other towns.

A weekend of activities occurred from Friday evening through to Sunday's final celebration event themed, "Party Like it's 1974." Opportunities to golf and a tour of the Heritage Optical Museum were a couple of the featured opportunities attended. The highlight of the reunion weekend took place on the beautiful grounds of classmate, Thomas Palmerino's home on a gorgeous Sunday in late September. Approximately thirty-nine classmates, spouses and guests including former basketball coach, Ralph Loconto enjoyed the festivity that started at 1pm and went well into the evening by a warm firepit in the darkness. Attendees took the theme to heart and a wonderful time was had by all. Classmates came from California, Florida, Oregon, Texas, and local areas. Some classmates attended their first reunion in 50 years or their first since the 20th reunion! What an exciting time it was. These classmates look forward to meeting again for the 55th reunion in 2029 and beyond!

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We hope to renew the historic theater in the Town Hall, but we need your support on October 21st.

At the Town Meeting October 21st, there will be a vote on an initiative to benefit Webster. The town hall theater has fallen into disrepair, but local philanthropist Christopher Robert, owner of the *Samuel Slater Experience* and the *Indian Ranch* resort, imagines the 1200-seat theater revived as a nonprofit to bolster the civic and cultural fabric of the region. It can host concerts, performances, town functions, and become a draw for local businesses to add life to the town center.

Will you attend the meeting to hear more, and ask questions? This effort will renew our shared space for another generation of use by Webster residents, and provide a valuable asset to the town.

**October 21, 2024, 7pm
Park Avenue Elementary School**



This nonprofit renewal will benefit the town for generations, from concerts to graduation ceremonies and voting, and I hope you'll support us in making it a reality. Thank you.

Christopher Robert, Local Business Owner & Philanthropist
The Samuel Slater Experience & Indian Ranch

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260 West Main Street
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100 South Street, Conference Rm 1
• Oct. 22, at 2 PM
• Nov. 19, at 10 AM

Sturbridge
Publick House Historic Inn
277 Main Street
• Oct. 16, at 10 AM

Uxbridge
Tri-River Family Health Center
281 East Hartford Avenue
• Oct. 28, at 2 PM

Webster
Webster Senior Center
5 Church Street
• Oct. 17, at 10 AM

Virtual Seminars
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• Oct. 26, at 10 AM

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NOTICE OF SALE, NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE. Premises: 52 Harrison Avenue, Auburn, Massachusetts 01501, By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Phyllis M. Vario to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Trust Group, Inc., dated November 24, 2003, and recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 32365 at Page 16, as affected by Loan Modification Agreement dated September 23, 2008, and recorded in said Registry in Book 43911, Page 139, as affected by an assignment of mortgage from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as nominee for Mortgage Trust Group, Inc. to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, dated September 26, 2018, and recorded with said Registry in Book 59534 at Page 323, as affected by an assignment of mortgage from Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC to Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC, dated November 15, 2019, and recorded with said Registry in Book 61769 at Page 210, as affected by an assignment of mortgage from Community Loan Servicing, LLC f/k/a Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC to Nationstar Mortgage LLC, dated June 29, 2022, and recorded with said Registry in Book 67832 at Page 158, as affected by an assignment of mortgage from Nationstar Mortgage LLC to US Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust, dated January 17, 2024, and recorded with said Registry in Book 70194 at Page 376, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder by assignment, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold by Public Auction at 1:00 o'clock P.M. on the 12th day of November, 2024 at the mortgaged premises located at 52 Harrison Avenue, Auburn, MA 01501, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, To wit: The land in said Auburn on the easterly side of Harrison Avenue, now a public street, and is bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof at the northwesterly corner of land of Roger E. and Helen M. Williams; THENCE S. 73 degrees E. two hundred seventy (270) feet by land of said Roger E. and Helen M. Williams to land of Frank C. Williams; THENCE N. 17 degrees W. two eighty-one and thirty-three hundredths (81.33) feet by land of said Frank C. Williams to other land of said Grantors; THENCE N. 73 degrees W. two hundred seventy (270) feet by our other land to a stone bound on the easterly line of said Harrison Avenue; THENCE 17 degrees W. eighty-one and thirty-three hundredths (81.33) feet by the easterly line of said Harrison Avenue to the place of beginning, containing 21,959 square feet of land more or less. And more particularly described as follows: The land in said Auburn on the easterly side of Harrison Avenue, now a public street, and is bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at the southwesterly corner thereof at the northwesterly corner of land of Roger E. and Helen M. Williams; THENCE S. 73 degrees E. two hundred seventy (270) feet by land of said Roger E. and Helen M. Williams to land of Frank C. Williams; THENCE N. 17 degrees E. eighty-one and thirty-three hundredths (81.33) feet by land of said Frank C. Williams to other land of said Grantors; THENCE N. 73 degrees W. two hundred seventy (270) feet by our other land to a stone bound on the easterly line of said Harrison Avenue; THENCE S. 17 degrees W. eighty-one and thirty-three hundredths (81.33) feet by the easterly line of said Harrison Avenue to the place of beginning, containing 21,959 square feet of land more or less. For Mortgagor's title, see deed dated June 30, 1978, and recorded in Book 6499, at Page 272 in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds. Premises to be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements,

improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. High bidder to sign written memorandum of sale upon acceptance of the high bid. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid by certified or bank check at Friedman Vartolo LLP, 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004, within thirty (30) days from the date of the sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. In the event of an error in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust, Present holder of said mortgage by its Attorneys, **Friedman Vartolo LLP** 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004
October 18, 2024
October 25, 2024
November 1, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jeffrey A. Patterson, Melissa A. Patterson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for First Horizon Home Loans, a division of First Tennessee Bank, N.A., dated November 12, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42107, Page 356, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for First Horizon Home Loans, a division of First Tennessee Bank N.A., its successors and assigns to Nationstar Mortgage LLC, recorded on February 24, 2023, in Book No. 68857, at Page 395

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on November 12, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 8 1/2 Sutton Avenue a/k/a 8.5 Sutton Avenue, Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,
TO WIT:

JEFFREY A. PATTERSON AND MELISSA A. PATTERSON, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY

A CERTAIN PARCEL OF LAND WITH THE BUILDINGS SITUATED THEREON OFF THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SUTTON AVE., OXFORD, WORCESTER COUNTY, BEING SHOWN ON PLAT OF LAND OXFORD PREPARED FOR STANFORD SEED COMPANY, DATED JANUARY 30, 1991 AND RECORDED N PLAN BOOK 647, PLAN 121 BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT ALONG THE DIRT DRIVE AS SHOWN ON SAID PLAN, WHICH POINT IS THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF THE 15,183 SQUARE FOOT PARCEL OF LAND SHOWN ON SAID PLAN;

THENCE N. 83 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 41 SECONDS W. 71.35 FEET BY SAID PARCEL OF LAND IDENTIFIED ON SAID PLAN CONTAINING 15,183 SQUARE FEET; THENCE N. 6 DEGREES 10 MINUTES 05 SECONDS E. 62.30 FEET BY LAND OF PROVIDENCE AND WORCESTER RAILROAD TO THE MOST NORTHWESTERLY CORNER; THENCE S. 82 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 56 SECONDS E. 131.34 FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY BARRE; THENCE S. 8 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS W. 139.26 FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY MILLER; THENCE N. 82 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 56 SECONDS W. 57.75 FEET BY LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OWNED BY C. PARISEAU AND SAID DIRT DRIVE; THENCE N. 8 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS E. 77.52 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SAID PARCEL CONTAINING 12,533 SQUARE FEET, MORE OR LESS. BEING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO THE GRANTORS BY DEED OF HERITAGE EQUITY

RESOURCES, INC. DATED APRIL 7, 1993 AND RECORDED WITH THE WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS BOOK 15077, PAGE 389. SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS, EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, OIL, GAS OR MINERAL RIGHTS OF RECORD, IF ANY. MAP: 34C; LOT: E28

For mortgagor's(s) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 19484, Page 253.

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

TERMS OF SALE:

A deposit of Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

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

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, LLC
Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500
23228

October 18, 2024
October 25, 2024
November 1, 2024

Docket No. WO24E0079PP A.C. 92A

Petition to Partition

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Worcester Probate & Family Court

To Steven D. McClure and to all other interested persons.

