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Friday, October 11, 2024

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Citizens' petitions seek to reform Personnel Board

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Dudley's fall town meeting will include a pair of citizen petitions seeking to reinstate Dudley's retired Personnel Board. The board held its last meeting in 2022 after it was effectively retired due to a vote in 2018 adjusted the town's bylaw. Many of its duties shifted to the Town Administrator who now also serves as the Personnel Director while the Board of Selectmen retains much of the final power over hiring in certain departments.

The petitions, which will be presented at the special fall town meeting later this month as two separate warrant articles, seek to return the town to the standard of 2018 with a few added responsibilities for the Personnel Board. The changes would shift the Personnel Director responsibilities away from the Town Administrator, propose the addition of a Human Resource Manager, and empower the Personnel Board to be more heavily involved in the hiring process. The main petition regarding the Personnel Board bylaw, a copy of which was provided by the Dudley Town Clerk for reference in this story, would reinstate the Personnel Board and make them responsible for the "establishment and ongoing updates to personnel policies and procedures, including, but not limited to: Employment, Job Classification, Hours of Work and Overtime, Benefits, Leaves, Promotions, Reductions in Force, Performance Evaluation, Transfers, Corrective Action and or employment related practices and policies". The bylaw changes go on to specify a variety of other powers related to job specifications and classifications and policies regarding screenings and the Employee Handbook. The second petition article would eliminate certain responsibilities from the Town Administrator with the intent of adding them to the Personnel Board bylaw while amending the qualifications for the Town Administrator job and inserts the Personnel Board into the hiring and review process for the position.

The articles sparked over two hours of debate during a meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Authority in September with the Town's Labor Council Marc Terry of Mirick, O'Connell Attorneys at Law warning that the changes, while in some ways consistent with how the bylaws were written in 2018, would contain outdated language. He feared it would provide authority, both new and old, to the Personnel Board that would be inconsistent with state statutes including potentially interfering with the hiring authority provided to the Board of Selectmen. Attorney O'Connell concluded that, in his opinion, the bylaw changes would provide powers to the Personnel Board well beyond what is allowed.

"I can't think of one personnel bylaw that I've worked with that purports to have as much authority within the Personnel Board as these rules do and in particular with the involvement in contracting and appointment and discipline. Even when I started doing this 28 years ago this was not something I would expect to see anywhere. The trend has moved way past that and so this, in my view, moves way backwards to a point from prior to at least 20 years ago and probably more than that," said O'Connell.

John Briare, the lead petitioner of the bylaw changes, noted that much of what they're trying to implement was part of the bylaw in 2018 and regular practice for the town with no problems. Briare expanded on his motivation for wanting the Personnel Board reinstated admitting that he was concerned about the threats of layoffs associated with the budget crisis in 2023 and that he felt the town needed a more collaborative process for employee and personnel matters.

"All we care about is creating a collaborative environment. The Personnel Board was a board of very dedicated volunteers. Often, we found that they were human resource professionals, one of the previous ones I believe was the Director of Human Resources for Hanover Insurance and she served for years. We're getting free expertise - This is not an attempt to usurp the authority of the Board (of Selectmen)," said Briare.

He further defended the petition stating he feels there is currently an inherent conflict if someone has an issue with the hiring authority such as the Personnel Director and Town Administrator, currently one in the same. The implementation of a Human Resources Manager and a Personnel Board would allow for a third-party resource for individuals to turn to if they had a complaint. Selectmen stressed that any complaints under the current standard could be brought to their board directly. No specific examples of complaints against any hiring authority were discussed during the meeting. While Briare acknowledged several good hires over the last year under the current bylaw format, he, along with former Personnel Board chair and retired Selectman Peter Fox, also brought up at least one questionable hire they felt would have been avoided by having a Personnel Board. However, they heeded the caution of Town Counsel and did not name the individual in a public forum.

Turn To **PETITION** page **A10**

Fallen Webster soldier awarded Medal of Liberty



Courtesy
Major Ronald Howland, Maryellen Kuras, MG Virginia Gaglio, Stephen Rogerson - Veteran's Services Officer, Dudley.

MILFORD — During a ceremony at the Military Records Branch on Sept. 21, Major Gen. Virginia Gaglio, Massachusetts Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander, Air Force Material Command, awarded one Medal of Liberty to the fallen Webster service member

Pvt. Anthony Vegnone's family.

Maryellen Kuras was on hand to represent her uncle, a Soldier killed in action during WWII while serving in Italy. The District Director of Veterans Services for the Towns of Webster and Dudley was also present to assist the Major

General and present a citation to the family from the Town of Webster.

Established by an act of the Massachusetts General Court, the medal is "awarded to the next of kin of service men and women from the Commonwealth killed in action or who died in service while in a desig-

nated combat area in the line of duty or who died as a result of wounds received in action." It is bequeathed on behalf of the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth.

Anthony Vegnone
Turn To **VEGNONE** page **A10**

Jim Reed Morrison named Veterans Day Parade Grand Marshal



Jim Reed Morrison

WEBSTER — A Webster native, Jim Reed Morrison, has been named Grand Marshal of the 2024 Veterans Day Parade.

Jim is the son of James Morrison, Sr., a WWII Marine who was a survivor of the sinking of the USS Wasp, torpedoed and sunk in the Battle of the Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal) in 1942.

Jim says that his moth-

er was a 'Chabot Girl.' Jim and his siblings were Baby Boomers who spent the '50's at the Veterans Project on Second Is. Road...Howdy Doody, Hula Hoops and Band Stand.

A product of the Webster School System, Jim spent time at St. Louis School, Filmer School, Thompson School, Webster Intermediate School, and Bartlett High School, where he graduated in 1966. It was his

good fortune to receive a three-year scholarship to Worcester Industrial Technical Institute through the efforts of William (Billy) Branch, Bartlett's Guidance Counselor. Jim has been most grateful for the gift that changed his life.

Soon after graduation at WITI in June of 1969, Jim went to the Post Office and joined the United States Air Force, and on June 15, he was
Turn To **MORRISON** page **A10**

Dudley Little League presents awards

DUDLEY — On Tuesday, Sept. 24, the Dudley Little League Board of Directors gathered with coaches, players, family, and friends to recognize some of their own with presentations of the Nellie Twardzik Thompson Outstanding Softball Athlete Award and the John Paire Award

for Baseball Excellence.

Before her passing in 2013, Nellie Twardzik Thompson was a life-long Dudley resident who was nationally recognized as the first female to play on a boys' varsity baseball team in April of 1935. She played on several semi-pro baseball teams, including her own

"Nellie's All-Stars". On Mother's Day 2006, her high school letter and first baseman's glove were placed on permanent display in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. The Nellie Twardzik Thompson Outstanding Softball Athlete Award is presented annually to a softball player that

exhibits exceptional athletic ability on the field, displays endless effort, remarkable sportsmanship, and a sheer love of the game.

On hand to present the award this year were Nellie's two daughters, Patricia Biron and

Turn To **AWARDS** page **A10**



Left to right: DLL Board Member Amanda White, Nellie's daughters Patricia Biron and Joanne O'Connor, NTT Award recipient Giada Manzi, members of the Manzi family, DLL VP of Softball Amanda St. George.



Left to right: DLL President Dan Colella, members of John Paire's family Janice Szyk and Renee Paire, members of the Antos family with JP Award recipient William Antos.

Courtesy

Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center welcomes Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy

WORCESTER — According to Robin Fitch High, Administrator at Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center, “it is our pleasure to welcome Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students and faculty.”

High said, “Several of our employees graduated from Bay Path!”

The facility located at 26 Harvard St., Worcester, indeed employs several LPN graduates of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director met with High recently and was given a full facility tour. Bolandrina also met with Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy alumni Meghan Reidy, LPN (of Leicester) Nursing Supervisor

and Khamphan Houatchanthara, LPN (of Southbridge) Charge Nurse. Full-time faculty Nicholas McElroy, BSN, RN facilitated the contract signing between Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy and Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center as a clinical site for the academic year 2024-2025. He will serve as the clinical facilitator and is the liaison between the Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center and Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy. He will assist nursing students with any questions they may have and evaluate students’ performance and effort.

“The expertise and passion for teaching of Professor McElroy will undoubtedly enrich our

academic community and inspire our students to new heights,” said Bolandrina. “Together with the leadership at Lutheran Rehab, we will continue to foster a safe learning environment that values collaboration, innovation, and academic excellence.”

Clinicals can be scary, however, they are an essential part of learning in nursing. Along with classroom learning clinical experiences are important because it is where student nurses get direct experience. Nursing education is divided into three major components: didactic, simulation lab, and clinicals.

Didactic: In-classroom lectures that provide a fundamental layer of knowledge for students to apply in the clinical setting.

Laboratory: Skills and simulation laboratory is where students practice various skills and tasks



Courtesy

Photo shows, from left, Houatchanthara, Reidy, Bolandrina and High.

they need, in a safe, non-risk environment before touching real patients.

Clinicals: Hands-on, clinical facility-site, “in-the-field” portion of nursing school.

At Bay Path Practical

Nursing Academy, nursing students complete 546 clinical hours. Clinicals are designed to provide nursing students with direct experience in the healthcare setting. It allows students to work on practical skills that

are needed to succeed at the bedside. Bolandrina added, “I look forward to seeing a successful clinical coordination with the Lutheran Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center and beyond.”