A petition has been presented to said Court by Kristie Gagliardi of Sutton in the County of Worcester representing that he hold as tenant in common undivided part or share of certain land lying in Webster in said County Worcester and briefly described as follows:

See Attached

setting forth that he/she desire that all the aforesaid described part of said land may be sold at private sale for not less than five hundred sixty-two thousand dollars, and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof.

If you desire to object thereto you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Worcester before ten o'clock in the forenoon on the fifth day of November 2024 the return date of this citation.

Witness, LEILAH A. KEAMY, Esquire, First Judge of said Court, this twenty-seventh day of September 2024.

Stephanie K. Fattman
Register of Probate
October 11, 2024

(SEAL)

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 24 SM 003486 ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:

Heirs, devisees, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Steven L. Raymond; Jennie R Raymond and to all persons entitled to the ben-

efit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (*et seq*):

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Webster, numbered 22 Lakeside Avenue, given by Steven L Raymond and Jennie Raymond to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., dated June 25, 2010, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 46014, Page 345, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated June 29, 2017 and recorded at said Registry in Book 57525, Page 188 as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated December 2, 2019 and recorded at said Registry in Book 61798, Page 324 as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated January 24, 2023 and recorded at said Registry in Book 69282, Page 105 and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **November 18, 2024** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on October 1, 2024.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

October 18, 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. WO24P3380EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:**

Mary E Jenkins

**Also known as: Mary E. Healey
Date of Death: 05/16/2024**

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

Earle M Jenkins, Jr. of Dudley MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Earle M Jenkins, Jr. of Dudley MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/05/2024**

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: October 08, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 18, 2024

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“Discover the Nipmuc Lithic Trail” Oct. 26 at Samuel Slater Experience

WEBSTER — Native Americans in the Nipmuc Territory surrounding Webster and northeastern Connecticut left tangible artifacts, called lithic structures, and some can be found today in area fields and woods. Examples are cairns, chambers, anthropomorphic stone art and weirs.

Longtime president of the Thompson Historical Society, Joseph Iamartino will present evidence, photographic and from written history, of the purpose of these historic structures. Enthusiasts are working diligently to document the remaining structures. Hear about the latest finds and efforts to preserve these treasures.

The talk will be given on Saturday, Oct. 26, at 11 a.m. with an encore at 1 p.m. Each will last about one hour.

The lecture is free; to register, go to www.samuel Slater Experience.org. Tours of the museum, before or after the talk, will be available for the normal ticket price.

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

Discover the Nipmuc Lithic Trail is funded by a grant from the Webster Cultural Council.



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- Blackstone Valley Tribune

OBITUARIES

Lorraine L. McNamara, 98



Webster / Southbridge: Lorraine L. (Cantara) McNamara, 98, of Christopher Heights Assisted Living in Webster, formerly of Highland St., Southbridge, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 10th, in the Jewish Healthcare Center, Worcester.

Her husband of 61 years, Richard "Dick" T. McNamara, passed away in 2011. She leaves her three sons; Richard T. McNamara, Jr. and his wife Nancy of Oneida, TN, Brian P. McNamara and his wife Marina of Annapolis, MD and John A. McNamara and his wife Malina of Washington, CT; her 9 grandchildren, Julianne and her husband Jason Bennett, Katherine and her husband John Buerger, Randall McNamara, Scott McNamara and his wife Kristin, Elena and her husband Phonetip Ketnouvong, Michael McNamara, Jess-Ellen and her husband Josh Villanti, Rocco McNamara, Malina and her husband Steven Clinton; and eight great grandchildren and nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister, Pearl Bellerive. She was born in Worcester the daughter of Alfred and Beatrice (Lariviere) Cantara.

Lorraine and her husband owned and operated Pascoag Auto Parts in Pascoag, RI and Valley Auto Parts in Smithfield, RI from 1959 to their retirement in 1996. Being ardent sports fans, they sponsored a number of local high school and club sports teams.

Lorraine was a member of the Notre Dame High School graduating class of 1944. She was a life-long member of Notre Dame / St. John Paul II Parish where she was a devoted volunteer for its community with the Notre Dame Family Festival, the parish choir, St. Vincent DePaul, the parish food pantry and St. Anne and St. Rita's women's sodalities.

Lorraine was an Honorary Life Member of the Harrington Hospital

Auxiliary and volunteered at Harrington Hospital's Cancer Center.

She was a passionate volunteer for the American Cancer Society with the Relay for Life, Daffodil Days Campaigns, and the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. She received the 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award for Central Massachusetts and was recognized by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts House of Representatives for her many years of dedication to driving cancer patients to their treatments which she began in 1966.

Lorraine was a longtime member of the American Red Cross. An avid swimmer, she was instrumental in establishing the swim program at the Southbridge Town Pool on High Street.

Lorraine always gave so much of herself but wanted and expected nothing in return. A life well lived.

She was a sports enthusiast, loved to play and watch golf, bowl and play cards. Lorraine was an avid Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots fan. She took great care to make sure her yard was always well manicured with seasonal flowers and shrubs for the neighbors to enjoy as well. She loved her social events, to include Foxwoods Casino, with her closest friends.

Most important to Lorraine was heaping praise, support and love to her kids, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Her funeral will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19th, from the Daniel T. Morrill Funeral Home, 130 Hamilton St., Southbridge, with a Mass at 10:00am in Notre Dame Church of the St. John Paul II Parish, 446 Main St., Southbridge. Burial will follow in the New Notre Dame Cemetery, Southbridge. Calling hours in the funeral home will be held on Friday, Oct. 18th, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, ATTN: Relay for Life, 7 Oak Street, Worcester, MA 01609-2508 or to Christopher Heights Assisted Living, ATTN: "Activities", 338 Thompson Road, Webster, MA 01570.

Arthur J. Brunner, III, 56

Arthur J. Brunner, III, aged 56, of Douglas, passed away Friday, October 11, 2024.

Born in Huntington, NY on April 16, 1968, to Arthur and Carol (Aldrich) Coombs. Arthur was a contractor in southern Worcester County for over 26 years.

Sadly, Arthur was preceded in death by his grandparents and his father, Arthur Brunner, Jr.

Arthur is survived by his beloved

mother, Carol (Aldrich) Coombs and her husband David of Oxford; his loving brothers, Christopher Brunner of Chatham, VA and Peter Brunner of Oxford; and a niece, cousins and friends.

Mercadante Funeral Home and Chapel are honored to assist the family with funeral arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Arthur's memory to a charity of one's choice.

Mildred W. Osborne



It is with great sadness that the Family of Mildred W. Osborne announce her passing. Mildred Osborne, 88 of Dayville passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 5, 2024 surrounded by family at Backus

Hospital. She was born in Hartford, CT on January 10, 1936. She was the daughter of the late Mildred Williams. She was the wife of the late Benjamin Harry Osborne.

Mildred was a loyal and active Jehovah's Witness for over 71 years sharing Bible truths with others as a dedicated worshiper. She attended the Danielson, CT Congregation.

Mildred worked at G. Fox & Co., and for many years as a child care provider and also had a home cleaning business. Some things that our Mother enjoyed most were: Spending time with family and friends, being a second mother and grandmother to many, traveling and being a fan of the UCONN Huskies women's basketball team.

She is survived by her 7 children, Sandra Whalen of Winsted, CT, Philip Osborne of San Diego, CA, Mischele Smith of Danielson, CT, Deborah Barrow of Warwick, RI, Michael Osborne of Warwick, RI, Jodi DeSoto of Leland, NC, Joseph Osborne of Willimantic, CT. Additionally she is survived by 7 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren, her sister Joyce Yancy of Willimantic, CT and her brother Spencer Copeland of Bradenton, FL.

She was predeceased by her sisters, Loretta Geathers of Bradenton, FL, Shirley Marie Sneed of Asbury Park, N.J, her daughter Linda Wilson and granddaughter Amanda Osborne.

We would like to thank Dr. Joseph Botta as well as the staff at Westview Health Care Center for the care, support and assistance they provided.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2024 at 3pm, Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1742 Atwood Avenue, Johnston, RI.

Service will be available via zoom. Zoom ID: 112-643-937 PASSCODE: 211234

Helen A. Jerominek, 88

SHERBORN - Helen A. (Jezerki) Jerominek, 88, died Monday, October 7, 2024 in UMass/Memorial University Campus after a brief illness. Her husband, Raymond Jerominek, died in 1986.