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Unsheared sheep
- 5. Rock TV channel
- 8. Streetcar
- 12. Concerning
- 14. Exclamation
- 15. Greek goddess of youth
- 16. Popular type of device
- 18. Alcoholic beverage
- 19. Ancient Olympic Site
- 20. Sharpshoots
- 21. Tyrion Lannister was characterized as one
- 22. Pointed ends of pens
- 23. Measuring instruments
- 26. Midsection body part
- 30. Made a mistake
- 31. Adjusted
- 32. “Partridge” actress Susan
- 33. Yell
- 34. Civil rights city in Alabama
- 39. Young boy
- 42. Type of sea bass
- 44. To call (archaic)
- 46. Unfortunate
- 47. Separate oneself from others
- 49. Hero sandwiches
- 50. Spy group
- 51. Florida is famous for them
- 56. Irritating individuals
- 57. Luck
- 58. Hunting expedition
- 59. WWII diarist Frank
- 60. Peyton’s younger brother
- 61. Type of wrap
- 62. Type of overseas tax or levy
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. Wake up

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Works of body art
- 2. Israeli politician Abba
- 3. Renowned desert
- 4. Eat greedily
- 5. She didn’t make it through the Fr. Revolution
- 6. Beat
- 7. Bloodsucker
- 8. From a place already noted
- 9. Counted on
- 10. Alberta Assn. of Baccalaureate World Schools
- 11. Something one can make
- 13. One who abstains
- 17. Wild ox
- 24. Type of student
- 25. Bacterial infection of the skin
- 26. Expresses surprise
- 27. What engaged couples ultimately say
- 28. Crony
- 29. Where one begins (abbr.)
- 35. Architectural designation
- 36. “Matt Houston” actor Horsley
- 37. More (Spanish)
- 38. Autonomic nervous system
- 40. Indigenous peoples
- 41. Deflections
- 42. Circulating life force
- 43. Executes with a rope
- 44. Natives of an island nation
- 45. Girls
- 47. Logician and philosopher
- 48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
- 49. Relaxing spaces
- 52. From a distance
- 53. Form of Persian language
- 54. Amounts of time
- 55. Mathematical designation

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Bay Path alumna on volunteering



Courtesy

Photo shows Edgine Pierre-Paul, LPN flanked by, from left, Professor Virginia Dockstader and Dr. Adeline Healy.

CHARLTON — Edgine Pierre-Paul, LPN of Dudley exclaimed, “thank you for giving me the opportunity to volunteer.” A dedicated LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) with 5+ experience in delivering quality care to patients in Sub-acute and long-term unit, Pierre-Paul is eager to utilize her knowledge and skills to provide exceptional care, and by returning to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, she aims to inspire the PN Class of 2025.

Pierre-Paul has native or bilingual proficiency in English, French, and Haitian Creole plus a professional working proficiency in Spanish. The 2019 graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy includes general studies: healthcare from Quinsigamond Community College in her academic background. The multi-lingual Bay Path LPN provides direct care, emotional, psychosocial, and mental health support to her clients at Brookside Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Webster since 2019.

In an email to Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director, Pierre-Paul stated, “my reason for volunteering is very simple. I figured it would be helpful to the students

to meet someone who has been through the program. I’ve learned enough in 5 years to offer my skills and some knowledge.”

Pierre-Paul’s clinical experience as a nursing student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy included clinical observations at the Harrington Wound Care Center in Charlton. Wound care management is one among many of Pierre-Paul’s skills which includes but not limited to Tracheostomy care & management, Intravenous care & management, pain management, and post-surgical care. Aside from multi-lingual proficiency and skills competency, Pierre-Paul cares from the heart. Pierre-Paul added, “we need more nurses out there, so it was really great to see so many students. I gave a few words of encouragement to the students. I have also heard that volunteering allows nurses to practice and improve their communication and interpersonal skills.”

While at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Pierre-Paul was an active member of the UNICEF Club, attended SafeTALK, and the Innovation Summit at Northeastern University in Boston. She was a district champion for SkillsUSA in Practical Nursing earning a Silver Medal. Pierre-Paul was also a nominee for the Clinical Excellence Award.

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Cornerstone Bank announces retirement of EVP, Chief Information Officer Thomas Dufresne



Thomas Dufresne

to ensuring our customers have easy access for all their banking needs, using cutting-edge technology in a way that's always user-friendly," said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. "We appreciate his many years of dedication and hard work and wish him the very best as he embarks on the next chapter of his life."

Dufresne, who lives in Worcester, began his career at Cornerstone 27 years ago, a pivot from his early years working in the insurance industry.

"I wrote the first web page the Bank had," he said, adding that he is proud to have been part of the growth "that now has Cornerstone poised to move adeptly into the future."

Throughout his career, Dufresne was an integral

part of the Bank's technological evolution. This includes major initiatives such as implementing, managing and troubleshooting a full Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), which allows voice calls using a broadband Internet connection instead of an analog phone line. He was also responsible for authoring IT policies, auditing internal systems and developing IT instructional programs, in addition to branch implementation and Enterprise Risk Management.

Dufresne also said that during his tenure, the Bank made it a priority to ensure customer information is secure.

"Finding quicker, better, faster ways to do business allows us to provide better services for our customers," he said.

An avid outdoor explorer, Dufresne plans to spend his new-found free time diving into the tranquility of nature, traveling across the country in a small camper with his wife. "I want to relax and be able to see the sky and the stars." He plans to fish, golf and visit family.

Dufresne said he will miss the Cornerstone family.

"This is the best, biggest family business I've ever worked for in my life," he said.

About Cornerstone Bank
Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses

thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank's local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities, through a

broad range of deposit and loan products, and services. Built on Trust is not just a tag line, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank's personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstone-bank.com or call 800-939-9103.

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, announces the upcoming retirement of Executive Vice President, Chief Information Officer Thomas Dufresne.

"Tom has led the way

Friends of the Oxford Library book sale returns next weekend

OXFORD — It is time once again for The Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library Fall Book/Bake Sale. There are over four thousand books, all in good to excellent condition as well as many DVDs and CDs.

The sale will be held on Thursday, Oct. 17 from noon to 7 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday, Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oxford Free Public Library, 339 Main St., Oxford, MA in the downstairs meeting room. We accept cash or check only. Hardcover and trade size paperbacks are \$1, regular size paperbacks are 50¢ and children's books range from 25 cents to \$1. We offer a great "half price" deal on classroom books for teachers on Thursday and Friday. The last hour of the book sale on Saturday, from 1 to 2 p.m., you have the option of buying a provided bag and filling it for only \$10. Dealers are welcome on Saturday only.

The Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library was formed and incorporated in 1992. As a non-profit, our purpose is to maintain a membership of people who are supportive of the library and its ongoing programs. All money donated through dues or fundraisers goes directly back to the library to support children's programs, reading programs, museum passes, and other services. We are always looking for new members/supporters. Membership can be done at any time. The membership year runs from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31. If you have already renewed your membership or are a new member, thank you. Membership forms are available at the library adult circulation desk and also at the book sale. Please include your email address. Renewals or new memberships can also be done online at <https://oxfordmapubliclibrary.org/> by choosing the Library Info tab, then the Friends of the Library tab.

This is a wonderful opportunity to stock up on books for your winter reading. Please stop by and check it out.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$250,000, 62 Rockland Rd, Dick, Theresa I, to Tcs Home Group LLC.

DUDLEY

\$640,000, 169 Klondike Rd, Gentile, Kathi-Ann, and Gentile, Richard A, to Smith, Eric M, and Bartolini, Alise G.

\$405,000, 9 Ardlock Pl, Nottbohm, Stephanie, to Bianchi, Patrick, and Bianchi, Jocelyn.

OXFORD

\$660,000, 13 History Dr, Cor Group LLC, to Lavallee, Paige E, and Jolly Jr, Richard S.

\$560,000, 14 Clarence Dr, Freddie Mac Seased Loans, and Fed Hm Loan Mtg Corp Tr, to Berisha, Linda, and Cazimi, Zenel.

\$560,000, 2 Birch Point Shrs, Cogswell, Meaghan, and Cogswell, Joshua, to Reynolds, Michael D.

\$465,000, 1 Malden St, Keka, Dorjan, to Macdonald, Scott.

\$460,000, 11 Conlin Rd, Stockwell, Joan F, and Stockwell, George L, to Vigliatura, Dawn M, and Vigliatura, Edward F.

WEBSTER

\$851,000, 147 S Shore Rd, Kelly, Paul V, and Kelly, Patricia A, to Dowling 3rd, Joseph P, and Bryant, Tina W.

\$315,000, Killdeer Rd, Sroczenki, Walter L, to Robert Land T, and Robert, Suzette R.

\$305,000, 3 Gorski Ave #A, Cowden, William V, and Cowden, Dolores J, to Cedrone, Cheryl.

\$235,000, 1 Oak Ln, Smith, Michael, and Vespa, Britta, to Bay Flow LLC.

Historian Linda Casey to give lecture on "The Apostle to the Indians"

WEBSTER — The Rev. John Eliot, an early arrival to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, believed his life's mission was to convert the Native Americans to Christianity. He established a series of "Praying Indian" villages in Central Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut. These villages were the beginnings of the communities of Webster-Dudley, Thompson, Conn., Woodstock, Conn., and Oxford-Sutton, among others. Linda Casey, local historian and author, will relate the fascinating story of John Eliot, the "Apostle to the Indians."

The talk will be given on Sunday, Oct. 20, at 3 p.m. at the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster. It will last about one hour.

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

The Apostle to the Indians is funded by a grant from the Webster Cultural Council.

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Green Path Cannabis in Southbridge, Massachusetts, is proud to offer a monthly record expungement program! Each month, Green Path will choose one interested person to receive legal services to evaluate and assist their petitions to seal or expunge a criminal record of cannabis possession. Green Path will give hiring consideration to qualified participants as well as their spouses and children if an employment vacancy exists.

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PET of the WEEK



1 Year Old

Jameson believes there's simply no such thing as a bad hair day! With his fluffy, wild mane and big, goofy personality, he's all about living life to the fullest. Playful and always up for a good time, Jameson loves his toys and making people laugh with his silly antics. He's a pro on the leash, loves playing with other dogs, and has nailed basic commands like sit-especially when treats are involved!

Jameson is looking for an active home that can keep up with his energetic spirit and handle his size. He's a huge fan of attention, pets, and snuggles, and he proudly considers himself an XL lopdog! If you're ready for a lovable, fluffy companion with a style all his own, Jameson is your guy.

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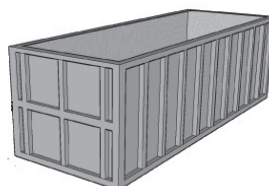
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PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

40 Schofield Ave., Dudley
508-949-8021
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.
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 8: Horizon: An American Saga
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.
Picking Parlor Jam a "mostly" Bluegrass Focused Jam Session
Saturday, October 12 10:00-12:00 in the Fels Community Room
This is an unplugged acoustic jam.
All talent levels welcome...beginners on up!
Don't want to play? No problem, listeners are welcome too!

Crafternoons With Lena
Yarn Pumpkins
Wednesday, October 9 2:00-3:00
Spend the afternoon with our experienced and enthusiastic instructor, Lena. You'll leave with a one-of-a-kind creation to enjoy!
Registration is required.

Fall Office Hours with Senator Fattman's Staff and State Representative John Marsi
Wednesday, October 16 10:30-11:30
Meet with District Director Amanda Hellyar and John Marsi to seek guidance on issues related to a state agency, find out about upcoming events, and learn more about legislative affairs on Beacon Hill.

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

SALEM, 1692
Author: Stacy Schiff
Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion.
No registration required.

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

Knit & Crochet Group
Thursday 5:30-7:30 and Friday 10:00-12:00
All stitchers are welcome for this informal group.
Bring your project, enjoy the company!

Dungeons & Dragons Game
Thursdays, 6:00-7:30
Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama?
Come play the world's number one role playing game.

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

Graphic Novel Book Club
Thursday, October 10 6:00-6:45
Doyoulovegraphicnovels? Join us for Graphic Novel Book Club! Each month we will meet to discuss the graphic novel of the month. Copies of the book will be located

at the circulation desk in the Children's Room. Best for ages 8 and up.
Registration not required. This is not a drop off program.

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

Do you love everything Pokemon? Join us for Pokemon club! Each month we will have exciting crafts and activities! Best for ages 6 and up.
Registration not required. This is not a drop off program.

Open Baby Play
Fridays in September 10:00-10:45
Open play for babies! Parents and caregivers can let babies play while getting to know others in the community! No Registration Required

GLADYS E. KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

2 Lake St., Webster
508-949-3880
Library Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Wed: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fri: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat: 9a.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@cwmmars.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: Counterfeit Cash -- October 10th at 6:30 PM
Being Influenced by Johnny Cash in younger years listening to the great lyrics of the "Man in Black" and the story that they told, Rodney Brunelle with his Johnny Cash voice decided his mission in life was to keep the stories of Johnny Cash going. You will swear " CASH " is in the house....

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP— October 21st at 6:30 PM
This month's book discussion will be in the Library's Community Room. The Group will be discussing Dead Wake by Erik Larson. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcox@cwmmars.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 kids are now available for pick up upstairs in the Children's Room. Each month will feature a different craft to create and instructions will be provided with the supplies. New Take and Make kits will be available for pick up on the 1st of every month, while supplies last, and are limited to one per patron.

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

KIM THE LEGO LADY: October 15th and November 5th at 4:00 PM
Do you love building, creating, and having fun with LEGO? Look no further! Our brand-new LEGO Club is launching, and we want YOU to be part of the adventure. Join us for interactive building challenges, new skills and create fabulous imaginative builds. For ages 5 to 11.

LEGO CLUB--- Tuesday October 8th at 3:30 PM
Come play with the library's Legos. If you like, we can put your work on display!
No registration Required

BUILD TUESDAYS - from 3:30-4:30 PM
Join us for the last two Tuesday for a self-guided STEM-based building challenge, appropriate for all ages. Younger kids should bring a parent. Instruction sheets will be provided. Contact Andrew at 508-949-3880, or atai@cwmmars.org for more details.

OPEN PLAY TIME ADVENTURE--- Fridays at 10:00 AM
Kids 0 to 6 are invited to get their wiggles out with weekly obstacle course and fun.

STORYTIME--- October 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th at 10:00 AM
Mornings will be filled with fun stories, songs, and activities perfect for ages 2-5. Siblings are welcome to join.

WEDNESDAY STUFFED ANIMAL STORYTIME--- October 16th at 10:00 AM
Join Sondra the Library Director for a few of his favorite stories, felt story fun, and some free play. For ages 0-3

ME AND MY MINI--- October 17th, 24th and 31st at 10:00 AM
A 45-minute creative movement group for ages birth through 2.5 with a grown-up. Group is focused on adult and baby spending quality time together, fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others their age. Get groovy to upbeat music with props, instruments, and a story. Adult participation is required and 1-2 children per adult is recommended.

PETITS PICASSOS: October 23rd and November 6th at 10:00 AM
This art class for ages 2-5 will have your little one creating and exploring art in different mediums and styles! Each class will feature a story related to the project, and a finished work to take home and admire. This class series prepares the students to paint on canvas for their final project. A toddler art show and art opening will be held featuring these works in November! While not every program will be messy, please wear art-appropriate clothing. In order to prepare materials and keep the class size manageable, registration is required for each session. Registered spots will only be held for 15 minutes after program start time. A baby play area will be available for siblings if needed.



Community Connection

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50-75	\$3.40	500 PLUS	\$2.40
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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, 10/15, Chicken Fajitas, Spanish rice, black beans and corn. Wednesday, 10/16 Roast Pork with Gravy, cranberry stuffing, roasted California vegetables. Thursday, 10/17, Haddock with Chimichurri Sauce, rice pilaf, chuck-wagon corn. Friday, 10/18, Soup du Jour, sliced turkey sandwich with cranberry sauce, potato salad.

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

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

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

We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided. No registration needed. The movies for October are; 2nd- Where the Crawdads Sing, 9th- We Have a Ghost, 16th- Queen Bees, 23rd- The Secret: Dare to Dream, and 30th- Death Becomes Her.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Webster Public Schools offers Child Find services

WEBSTER — Parents/guardians of children ages three through 22 who reside in Webster and feel their child is in need of an evaluation for determination of eligibility for special education services should contact the Office of Student Support Services at Webster Public Schools, 77 Poland St.

Information regarding the procedure for requesting an evaluation can be obtained by

calling the Office of Student Support Services at (508) 943-3646 or online at www.webster-schools.org.

This notice is provided in compliance with State and Federal regulations for conducting

Child Find activities in order to identify students who may be in need of an evaluation to

determine eligibility for special education services.

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 Downton Abbey special live concert is a journey to Highclere Castle with the Sicilian Tenors- as seen in Downton Abbey

with a reproduction of their nationwide 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 incredi-

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

Old Sturbridge Village- Christmas by Candlelight. Relish old traditions and create new ones as you watch demonstrations of classic Christmas projects, stroll through the decorated village, enjoy the Christmas Tree Trail, listen to stories and live music, see a magic show, explore over twenty-five historic buildings, and more. This trip will be taking place on Friday, December 6th. The cost for this trip is \$110 per person with a \$50 deposit, and includes entry, transportation, gratuity, and a meal at The Tavern. For more information call (508) 949-3845.



Courtesy

The Dudley Woman's Club most popular fundraiser is back! Pocketbook Bingo will be held Sunday, Nov. 3 at the PACC, 37 Harris St. in Webster. Doors open at 1 p.m., with Bingo starting at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$35pp for this fun afternoon of BINGO with the gals plus the chance to win 10 designer handbags! Lots of laughs, giveaways and raffles. The DWC's voluntary Giving Project for this event will be gently used pocketbooks and shoes for the Webster-Dudley Food Share. Tickets online at www.dudleywomensclub.org/pocketbookbingo.

DUDLEY SENIOR CENTER NEWS AND EVENTS

DUDLEY — Thursday, Oct. 17: Memory Café from noon-2 p.m., Stephen George will entertain us with music and song. Lunch will be meatballs, pasta, salad, garlic bread and assorted desserts. The cost for this event is \$5.00. Come celebrate with us in Dudley. Please RSVP for this event! Call 508-949-8015 to RSVP or sign up in the Dudley Senior Center.

Wednesday, Oct. 23: Potluck Lunch will be Ham, mashed or sweet potatoes butternut squash and corn bread, pumpkin pie for dessert. The cost for this event is \$5. Please RSVP for this event! Call 508-949-8015 to RSVP or sign up in the Dudley senior center.

Activities at Dudley Senior Center: Tuesdays at 1 p.m. – Pitch League-Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. – The Dudley Senior Center Knitting group-Tri Valley lunches served Monday Thursday: Book Club Oct. 21, reading "The Thursday Murder Club."

OUR COMPREHENSIVE ORTHO CARE JUST GOT MORE COMPREHENSIVE.

The Day Kimball Ortho Group is expanding. Again. And we're excited to welcome four new highly skilled orthopedic surgeons to our team:



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(DKH)



Douglass Weiss, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
(DKH)



Brian H. Cohen, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
(Ortho RI)



Sidney P. Migliori, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
(Ortho RI)



Michael P. Bradley, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
(Ortho RI)



Alyson Hernigle, PA-C, AT-C
Orthopedic APP



David LaChance, NP-C
Orthopedic APP



Michael G. Olm, MS, PA-C
Orthopedic APP

These additions allow us to cater to patients throughout the region, including Rhode Island and Massachusetts. Our highly qualified orthopedic team is dedicated to managing our patients' continuum of care, empowering them to get back to their life as soon as possible. To schedule an appointment with our team, please contact us at (860) 963-3883.

Healthcare in motion.
daykimball.org/orthopedics

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DAY KIMBALL HEALTH
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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Why fall is the best season of all

Fall in New England is something else. It's the kind of season that makes you stop and take it all in—the crisp air, the explosion of colors, and the cozy feel of it all. After a busy summer, it's the perfect shift into a slower, more connected way of life.

There's just a lot to love about a New England fall. The trees light up with reds, oranges, and yellows, creating landscapes that look straight out of a postcard. And it's not just the scenery, it's the traditions, too. Fall is when small towns come alive with festivals, harvest fairs, porch concerts, and outdoor markets. It's an invitation to gather with neighbors, whether around a bonfire, at a farm stand, or during a weekend spent raking leaves and chatting over cider.

Fall in New England also has that perfect balance. The days are cool but not too cold, just right for a hike, a stroll through town, or picking apples in a local orchard. As the leaves change, they remind us that nothing stays the same forever, and that's okay. This season encourages us to embrace change while appreciating everything we've got right now.

It's also a time for reflection. With winter coming, fall feels like a last big celebration of the year before things quiet down. It's a chance to be thankful for what we have and to focus on what really matters, time spent with family, friends, and neighbors.