She leaves a brother, Anthony J. Jezerki of Webster; 2 sisters-in-law, Theresa Jezerki and Louise Jezerki, both of North Grosvenordale, CT; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by 5 brothers, Frank, Alexander, Edward and John Jezerki and Stanley Jezerki, and by 4 sisters, Wanda Bonczek, Sophie Stolarczyk, Stella Mroczek and Esther Rulli.

She was born at home in Thompson, CT on January 4, 1936, the daughter of Stanley and Catherine (Suleski)

Jezerki and graduated from Tourtellotte Memorial High School. She lived in Rochester, NY before moving to Sherborn.

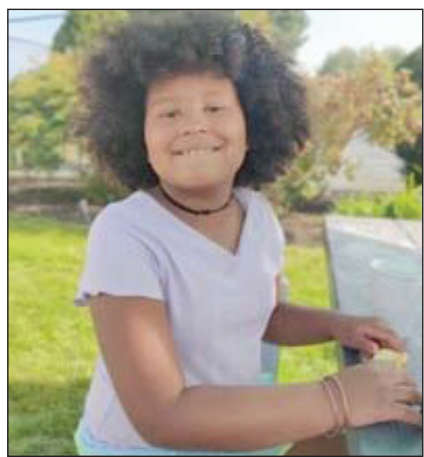
Mrs. Jerominek was a secretary at Foreign Motors West in Natick before retiring in 2003.

A graveside service will be held on Friday, October 18, at 11:00 AM in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Old Worcester Road, Webster. There are no calling hours. Donations in her memory may be made to the American Red Cross, 101 Station Landing #510, Medford, MA 02155. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster.

www.websterfunerals.com

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Friday's Child



Hi! My name is Izabella and I love nature and the outdoors!

Izabella, who also goes by Izzy, is an inquisitive, outgoing, and outspoken girl in search of her forever family. She loves to explore the outdoors and nature, which include various community activities, gardening, and collecting small insects for her "bug sanctuary" that she advocated to have. She always willing to try new things and new foods. Izzy also enjoys arts and crafts and going to the library to pick out books to read. Her biggest strength is her ability to advo-

Izabella
Age 9
Registration # 6966

cate and speak up for herself.
<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6966>

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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.



DUDLEY

continued from page A1

town's water supply rather than depend on the potentially contaminated private wells. The next article on the warrant addressed water department retained earnings transfers while Article 10 will seek to accept St. Anthony Road as a public town way.

The remainder of the warrant includes recommended changes to several town bylaws, including two by citizen petitions. Article 11 recommends changes to the Animal

Bylaw increasing license violation fees. The Dudley Police Department is also sponsoring proposed changes to the Solicitors Bylaw eliminating language labeling violation as a misdemeanor but maintaining the fines and issuing a later violation time of 9 p.m., rather than the current time of 7 p.m. Article 13 is the final town-sponsored article which will seek to bring the town's bylaws into compliance with federal requirements of the 2003 Municipal Storm Water Sewer System Permit by creating a Stormwater Committee.

The final items of the night are a pair of petitions seeking to remove the duties of Personnel Director from the Town Administrator, reestablish the Personnel Committee, and create a Human Resources Manager post. The petitions were the subject of over two hours of debate between the petitioners and selectmen in late September.

Dudley fall special town meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 21 starting at 7 p.m. in the Connie Vanco-Galli Auditorium at Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

ROSEMONT

continued from page A1

lent materials before its boards," Adamopoulos added.

On Sept. 30, Morgan also received a letter from Chess Engineering's

Paul Campbell, the previous project engineer, stating he "has not been involved with any submissions to the Webster Planning Board or other town officials, boards or committees on or after August 2024 including but not limited to plans,

documents or other correspondence with Town officials on behalf of the applicant."

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

LAND

continued from page A1

One resident noted "that property goes back to 1751," but is actually one of several in town records with the "0 Charlton" designation. (That's a standard way of identifying vacant parcels in assessing records. Greater clarity is found in the Registry of Deeds' book and page number and the town's more specific parcel ID numbering system.)

Another was concerned that the item's wording would allow Oxford to use eminent domain to get the land.

The town attorney noted state law requires Town Meeting to give the board such authorization under MGL Chapter 40, sec 14, for such a project to go forward. The actual design of the project will come later, in public meetings of the selectmen and Planning Board.