So, while the pumpkins, apple picking, and Halloween costumes are fun, the real magic of a New England fall is how it brings people together. It's about enjoying what's around us, building connections, and making the most of this cozy season before the snow flies. That's what makes fall in New England so special.

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

Our nature is to love

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.
Don't love only those who love you, but love all people.
Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return.
Be merciful as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:31-35



them into new people, even into friends.

During the communist period in Romania, there was a priest who suffered in prison because of his faith. In prison, he was tortured and beaten so badly that he lay close to death. It so happened that his torturer, the man who had beaten him almost to death, had himself found disfavor with his superiors and was himself beaten very badly and thrown into prison. The witness of this story relates how he was sitting in this prison cell with the half-dead priest on his right side, and the half-dead torturer on his left. As the hours went by and the torturer came closer to death, this man kept crying out from his physical pain, but also loudly lamenting over all the evil which he had committed in his life. He said that no one could forgive him for the terrible things he had done.

BEYOND THE PEWS

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

Here are some of the most radical teachings of Jesus Christ, teachings that separate His followers from the ways of the world. The true mark of a disciple of Christ is how we love all people, even our enemies. To love, not because we receive something in return, but to love simply because it is our nature to love. Our love is freely given, just as God freely loves us. We strive to imitate our heavenly Father in his love and mercy to all people!

But what does loving our enemy mean. Can we love our enemies in the same way we love our families and friends? Here, it is important to understand the different understandings of the word “love” used in the Bible. The Greek word for love used in this passage is “agape”, and agape love means something more than just liking another person. “Agape love describes an active feeling of benevolence towards another person; it means that no matter what a person does to us we will never allow ourselves to desire anything but his highest good; and we will deliberately go out of our way to be good and kind to him.” (William Barclay) In other words, such love goes beyond our feelings, but comes from our will. We may not want to do it, but we must “will” to love another.

This may sound impossible. How can we love our enemies? How can we forgive those who have hurt us? Only God can forgive, love, and be merciful in such a manner. How can we be like God? Here, we must admit our limitations and unite ourselves totally in Christ. As we become one with the Lord will we adopt His mind and spirit. It is from the ocean of God's love that the tiny drops of our own ability to love come. We receive the ability to love only through the grace that comes from Christ which we allow to dwell in us!

Of course most people find it difficult to love an enemy, or impossible to forgive one who has deeply hurt us. Yet, God never ceases to do good to the sinner; never ceases to stop hoping for the change of the most hardened sinner; always keeps His arms open wide to embrace whoever comes to Him.

God does not want the death of a sinner (even though we might want this). God is not the enemy of our enemies. He is not even the enemy of His enemies. Saint Paul reminds us that “while we were still sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8), for all people. This is the divine love he wants to instill in us.

The only way to conquer our enemies is through His love. If you try to hate your enemies, mistreat them, abuse them, offer them the kind of treatment they offer you, you will only intensify their enmity. However, if you love them, bless them, treat them well, the power of God may touch them and transform

Then the priest, who was listening, called over several young men to lift him up, because he was too weak to even walk. They carried him over to the man. He sat beside his own torturer; hugged him, caressed his deformed face, and started to tell him about the love and mercy of God. He told the man that He forgave him, even though he had done such evil. He assured him that all the Christians this man tortured had forgiven him and even now loved him. And then he said, “Imagine, if we love you and forgive you, how much more does God love you and long to hug you and comfort you.”

The torturer was so moved by the actions and words of the priest, that he began shaking and started to confess his sins to this priest. Imagine, a murdered man listening to the confession of his own murderer, who is telling him of the great love and mercy of God. This is a divine love which only comes from God. And this is the love that all of us are called to imitate.

The original nature of humanity, before the fall, was to love unconditionally. Our nature now, as people united to Christ through our baptism, is once again to love. We should never change our nature even though another has changed theirs. It doesn't matter how others treat us; we simply love them because we know we are loved by God.

Always remember that even in the worst of people, the image of God still abides. What is important is to see how the image of God in me can relate to the image of God in the other! If we strive to imitate Christ in our lives, to truly become one with him, then we will be able to find the power and strength to follow these difficult commandments of Christ.

“Do to others as you would have them do to you. Don't love only those who love you, but love all people. Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Be merciful as your Father is merciful.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As I see it...

To the Editor:

Once again, we experienced a shooting in our country at Apalachee High School near Winder, Ga.; once again, four innocent lives were cut short; and once again, there will be those individuals who want to confiscate guns from law abiding citizens. Is that really the answer?

As I see it, a better solution to this question lies in what we value today in our culture, and most importantly, what value we place on life. If you are reading this, your parents, especially your mother, placed great value on your life. She looked at pregnancy as a gift, a blessing, and the wonder of bringing a new life into this world. You [God] formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. (Ps.: 139, vs.13.)

I believe in our present culture that advocates for abortion, women have forgotten and fail to appreciate the beauty and wonder of their own bodies. Why, in the past, did our mothers embrace pregnancy as a blessing, whereas today it has become a health issue – my choice, my body? Women today fail to realize that breaking a glass ceiling to compete with men may be a lofty goal, but what they forget is that they possess within themselves something no man can or will ever have, and that is the ability to

continue the human race by bringing children into this world. If life is disposable in the womb, no life is sacred anymore.

Another issue to consider is the removal of The Ten Commandments (Natural Law) thou shall not kill, thou shall not steal, thou shall not commit adultery, etc. from our courthouses. This action undermined our nation's Judeo-Christian foundation and removed the boundaries established in our society. The result is killing, stealing, divorce, etc. This permissiveness has resulted in weakening if not destroying the family unit the building block of a strong society where children are taught right from wrong.

Besides gun possession, I believe these are contributing factors to the culture of death that pervades our society today. As an American, will you cast your vote for more abortion, more lawlessness or for reestablishing natural law and protecting the lives of all our future unborn children so they may have the same opportunity we have to live the American dream?

Your choice — your America!

JOAN COMEAU
WEBSTER

Please don't sell me things

BY CHRISTOPHER J. MALLON
SVP PROGRAM MANAGER
THE CAPSTONE PLANNING GROUP

Several years ago, I was in the market for a new car and decided to visit a few car dealerships to explore my options. While I wasn't sure exactly what vehicle I wanted, I did know it would need a third row given my growing family and three young children. As I walked the first car lot a salesman noticed me looking at an SUV, and he eagerly approached to offer his assistance. “What's it going to take for me to sell you this car today?” he asked. I cringed. “I don't want you to sell me anything, but I do have some questions about the vehicle,” I replied.

I don't know about you, but I don't want to be “sold” anything. Ask me what I am looking for, what options I value, what is important to me, and what questions I have. Educate me on features. Be transparent about pricing and list the pros and cons of various choices. You can even give me your opinion. Ultimately, I want information so that I can make my own decision. And this approach applies to more than just car shopping.

When it comes to the financial service industry, too many advisors try to “sell” things before understanding their prospective client's needs. Instead of building a relationship based on trust and value, their tactics focus on products or pricing. Are products and pricing important? Yes, but that's not where the conversation should start.

The primary role of a professional financial advisor is to understand each client's unique situation. He or she should understand your savings, cash-flow, income, expenses, social security, and risk tolerance. Together you should prioritize your short and long-term goals such as retirement, downsizing your home, funding a child's college tuition, or leaving a legacy for your family. Only after those discussions have occurred should product recommendations be given.

Often, the best financial advisors approach their practice like a doctor. Would a doctor prescribe a treatment or medicine before performing a series of tests? Not likely. They'll ask you questions, conduct physicals, check blood pressure, order lab work, and any multitude of other items. They'll present their findings and explain the pros and cons of various treatment plans. And ultimately, the patient will choose which route they want to take.

It is for reasons like these that an ongoing personal relationship with your financial advisor is so important. While the emergence of discount online investment firms may appeal to some, they typically lack this major ingredient -- a genuine client-advisor relationship. To shift your focus away from this issue, online investment firms focus on low pricing. Or, if your account gets large enough, an advisor (from their revolving door of employees) may try to sell you something.

The goal of a financial advisor is to identify client needs, not to sell things. Advisors should approach their job as educators and provide information. They help their clients make informed decisions. They craft financial plans and offer recommendations based on their analysis and findings. That is where the true value of a financial advisor is found -- not in products or price.

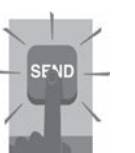
This article was actually written by the author, Christopher Mallon.

About The Capstone Planning Group
The Capstone Planning Group is an experienced wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank. The team offers comprehensive financial planning, asset management, and insurance. They utilize an independent business model and do not sell proprietary products. To learn more about the team and schedule a courtesy consultation please visit www.thecapstone.group or call 508-764-0046.

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It's Pumpkin Season!

Although we think of pumpkins as a vegetable, it is officially classified as a fruit since it grows from a flower and has seeds. Pumpkins contain 90% water; and they float!

Pumpkins are very popular this time of year and consumer demand for pumpkins remains high, with last year's U.S. pumpkin production up to 15.97 cwt (hundred-weight), almost double the amount produced just three years earlier! It's no wonder people love pumpkins – not only are they an autumn decorating staple, pumpkins have many virtues beyond their aesthetics: they are delicious, are a rich source of both fiber and vitamin A and naturally low in calories. Best of all pumpkins are very versatile, which have made them the spotlight of many Autumn feasts via pumpkin soups, casseroles and hearty pies.

Read on for a roundup of pumpkin tips, tricks and ideas:

* Keep in mind when choosing pumpkins that the variety you select should fit your need. For example, if you desire a pumpkin for pie, a medium sugar pumpkin, which is typically small and sweet with a dark orange color, is the best choice.

* For carving, look for well rounded pumpkins that have good color with stem intact. Pumpkins earmarked as Jack-O-Lanterns are usually larger and contain too many strings and seeds to be practical for pie making. Choosing a proper pumpkin for your table is important. Pumpkins should be mature and

firm, with taut skin and a nice orange hue. Select pumpkins that feel solid and are heavy for their size. If still growing on the vine, look for stems that are solidly attached to the pumpkin. A general rule to test for maturity is to scratch the skin slightly with a fingernail. A mature pumpkin will resist scratching.