Regarding eminent domain, he said that wording's a formality, "the town can't use [that] without paying damages," and the \$200,000 would cover that. But this has not been "an adversarial process" so far, so it's only likely to be invoked if they find some issues with the title going forward, he said.

All of the other items passed with far less discussion. Among them were 14 pages of new zoning bylaw covering earth removal and filling which, among other things, transfers authority for such projects from the selectmen to the Planning Board; acceptance of a section of state law allowing the town to take advantage of the "prudent investor rule;" transferring \$100,000 into Capital Stabilization; and paying an unpaid bill.

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

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Missing 411

Well, if you read my column last week, you'll know that for this Halloween season, I decided to venture into the Strange, Dark, and Mysterious—a bit of a departure from my usual focus on the positive. But I have to admit, I've always been intrigued by mysteries. And what better time than spooky season to dive into the things that freak me out?

Many of you will start looking for a logical explanation as soon as I bring up this topic. Our brains want to rationalize the strange and unusual. But sometimes, things defy explanation, and that's what drew me back to 2015 when I first heard David Paulides on "Coast to Coast AM" with George Noory.

Paulides, a former police officer turned

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

researcher after his retirement. His focus? Missing person cases, often in the middle of nowhere and in our National Parks. As an avid hiker, I've been to many remote areas and forests, and I've only ever experienced their beauty. But according to Paulides, something else lurks in these wildernesses—a series of cases that are as baffling as they are unsettling.

Now, I know what you're thinking—people get lost, wander off the trail, or are attacked by wildlife. And while these situations happen, a subset of missing person cases don't fit those typical explanations.

In his "Missing 411" series, Paulides doesn't speculate or offer wild theories. He presents the facts—just like a detec-

tive—and leaves the conclusions up to the reader. His work is compelling because he doesn't rush to label any disappearance as a "Missing 411" case. A specific set of criteria must be met before a case qualifies.

These are the disappearances where people seem to vanish without a trace—no signs of a struggle, no evidence of an attack, no clues. Search and rescue teams comb the area, and dogs are brought in—but in some of these cases, the dogs refuse to track the scent.

One case that stands out for its oddness is the story of Keith Parkins, a two-year-old boy who disappeared on April 10th, 1952, near his grandfather's cattle ranch in Ritter, Ore. Keith was playing outside with his older brothers near a barn when he sudden-

ly vanished. A frantic search began when his mother realized Keith hadn't returned for lunch with his brothers. The conditions were cold, with snow patches still on the ground.

Initially, locals and family members searched, quickly spreading out in a line, covering as much ground as possible. As the day wore on, the search grew larger, and by nightfall, more than 200 people were involved, combing the area in hopes of finding the boy. Despite the cold and rough terrain, they were confident they'd see him nearby. But the search dragged on through the night, with no sign of Keith.

Then, at around 7 a.m. the next morning, searchers found footprints three miles away, walking through a herd of cattle—one set of footprints. Hours later, a search-

er found Keith 12 miles away in Skull Canyon, lying face down in the snow, his hat and coat beside him. Remarkably, he was alive but suffering from exposure, unable to move because his body was stiff from the cold. His face was covered in scratches, and his clothing was torn. Keith made a full recovery, but his case left many unanswered questions. How did a two-year-old travel 12 miles in freezing temperatures overnight without shoes, food, or water? Yet, against all odds, he survived. I have a hard time believing he could do this without help from someone or something.

This case has a happy ending—Keith was found alive—but he was two years old, and two-year-olds don't walk 12 miles, especially barefoot in the snow.

Parkins' case isn't an

isolated incident. There are hundreds of cases that are even stranger and far more terrifying.

Mysteriously, these cases often occur in clusters—specific locations where disappearances appear more frequently. The patterns suggest that something strange is at play in these regions, though no one has been able to pinpoint a solid explanation.

The forests, mountains, and wilderness may hold more mysteries than we care to admit. So, as you carve pumpkins, watch scary movies, and enjoy Halloween, understand that real-life mysteries can be far more frightening than any old ghost story.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy-Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc

Get the most out of your pumpkin

It's pumpkin season and time to select and decorate pumpkins for your fall display. Keep pumpkins and Jack-o'-lanterns looking their best longer with proper selection and care.

Harvest or purchase pumpkins free of holes, cuts, and soft spots for decorating. Damaged fruit tends to rot faster, ruining your fall display. And always carry the fruit cradled in your arms, not by the stem. Once the stem breaks away from the fruit, the pumpkin is more susceptible to rot and its beauty fades.

Store carving pumpkins in a cool location until you are ready to start cutting. Extend the beauty of carved pumpkins by washing them with warm water and letting them dry before making the first cut. Try leaving the top intact and scooping the insides out



GARDEN
MOMENTS

MELINDA
MYERS

through a hole in the back. This limits water entering the carved cavity and helps extend the life of your Jack-o'-lantern.

Coat the cuts with petroleum jelly or vegetable oil to seal in the moisture and prolong your display. Take it one step further and use a commercial preservative or peppermint oil to keep your Jack-o'-lantern looking its best for as long as possible.

Don't give up when your Jack-o'-lantern begins shriveling. Instead, give it a cold bath to freshen up its appearance.

Or put away the

knives and break out the paint, beads, decorations, crayons, and your imagination to further extend your pumpkin's beauty. Turn your pumpkin into a creature, movie character, pet, or fun object. You'll find lots of creative inspiration in magazines and online.

Don't worry if you have limited artistic ability. Create a multi-colored crayon-dripped pumpkin. Wipe the pumpkin's surface clean and allow it to dry before you start decorating. Remove the labels from the crayons and break them in half if needed.

Glue the crayons to the top of the pumpkin to prevent them from rolling off while you work. Place one end of the crayon against the stem and the other end pointed away from the center of the pumpkin.

Cover your work sur-

face and use your hair dryer to melt the crayons so they drip down the sides of the pumpkin, creating a colorful waxy covering. A high heat setting will speed up the process but may make a bigger mess by splashing the melted wax all over the table.

To further dress up your landscape consider converting a few pumpkins into fall planters. Remove the top. Cut a hole large enough to accommodate the pot you'll be inserting. Remove the seeds and flesh, cut a few drainage holes in the bottom, and then set a pot of pansies, asters, mums, or ornamental peppers inside.

Or plant the flowers directly in the pumpkin planter filled with potting soil. When your pumpkins start to rot, move them, plants and all, to the compost pile. They will break down into a



Melinda Myers

Extend the life of pumpkins by creating crayon-dripped pumpkins rather than carving.

wonderful soil amendment for next year's garden.

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.

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



Courtesy

Oxford Middle School recognizes students each month who exemplify our Be The 3 goals of Respect, Responsibility, and Safety as well as showing that attendance matters, displaying citizenship, and showing growth in a variety of ways. This month, OMS celebrates Marquis Gagne, Joshua George, Tucker Harrity, Liam Harrity, and Jayden Rosario as our September Students of the Month.



Courtesy

Caden Marotta of Dudley completed the HVACR Facilities Maintenance Program.



Courtesy

Benjamin Carter, Adrian Aguilar and Corey Pellegrino, all of Webster, completed the HVACR Technician Program from Technology Learning Center in Oxford.

Dudley holds Fall Festivities on Town Common



Jason Bleau

Volunteers served the main treat of the day, apple crisp, which was prepared by the students of the Bay Path Culinary Arts program.

DUDLEY — The Dudley Town Common, Grange, and Black Tavern held a trio of events on Oct. 5 kicking off the fall season in Dudley with a massive community celebration that included crafts, food, animals and more. The Dudley Grange Apple Festival, Agricultural Advisory Commission's Dudley Ag Day, and the Black Tavern's annual craft fair have all become one big fall festival for Dudley serving as separate celebrations happening in conjunction on and around Dudley's Town Common. While the Apple Festival serve up some delicious themed treats including apple crisp, the Ag Day gave a glimpse into the town's agricultural history and the Black Tavern's Craft Fair allowed visitors to get a head start on the holiday gift-buying season. It was all accompanied by a beautiful, seasonable day allowing the community to come together and welcome fall in style.



Vendors filled with Town Common and Dudley Grange selling a wide variety of goods many based off of the fall theme.



Decorating pumpkins is a fall staple and was a fun side activity during Dudley's Ag Day.



"Tradesman on the Common" has long been an important part of Dudley's fall festivities and returned for another year funded by the Janet Malsler Humanities Trust.



Donna and Richard Kirk of Webster enjoy some apple crisp as well as the beautiful weather that accompanied Dudley's annual fall festivities.