** Preserving and Preparing Pumpkins: Pumpkins can be successfully stored for up to six months, as long as conditions are favorable. Storage temperature should not exceed 50 degrees and should be stored in a dry, frost free environment.

** Whole pumpkins keep better if picked leaving two inches of the stem on the fruit. Dry them in the sun for a few days before storing. For safety's sake, wipe pumpkins down with a common disinfectant such as Lysol before storing. Whole pumpkins should not be allowed to touch each other in storage. And be sure to keep an eye out for rot spots that may form. Any pumpkins that are found to be decaying should be promptly removed from the storage area.

* If you want to store pumpkins beyond several months, you will need to preserve them. Several methods of preserving pumpkins are used. Freezing cooked, pureed pumpkin is a favored way to preserve the taste and texture of pumpkin. Sugar or pie pumpkins are ideal candidates for freezing as the pulp is

thicker and firmer. To easily prepare a pumpkin for pureeing, simply place the whole fruit in the microwave for about a minute or so to soften the skin. This will make the pumpkin much easier to peel. Cut the pumpkin in large slices, peel the skin and remove the strings and seeds. Then cut the slices into smaller pieces. Boil the pumpkin pieces until tender; then mash or process the pumpkin pulp until it forms a smooth, thick puree. Those who are considering home canning pumpkin should be advised pumpkin puree cannot be canned due to its thickness, and although some people successfully can chunked slices of the pulp, it is safer to avoid the risk altogether.

* Pumpkin can also be dried, which was a favored method of the colonists. Drying pumpkin must be done carefully in order to kill all the germs that would make it spoil. Here's how to do it the old fashioned way: Split the pumpkin in half and remove the seeds. Remove the skin and cut the fruit into thin slices. Steam for about six minutes. Spread on a tray and dry in the sun (it will take at least two days, and it will take about two days. If flies are a problem, cover with



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

Perfect Pumpkin Seeds: Many Halloween traditions include gathering the seeds from a carved Jack-O-Lantern to toast in a warm oven. The snack is both healthy and delicious, and the addition of spices gives the humble treat a flavorful punch. Plus, roasting up a batch of pumpkin seeds is not only an annual treat, it's a great way to use up every bit of the vegetable:

To properly toast pumpkin seeds, remove all pulp and clean strings from the seeds. Place seeds in a bowl and stir in melted butter or olive oil and salt to coat the seeds. Spread

netting. Pumpkin needs to be dried in hot sun so that it dries quickly before it spoils.

** Or, you can dry pumpkin quicker and easier in the oven or microwave; here's how to do it in the microwave, which is the fastest method:

Arrange thin slices on a microwave safe tray or glass pie plate. You must leave space between the slices so air can circulate around them. Cook on high for 15 to 20 minutes. Check the pumpkin; if it is not crispy; cook again for five minutes, and continue until the dried slices are crunchy. Allow to cool before storing.

* Did you know that dried pumpkin can also be made into a flour, which can be used just as you would all purpose flour in cooking and baking? To do, simply pulverize the dry pumpkin in a food processor.

** To sprout pumpkin seeds, place the seeds in a glass jar (Mason jars are ideal) and cover with water just to cover. Secure a piece of cheesecloth over the top with a rubber band. Soak seeds overnight. The next day, drain the water out and place the jar in dark area that is room temperature. Rinse the seeds in the jar at least four times a day. After a few days, you should see the seeds sprouting. Rinse them again and place the jar in the sun for a day or so until tiny leaves form. They are now ready to use as a tasty garnish or salad addition.

** Pumpkin Hummus: Pureed sugar pumpkin adds just the right flavor to this hummus. To do: Mix together in a food processor until smooth: two cups pureed sugar pumpkin; one 15 oz can of garbanzo (chi chi) beans;

one tablespoon tahini, two teaspoons vegetable oil; one teaspoon cumin; one teaspoon salt; one eighth teaspoon cayenne pepper; one crushed garlic clove, and three tablespoons of water. Adjust thickness by adding a little water if it is too thick. Makes two cups. Serve with pita bread or crackers.

** 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.

records show that blood rained again in the same town months later.

Twice, in the same location—each time with no sign of birds, storms, or any logical explanation.

Could some unknown atmospheric phenomenon cause these bloody downpours, or are they evidence of something much darker?

Whatever the cause, the tale of the blood rains remains one of the most disturbing and unexplainable mysteries in Fort's work. So, the next time you find yourself caught in a storm and notice something red in the raindrops—don't assume it's mud or dust. Look closer. You might be witnessing something that has terrified and baffled people for centuries: blood from the sky.

But here's where the story gets even stranger: Not a single feather was found. No bird remains were recovered, and no witness recalled seeing birds struggling in the sky. It was as if the blood had appeared in the clouds, only to rain down on the terrified townspeople.

This eerie event should have been a one-time occurrence, but Fort's

While I focus on the positive, I'm a fan of the Strange, Dark, and Mysterious. Who doesn't love a good mystery? I'm dedicating a series to some unsettling tales for this year's spooky season. There's no better way to start than with the chilling phenomenon of blood rains, documented by the legendary Charles Fort.

Fort once wrote, "There have been red rains that, in the Middle Ages, were called 'rains of blood.' Such rains terrified many persons and were so unsettling to large populations that Science has sought to prove that 'rains of blood' do not exist."

Scientists have documented red rains caused by sand and dust particles from the Sahara Desert. When strong winds sweep the desert,

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

red sands mix with rain clouds, creating a reddish downpour. This phenomenon, known as "blood rain," is fairly common and has been analyzed to show high iron oxide concentrations, giving it a rusty hue. But what Charles Fort documented is far stranger: We're not talking about dusty rain, but actual blood-like rains—thicker, darker, and containing organic matter that defies simple explanations.

One of the most unsettling accounts of red rain comes from Fort's research on an incident in France on October 16 and 17, 1846. During this period, a vivid, crimson rain fell across several towns, staining the streets, rooftops, and fields in a disturbing shade of red. Locals were terrified, describing it

as if the sky itself were bleeding.

Scientific journals of the time, such as Comptes Rendus, noted that the rain was so vividly colored that it looked more like fresh blood than mud or dust.

Two separate chemical analyses were conducted to determine the nature of the strange rain. One scientist reported the presence of "blood-like corpuscles" in the samples, while another confirmed that up to 35 percent of the rain's composition was made up of organic matter—substances usually associated with living organisms. This appeared to be no ordinary storm.

Despite these findings, it was dismissed it as a natural event, attributing it to dust swept up from the earth.

Was it really blood?

If so, where did it come from? No birds or other animals were found dead in the area, and no other plausible sources of organic material were identified. And eerily, this wouldn't be the last time such rains were reported in Europe, leaving a question mark that lingers to this day.

Take the terrifying incident on May 15, 1890, in Messignadi, Calabria, Italy. According to Professor Luigi Palazzo, head of the Italian Meteorological Bureau, something the color of fresh blood fell from the sky over this small town.

Naturally, the locals were horrified. Supposedly, this wasn't just a light drizzle—it soaked their homes, fields, and streets in thick, crimson droplets. Samples were quickly collected and sent to the public health laborato-

ries in Rome for analysis. The result? It was confirmed to be blood. Human? Animal? The scientists couldn't say.

What could cause blood to fall from the sky?

As documented in Popular Science News, the official explanation was that a flock of migratory birds—quails or swallows—had been caught and torn apart by a violent windstorm high above the town.

But here's where the story gets even stranger: Not a single feather was found. No bird remains were recovered, and no witness recalled seeing birds struggling in the sky. It was as if the blood had appeared in the clouds, only to rain down on the terrified townspeople.

This eerie event should have been a one-time occurrence, but Fort's

Blood rain

Use fresh herbs to flavor holiday meals

Grow, harvest and season your holiday meals with fresh herbs grown indoors in a windowsill garden. Add to the experience by using potted herbs and a few holiday adornments to dress up the table. You and your family will enjoy snipping a few fresh herbal sprigs to season your meal to your own taste.

Include herbs your family likes, those that complement your menu and are easy to grow indoors like basil, oregano, parsley, chives, thyme, and sage. Purchase plants so they will be ready to harvest for the holidays. Many garden centers now carry herb plants year-round; some grocery stores sell them in their produce department.

Grow plants in individual containers or plant several in one larger decorative pot. Select a container with drainage holes and one that

complements your table setting. Use a quality, well-draining potting mix when transplanting herbs into another container.

Place a saucer or tray under pots with drainage holes to protect your furniture. Or double pot plants when using a decorative container that lacks drainage holes. Plant herbs in a smaller pot with drainage holes or set several pots in a larger container. Place pebbles in the bottom of the decorative pot. This elevates the inner pots above any excess water that collects in the bottom of the decorative pot, helping avoid root rot and the need to empty the water in the saucer.

Dress up any meal by creating an edible centerpiece with your herb plants. Set them on a decorative placemat to protect the tabletop and add a few seasonal items to



GARDEN MOMENTS
MELINDA MYERS

complete your display.

Grow herbs in a sunny window such as an unobstructed south-, east-, or west-facing window when they are not decorating the table. Consider adding artificial lights if sunlight is limited and the plants have leggy stems and pale leaves. Keep the lights about six to 12 inches above the tops of the plants and leave them on for six to eight hours if supplementing the natural light. Leave them on for 14 hours a day, if this is the only light source. Set the plants on a reflective surface to help shine light back up into the bottom of the plants.

Avoid drafts of hot and cold air and water thoroughly as needed. Some herbs like basil, oregano, parsley, and marjoram like soil to be slightly moist but not soggy while chives, thyme, and sage like it a bit drier.

Grow basil to dress up a pizza, salad, or soup with a few leaves. Add some oregano to season any tomato-based dishes such as pizza and pasta. Use fresh thyme to flavor cheese, eggs, tomatoes, and lentils.

Chives' mild onion flavor is great on potatoes, but consider adding it to soups, dips, seafood dishes, and omelets. Just snip a few leaves and cut them into smaller pieces before adding them to your dish.

Parsley is high in Vitamin C, and is often added to soups, pasta, salads, and dressings.

Harvest a sprig at the end of the meal to freshen your breath.