Volunteers sold delicious treats inspired by the fruit of the day, apples, for help raise money for the Dudley Grange Scholarship Fund.



The Ladies Benevolent Society set up a basket raffle to raise money for their causes as the longest serving continuously active organization of the Dudley Hill First Congregational Church.



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The Old Fiddlers' Club of Rhode Island is a staple of Dudley's fall festivities and was once again one of the many acts that appeared during the Apple Festival.



The Black Tavern held its 11th annual craft fair in conjunction with the fall festivities. The event has long been held in collaboration with the Dudley Grange's Apple Festival and is a traditional visit for many in town.

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The Burpee Petting Zoo added a fun hands-on experience to the festivities on the Dudley Town Common as families got to feed and interact with live animals throughout the day.



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I earned an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, & 2 master's degrees. My daughter is a Doctor of Physical Therapy in a local hospital.

Over the last **"30 YEARS"**, I was elected 5 times for the Millbury Planning Board, and served on the Local Housing Partnership, Ponds & Lakes Commission, Master Plan Committee, Fair Housing Committee, EMF Study Committee (Electromagnetic Fields), Youth Commission, Water Study Committee, & CMRPC Planning Board delegate (Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission).

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Local business owner celebrates retirement

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

WEBSTER — Surrounded by family, friends, and longtime customers, a retiring business owner was celebrated for his 45 years of outstanding service to the community.

Joseph Piskala, Sr., owner of Brook Street Auto, was honored last month at the Point Breeze restaurant in town. The retirement celebration doubled as a birthday party for Piskala, who turned 75.

Also honored at the event was Dudley's Chris Bartolomei, a lifelong mechanic who is retiring along with Piskala after working for decades at Brook Street Auto.

For new customers and longtime patrons alike, they could always count on the hard work and dedication of Piskala and his team.

"My husband and I have been customers for 35 years. We knew he was retiring, so we just got our two cars painted," said customer Deb Kokernak.

In 1979, Piskala opened Brook Street Auto as a body shop after finishing school at WITY Tech. He spent long days getting his new business off the ground, often working well into the night to complete projects.

"I went back to paint after dinner, because



Courtesy

Diana, Joe, and Sarah Piskala attend the celebratory event.

that's when the wind would die down," Piskala said, referencing the early years when he would paint vehicles outdoors.

As the years, decades, and satisfied customers added up, Piskala was always known for the assiduous attention to detail and dedication to quality service that marked his early days of ownership.

Specializing in body and mechanical automotive work, the business has remained at the same location since its establishment. Featuring a spacious garage with five drive-in units, plus a storage yard at the rear of the facility, Brook Street Auto has served multiple generations of happy customers.

Over the years, a handful of employees have come and gone, but

Piskala has always been able to rely on the skilled work of Bartolomei.

"Brook Street Auto has served thousands of customers in 45 years, without advertising," read a statement released by Piskala's family. "It has a BBB of A+, and there are no plans to sell the building at this time."

At the ceremony last month, customers and friends shared stories of how the Brook Street Auto team was always there to help in times of need.

"Joe is a lifesaver. He rescued me and my friends years ago on the side of the highway. I never forgot that," said Rachel Horan.

Another longtime customer, John Wilson, added, "I've been going to Brook Street Auto since the mid-eighties. I trusted Joe to do good work."

NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

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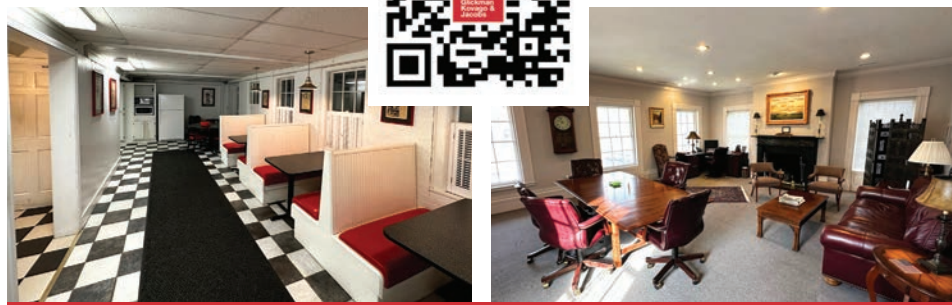
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