Add several pairs of snips and let everyone add their favorite herbal seasonings to their meal. You may need to show your guests how to harvest and use the herbs to get them started. Let them know that harvesting the herbs encourages new growth for future use.

Make this year's holiday meals memorable. Invite your guest to enjoy the fresh flavor and fun of seasoning their meals right at the table.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Midwest Gardener's Handbook*, 2nd Edition and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and



Melinda Myers

Grow herbs that complement your family's favorite recipes and are easy to grow indoors.

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.

Country Bank, Worcester Red Sox unite for 2024 Police Vs. Fire Baseball Classic

WORCESTER — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, and the Worcester Red Sox Foundation recently held the third annual, “POLICE VS. FIRE BASEBALL CLASSIC,” presented by the WooSox Foundation and Country Bank on Monday, Sept. 16, at Polar Park. A \$15,000 donation was made to the Worcester Fire Department Memorials Care Fund, a Worcester-based nonprofit that supports the perpetual care and maintenance of fallen firefighter memorials throughout the city and their families.

“At Country Bank, we are deeply honored to support our community’s police officers and firefighters through events like the Police vs. Fire Baseball Classic,” said Mary McGovern,



President and CEO at Country Bank. “These brave men and women

selflessly serve and protect, and it is a privilege to contribute to the care

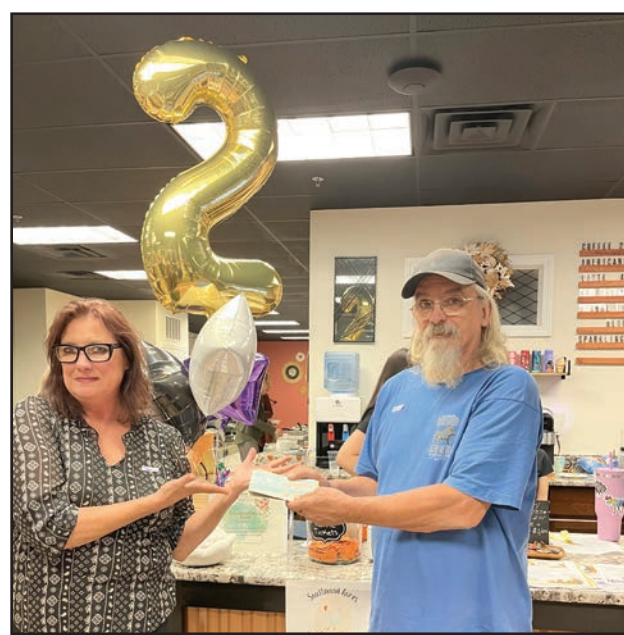
and maintenance of memorials that honor those who have made the

ultimate sacrifice. Our commitment to this cause reflects our ongoing dedi-

cation to strengthening the communities we serve and supporting the heroes who safeguard them.”

“As this annual tradition grows, we find that the poignant ceremony and competitive baseball game are emerging points of pride in our community,” said WooSox President Dr. Charles Steinberg. “We give wholehearted thanks to Country Bank for continuing their outstanding community service. Our police and firefighters have found an extraordinary way to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and then to honor their memory with a fiercely competitive, marvelously entertaining performance of our national pastime. Our community is unique in the central role played by these front-line heroes.”

Webster Dudley Business Alliance holds networking event



WEBSTER — On Sept. 23, the Webster Dudley Business Alliance, along with Prestige Salon & Day Spa, hosted a networking event at the salon’s location at 118 Main St. Webster.

Two other local business networking groups, Charlton Business Alliance and Thompson Business Association, were invited to attend.

This was a great night of meeting other local area business owners to share food and drink together.

Each business owner had the opportunity to speak about what their business offers.

We had special guests Sen. Ryan Fattman and State Rep. John Marsi, who spoke with many of the owners and made themselves available for any needs/concerns that the business owners may have.

Webster Selectmen Elaine Fitzback Davies and Mark Rogers were there representing the town government as well.

The \$5 entry fee and 50/50 raffle proceeds were donated to The Blessed Backpack Brigade.

The annual meeting of the WDBA will be held at The Samuel Slater Experience on Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 5-7:30 p.m.

Tammy Taft presented the check to John Mandarano (Backpack Brigade).



Sen. Ryan Fattman, Lorri Ducharme and Barbara Van Reed.



Courtesy
Therapy dog, Tomo, visited Mrs. Torteson’s third grade class at Clara Barton Elementary School last week. Tomo is a three-year-old American Akita bred by Denali Akitas in Kansas. He is a wonderful example of the Akita breed and is even going to be a show dog! Tomo weighs 110lbs but he is truly a gentle giant; his name means “friend” in Japanese. Animal Assisted Therapy Services MA has been providing therapy dog visits to the students (and staff!) of Oxford Public Schools for three years. AaTs MA is a nonprofit organization that provides dog training classes to the community and therapy dog visits throughout the entire state. While Tomo and Toshi are assigned to OPS, AaTs MA has approximately 60 therapy dog teams (including several Police Comfort Dogs) and 2 therapy cats! In addition to working with OPS, Tomo and Toshi also visit hospice clients, inmates, and several schools and colleges throughout Central Massachusetts.



Courtesy

DUDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Dudley Middle School is thrilled to announce its Students of the Month. 5th Grade - Jayden Agosto, Samuel Majka, Elianna Ibrahim, & Abigail Craver; 6th Grade - Olivia Macek, D’Andre Para-Olivera, & Ivory Agim; 7th Grade - Justin Ruo, John Whitcraft, & Ayla Tombeno; 8th Grade - Kaiya Zaczek, Marina Morgan, & Seth Chatterton. Not pictured: D’Andre Para-Olivera.

Knights of Columbus Webster Council #228 holds successful charity drive

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

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

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

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

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Courtesy

The Black Tavern in Dudley held a “dual purpose” event on Sept. 19 to celebrate the Nancy J. Vajcovec Memorial Lecture Series, which included an in-character portrayal of “Meet John Adams – the 2nd US President of the United States. It was a full house in the barn and a beautiful evening of celebration, American history and plenty desserts after the event! Fun was had by all! Also, The Black Tavern will hold its next event on Oct. 17 at 7 p.m., where Ed Bazinet will present “Genealogy – Who Cares?” This event is free to the public.



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OBITUARY

Robert W. Konkol, Sr., 73



NORTH GROSVENORDALE, CT – Robert W. “Bob” Konkol, Sr., 73, died September 29, 2024 at home after an illness, surrounded by his loving family. He leaves his wife of 55 years, Carol A. (Martin) Konkol; his son-in-law, David J. Carlson, Jr. both of North Grosvenordale; daughter-in-law, Paula McKay of Webster, MA; 3 grandchildren, Garrett N. Carlson, Colby J. Carlson and Kailey Konkol; a brother, Julius “Buddy” Konkol, Jr. of Charlton; 3 sisters, Kathy Konkol-Saad of Webster, MA, Jeannette Konkol-Saad of Oxford, MA, and Dolores White of McAlpin, FL; his in-laws, Steven and Karen Martin of Lakeland, FL and Ronald and

Georgette Martin of Sturbridge, MA; many nephews, nieces, grand-nephews and grand-nieces. He was preceded in death by his son Robert W. Konkol II in 2009, by his daughter Katrina M. “Nina” (Konkol) Carlson in March of this year, and by his brother Harold Konkol. He was born on October 17, 1950 in Worcester, MA and raised in Charlton, MA a son of Julius Konkol, Sr. and Aurore (Thibeault) Konkol. He was a 1969 graduate of Charlton High School in Charlton, MA. He moved to Connecticut in 1978. Mr. Konkol first worked as a crater and shipper for Webster Spring in Oxford, MA. He was then self-employed as a carpenter and general contractor with his business, R.K. Konkol Home Construction for 51 years, only retiring due to illness. He was a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus

Church, Webster, MA. He enjoyed riding his Harley, camping and vacationing with Carol, and spending time with his grandchildren. His memorial Mass will be held Thursday, October 10, at 11:00 AM in Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 16 East Main Street, Webster, MA. Burial will be private. Visitation will be held Thursday, in the church from 9:00 to 11:00 AM (parking at rear of church). The family requests that flowers be omitted and instead donations in his memory may be made to Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 18 East Main Street, Webster, MA 01570. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, MA. www.websterfunerals.com

PETITION

continued from page A1

The budget controversies and layoff scares from 2023 remained one of the biggest selling points for the petition. Briare made it clear part of his motivation was to avoid having first responders and other essential services threatened by future budget problems by implementing the Personnel Board to oversee future layoffs. Peter Fox also defended the bylaw changes as a way to more properly handle situations involving layoffs and jobs affected by budget shortfalls or cuts.

“We had a Personnel Board up until 2022. Five members that did the review processes, they did the screenings, they did interviews for hiring, they worked with the department heads – The board worked for years. If there was the possibility of a potential lay-

off the Personnel Board would have been involved to discuss that issue and I believe that the Personnel Board could have avoided that shutdown and those layoffs had Personnel Board been involved,” said Fox.

Selectmen leaned on the advice of Town Counsel in their rebuttals acknowledging that while the town did things a certain way prior to 2018, those practices may not be appropriate today. Selectman Jana Deschenes said that while she respected Fox’s points, she maintained the opinion that the proposed changes would contradict the responsibilities of the Board of Selectmen in accordance with state statute.

“I tend to agree with Mr. Fox that there aren’t a lot of issues with having an interview board or panel or the Personnel Board as an advisory board, but the language that’s in the petition to me seems to go way beyond that

because if what we were doing was looking for a Personnel Board that’s going to serve as an interview panel and is going to do the vetting and scoring and all of those things, I don’t know why we’re adding more language in from 2018 – That language from 2018 that doesn’t exist anymore may not exist for a good reason and it seems like it to me,” she said.

Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda also defended the current bylaws and laid out how despite serving as Personnel Director he answers to the Board of Selectmen and how the old ways may be outdated.

“I don’t do this in a vacuum. These hires are properly vetted through the Board of Selectmen at all times. If we’ve made such great hires and we’ve done our job with one exception that nobody can ever mention or talk about, which in and of itself makes this a

really difficult argument to make, somebody made a mistake or didn’t make a mistake it’s very subjective, but if we’ve done so well with everything else and our Labor Counsel is telling us that everything that was taken away in 2018 under (former Town Administrator) Greg Balukonis is a bad thing

why are we seeking to restore it?” said Ruda.

Briare concluded his defense of the petition saying their goal is to simply provide checks and balances and did express a willingness to work with the Labor Counsel on clearing up any conflicts he felt were contained within the

document. The Board of Selectmen did not move on the articles because, as citizen petitions, they will be put to a public vote. The fall special town meeting is scheduled for Oct. 21. Citizens petitions are traditionally addressed as the final items of the night.

VEGNONE

continued from page A1

was born April 9, 1919, the son of Annunziata “Nancy” (Della Ripa) and Giuseppe “Joseph” Vegnone in Webster. Anthony had six sisters

and one brother - Jennie (Joan) Tarcinale, Adelina (Lena) Szaforowicz, Helen Jarzowski, and Frank Vegnone. He attended Bartlett High School in the Town of Webster.

Anthony joined the US Army on April 23, 1943. He served in Italy

and died on Feb. 21, 1944, after being wounded in action. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Army Presidential Unit Citation, and the Army Good Conduct Medal for service to his country.

MORRISON

continued from page A1

inducted and on a plane to San Antonio, Texas for Basic Training. Seven weeks in the blazing heat zoomed by, and soon he was on his way to Wichita Falls on the Red River for Technical School training on the Wright 3350

Super Compound Reciprocating Radial Engine. This amazing engine powered the Super Constellation C-121, the Fairchild AC-119K Stinger and the mighty A1Sky Raider. Jim also maintained the Pratt and Whitney R-1830 Twin Wasp that powered the iconic DC-3, C-47 ‘Spooky’ Gun-Ships.

Jim was fortunate to spend the remaining 3 years of his enlistment in the war zones of Thailand and Viet Nam. He is particularly proud of his service on the Laotian border at Nakhon-Phanom Royal Thai AirForce Base on the Mekong River, our closest base to Hanoi. The Mission of 56-FMS was to support the Laotian War

effort and to rescue pilots shot down over the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Jim also spent time in Danang, Vietnam’s Rocket Valley, as an engine mechanic on the AC-119K Stinger GunShip. It was there in Danang that Jim witnessed the enactment of the Cease Fire Agreement on Jan. 27, 1973, that ended the American Air War in Viet Nam. An historic moment, indeed.

After discharge from duty Jim returned to school to pick up his Bachelor’s to teach High School Math and Sciences. He was there at Worcester State Chemistry Lecture Hall when he met and fell in love with Deborah Lisenio. There was no money, but they were a team and before long the loving couple had a family and their own house.

Jim tried teaching, spending a year in Cairo, Egypt at the American College. After returning home Jim taught Music in the Worcester System K through 12, where he got all students interested in the Gong Show in just two years. He later

returned to Mechanical Design, a more lucrative employ when supporting a young family.

After eight years at the Alden Hydraulic Lab in Holden and five more at another Alden Lab in Westboro, a few more documenting a Thyroid Imaging System in Sudbury at Scientific Enterprises. Jim finally settled in doing mechanical Design work for Eastern Acoustics Works in Whitinsville for 25 years that Jim says ‘went by like a Flash.’

Through it all, Jim continued to play for the Pulaski Brass Band. He started out in 1961 at 13 years of age. He remembers attending a burial when he saw the Webster-Dudley Veterans Honor Guard conduct their burial ritual.

Jim says, “They were kind enough to let me Bugle for them.”

That was 20 years ago, and Jim is still playing “TAPS” at military funerals.

USAF Vietnam Veteran, Jim Morrison, America thanks you!

AWARDS

continued from page A1

Joanne O’Connor. The 2024 Nellie Twardzik Thompson Outstanding Softball Athlete Award was presented to Giada Manzi.

The late Mr. John Paire was a former Principal and educator at Dudley Middle School who tragically passed away in 2017. He was known for his “Be Better” philosophy within the school district and the commu-

nity. To this day, this legacy remains strong as one can easily spot the “Be Better” logo on dozens of t-shirts, hoodies, and stickers throughout the Town of Dudley. A stone at the entrance to Dudley Middle School engraved with the same words serves as a daily reminder to students as they enter the building.

The John Paire Award for Baseball Excellence is given to a baseball player that demonstrates outstanding talent, a high level of sportsmanship,

displays the characteristics of a great teammate, and respect for the game of baseball. This player personifies the “Be Better” philosophy Mr. Paire is still known for in the community. Members of John Paire’s family Janice Szlyk and Renee Paire attended the ceremony to present the award.

The recipient of the 2024 John Paire Award for Baseball Excellence is William Antos.

Friday's Child

Hi! My name is Alexander and I love to be busy!

Alex is a silly and funny young boy. He loves to swim and play at the local playgrounds. He has friends at school and typically can meet children on the playground and engage with them in a meaningful way. During down-time, Alex enjoys watching TV; however, he is always eager to join others in new activities. Alex’s social worker describes him as being very sweet and helpful. Alex attends church and religious activities multiple times per week. Alex would prefer his pre-adoptive family support him in maintaining these connections.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8542>

Can I Adopt?

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

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

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

Friends of the Oxford Library book sale returns next weekend

OXFORD — It is time once again for The Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library Fall Book/Bake Sale. There are over four thousand books, all in good to excellent condition as well as many DVDs and CDs.

The sale will be held on Thursday, Oct. 17 from noon to 7 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday, Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oxford Free Public Library, 339 Main St., Oxford, MA in the downstairs meeting room. We accept cash or check only. Hardcover and trade size paperbacks are \$1, regular size paperbacks are 50¢ and children’s books range from 25 cents to \$1. We offer a great “half price” deal on classroom books for teachers on Thursday and Friday. The last hour of the book sale on Saturday, from 1 to 2 p.m., you have the option of buying a provided bag and filling it for only \$10. Dealers are welcome on Saturday only.

The Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library was formed and incorporated in 1992. As a non-profit, our purpose is to maintain a membership of people who are supportive of the library and its ongoing programs. All money donated through dues or fundraisers goes directly back to the library to support children’s programs, reading programs, museum passes, and other services. We are always looking for new members/supporters. Membership can be done at any time. The membership year runs from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31. If you have already renewed your membership or are a new member, thank you. Membership forms are available at the library adult circulation desk and also at the book sale. Please include your email address. Renewals or new memberships can also be done online at <https://oxfordmapubliclibrary.org/> by choosing the Library Info tab, then the Friends of the Library tab.

This is a wonderful opportunity to stock up on books for your winter reading. Please stop by and check it out.

Scarecrows on the Common event returns Oct. 26

OXFORD — The Oxford Community Center is hosting our Fifth Annual Scarecrows on the Common Event Saturday, Oct. 26 from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. In case of extremely bad weather, the rain date will be Oct. 27.

Help us decorate Town Common for autumn, and perhaps win a prize for your “most creative,” “best town spirit,” or “funniest” homemade scarecrow. Residents, school groups, town depart-

ments and businesses are invited to show off their creativity in our annual scarecrow contest. The day will also feature a vendor fair, live entertainment by DW and The Shakemakers and Sutton Dancing Witches, children’s games and crafts presented by Community Center staff and members of the Oxford Cultural Council, and a costume parade at 3 p.m.

We will accept vendor applications until Oct. 18. Potential vendors, please contact us at ocstaff@oxfordma.us for more information.

Scarecrow entry forms are available at the Community Center, 4 Maple Rd., Oxford, and the Oxford Town Hall. You may also find more information and register online at oxfordma.myrec.com.



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LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
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Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P2823EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Robert W Smith
Date of Death: 06/23/2024

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Doreen M Gagliastro of Webster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Doreen M Gagliastro of Webster MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/22/2024**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: September 25, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate

October 4, 2024

*The Commonwealth
of Massachusetts*
Town of Oxford

**Cheyenne Cusson, Collector of Taxes
Office of the Collector of Taxes
Notice of Tax Taking**
**To the owners of the hereinafter
described land and to all others
concerned**

You are hereby notified that on Wednesday the 30th day of October, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. at the Tax Collectors's Office, 325 Main St, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, it is my intention to take for the Town of Oxford the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Assessed To 5M COMMERCIAL LLC
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 7840 Square Feet located and known as 304 MAIN ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 35A-A01 and being part of the premises recorded in book 68945 on page 111 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$2,453.43

Assessed To AL ZUBAIDI, MOHAMMAD J
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Square Feet located and known as 445 MAIN ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 29A-D10 and being part of the premises recorded in book 69985 on page 173 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$965.26

Assessed to ALLARD DEBORAH LUCIEN SCOTT And COURTEMANCHE JACQUELINE
A condominium located and known as 39 WELLS ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 02A-C07.039 and being part of the premises recorded in book 69778 on page 139 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$1,579.61

Assessed to BALDARO JR BRUCE C And JACQUELINE M
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 26652 Square Feet located and known as 5 MINUTEMAN LN shown on the Town of Oxford

Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 33B-A46.013 and being part of the premises recorded in book 30845 on page 010 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$477.87

Assessed to BELFORD KINNEY And CHARLES ALESSANDER FAGUNDES
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 3.68 Acres located and known as 498 MAIN ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 24A-A01 and being part of the premises recorded in book 60782 on page 130 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$2,886.09
Assessed To BRITNELL BENJAMIN
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 13500 Square Feet located and known as 20 WHEELLOCK ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 33C-C15 and being part of the premises recorded in book 66255 on page 318 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$3,960.42

Assessed to CARDONE PAUL And FELICITA
A condominium located and known as 42 PLANTATION RD shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 17-B07.03- 0011-042 and being part of the premises recorded in book 34900 on page 53 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Swr Ent \$749.65
2024 Swr Ent User Fee \$40.00
2024 Tax \$3,208.24

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 22614 Square Feet located and known as 29 HARWOOD ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 50D-B06 and being part of the premises recorded in book 10443 on page 141 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$4,600.72

Assessed To DIGIULIO NICHOLAS (LE)
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 2.55 Acres located and known as 7 TURNER RD shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 06B-B17 and being part of the premises recorded in book 64847 on page 362 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$225.08

Assessed to EFSTATHIOU FOTIOS C And OURANIA
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 15204 Square Feet located and known as 440 MAIN ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 29B-B05 and being part of the premises recorded in book 7296 on page 246 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$3,050.10

Assessed To ELIZABETH A SHANNON
A condominium located and known as 2 MELISSA LN shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 32-B01-003B and being part of the premises recorded in book 61410 on page 366 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$3,520.98

Assessed To GERALDO SOUSA DE LIMA
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 31.6 Acres located and known as 67.5 MCINTYRE RD shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 20-B01 and being part of the premises recorded in book 66090 on page 266 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$328.22

Assessed to GERMAIN KENNETH M And GILLIGAN-GERMAIN SANDRA M
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 14632 Square Feet located and known as 57 LOCUST ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 46C-C01 and being part of the premises recorded in book 16949 on page 290 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$4,531.98

Assessed to GRENIER MICHAEL H And ANDERSON MEGHAN E
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 12200 Square Feet located and known as 42 WALNUT ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 33E-B10 and being part of the premises recorded in book 69785 on page 75 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$2,155.60

Assessed To JONES PATRICIA E
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 10796 Square

Feet located and known as 24 SHADY LN shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 12A-D05 and being part of the premises recorded in book 6880 on page 329 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$981.53

Assessed To LABREC REALTY SOLUTIONS LLC
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.06 Acres located and known as 158 LEICESTER ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 02B-C06 and being part of the premises recorded in book 50909 on page 97 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$1,859.48

Assessed To LAFERRIERE JESSICA
A condominium located and known as 3 THAYER POND DR 17 shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 06A-B10-0003-017 and being part of the premises recorded in book 63228 on page 315 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Swr Ent \$112.81
2024 Swr Ent User Fee \$10.00
2024 Tax \$2,899.55

Assessed To LANDRY CHERYL MA
parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 5663 Square Feet located and known as 70 MCINTYRE RD shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 20-A07 and being part of the premises recorded in book 12868 on page 279 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$653.56

Assessed to LARRY P ACKLEY JR And LISA ACKLEY
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 12597 Square Feet located and known as 24 HOLLY ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 46C-A12 and being part of the premises recorded in book 64287 on page 327 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$3,911.90

Assessed To LAWLESS SR DENNIS
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 6175 Square Feet located and known as 8 MT PLEASANT ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 51-B04 and being part of the premises recorded in book 52884 on page 85 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$1,906.99

Assessed To NEVERBUILT LLC
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 2.3 Acres located and known as 31 JOE JENNY RD shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 54-B01.115 and being part of the premises recorded in book 69358 on page 296 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$4,251.21

Assessed To NJ PENDLETON PROPERTIES
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.2 Acres located and known as 72 HUGUENOT RD shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 44-A04.011 and being part of the premises recorded in book 70612 on page 295 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$12,597.06

Assessed To NORTH OXFORD ROAD LLC
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 36.34 Acres located and known as 85 SOUTHBRIDGE RD shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 09-A12 and being part of the premises recorded in book 69530 on page 96 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$3,826.08

Assessed To NORTH OXFORD ROAD LLC
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 37.39 Acres located and known as 0 SOUTHBRIDGE RD shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 09-A29 and being part of the premises recorded in book 69530 on page 96 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$281.85

Assessed To PYTKO NATHAN
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.61 Acres located and known as 258 SUTTON AVE shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 41-A04 and being part of the premises recorded in book 65726 on page 203 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$5,181.71

Assessed To REIDY JOHN P
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 40087 Square

Feet located and known as 34 CLARA BARTON RD shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 11- A06.03 and being part of the premises recorded in book 17869 on page 323 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$2,290.87

Assessed to ROCK AMBER And JOHN ROCK
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 7.79 Acres located and known as 9 LEICESTER ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 08B-B12 and being part of the premises recorded in book 54836 on page 195 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$6,307.29

Assessed to ROCK JOHN And ROCK AMBER
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 2.11 Acres located and known as 0 LEICESTER ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 08B-B11 and being part of the premises recorded in book 69057 on page 350 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$113.23

Assessed To RODRIGUEZ MICHAEL
A condominium located and known as 25 THAYER POND DR 1 shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 06A-B10-0025-001 and being part of the premises recorded in book 55103 on page 46 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$16.90

Assessed To SIPLAS DEBORAH P
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 4.49 Acres located and known as 49 FORT HILL RD shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 44-C08 and being part of the premises recorded in book 12098 on page 170 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$863.00

Assessed to WEBSTER VENTURES MARINE LLC And CHRISTOPHER ROBERT
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 8480 Square Feet located and known as 6 WILDROSE ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 45A-A19 and being part of the premises recorded in book 55856 on page 189 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$1,874.26

Assessed To YARNIE DANIEL
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.35 Acres located and known as 2 LEICESTER ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 08A-B66 and being part of the premises recorded in book 68792 on page 226 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$2,148.15

Assessed To YARNIE DANIEL
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 22085 Square Feet located and known as 64 LEICESTER ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 06A-B09 and being part of the premises recorded in book 68476 on page 190 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$4,928.00

Assessed To ZAK ALYSSA
A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 15000 Square Feet located and known as 23 GEORGE ST shown on the Town of Oxford Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 45C-F02 and being part of the premises recorded in book 51433 on page 283 in the Worcester Registry of Deeds.
2024 Tax \$3,770.36

**For Legal
Advertising
Information
Call**

508-909-4127

email:

legals@

stonebridge

press.news

Get your tickets now for Bites, Books and Blooms event

WEBSTER — A last-minute reminder: Get your tickets now for the “Bites, Books and Blooms” fundraising event at the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library at 4 Lake St. in Webster on Thursday, Oct. 17, from 6 until 8 p.m. Whether you come for the tasty hors d'oeuvres and drinks from Bistro Eighty Ates, the live music by the Carlos Odria Trio, or the chance to mingle and greet friends, you are in for a treat. Placed around the library will be amazing displays made with live or dried flowers, each representing the artist's interpretation of a book or poem. This event is unique in Worcester County, so don't miss it!

Support your library and its programs, including the Dolly Parton Imagination Library with free books for kids aged five years and younger. Purchase your tickets now for \$35 each at the library or on our Web site (gladyskellylibrary.org).

Historical Society presents “Auburn and the American Industrial Revolution”

AUBURN — The Auburn Historical Society & Museum's October monthly meeting will be Getting a “Grip” on History, The Birth of the American Industrial Revolution and the Blackstone River Valley, of which Auburn is a part of. Devon Kurtz, Executive Director of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, will be telling stories about the Valley, a center of invention, innovation, and history.

The public is invited free of charge to the Auburn Sportsman's Club, 50 Elm St. in Auburn on Thursday, Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Auburn Historical Society and Museum at auburnmuseum@verizon.net.

LEGALS

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

Attest: Lori A. Smith, Dudley Town Clerk

October 4, 2024

October 11, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO24P3328GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
In the matter of:
Cassandra A. Rapp
Of: Oxford, MA
RESPONDENT**

Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by
**Jamie C. Rapp of Oxford, MA
Stacey A. Rapp of Oxford, MA**
in the above captioned matter alleging that **Cassandra A. Rapp** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Jamie C. Rapp of Oxford, MA
Stacey A. Rapp of Oxford, MA**
(or some suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. **You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **10/22/2024**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 27, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman
October 11, 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. WO23C0481CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:

Jessica Lynn Lizotte
A Petition to Change Name of Adult
has been filed by
Jessica Lynn Lizotte of Webster MA
requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Jessica Lynn Cepdea
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10/22/24 at 10 a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: September 24, 2024

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

October 11, 2024

(SEAL)

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Docket Number: WO24P3278GD
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester MA, 01608**

In the interests of **Viviana Hagearty of Dudley MA Minor**
NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on an Amended Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **09/18/2024** by

**Michael H Hagearty of Dudley, MA
Jennifer Hagearty of Dudley, MA**
will be held **10/30/2024 08:30AM**
Guardianship of Minor Hearing Located Worcester Probate & Family Court

Response to Petition: You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to: File the original with the Court; and Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

ORDER TO PETITIONER(S)
IT IS ORDERED THAT copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served in hand on the minor, (if 14 or more years of age and not the petitioner), the guardian, the parents of the minor, and any other person if ordered by the Court, at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the hearing date listed above. **Service must be made by sheriff, constable, or other person approved by the Court.**

If Service in hand cannot be accomplished on any interested party, **IT IS ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and the Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on the interested party by leaving at and mailing by regular first class mail to last and usual place of residence of the interested party at least **fourteen (14)** days prior to the date of hearing listed above.

If the identity or whereabouts of an interested party is not known, **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that copies of this Notice and Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor be served on all interested persons at least fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing date by mail-

ing first class mail and by publishing a copy of the Order and Notice once in **Southbridge Evening News**, Southbridge publication to be at least **Seven (7)** days prior to the hearing date.

If required, service on the United States Veteran Administration and the Department of Children and Families may be shed lar first class mail at least Seven (7) days prior to the hearing

(THIS IS A LEGAL NOTICE: An important court proceeding that may affect your rights has been scheduled. If you do not understand this notice or other court papers, please contact an attorney for legal advice

Date: September 23, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

October 11, 2024.

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 57 Hillside Avenue, Webster, Massachusetts

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

The land with all improvements thereon situated at 57 Hillside Avenue, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts. Said land and improvements being more specifically described as follows: Land with all buildings thereon of every description and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in Webster, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on the easterly side of Hillside Avenue, and being lot #77 on, “Plan of Lots at Hillside Avenue, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts”, dated October 14, 1943 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan book 161, Plan 12, and bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a stake in the easterly line of said Hillside Avenue at Lot #78 as shown by the above captioned plan; THENCE easterly, two hundred six and thirty-nine hundredths (206.39) feet by said lot #78 to a stake in the westerly line of parcel “B” as shown by said plan;

THENCE northerly sixty (60) feet at right angles to the last mentioned line by said parcel “B” to a stake at lot #76 on said plan;

THENCE westerly two hundred one and sixteen hundredths (201.16) feet by said lot #76 and parallel to the first mentioned course to a stake in the easterly line of said Hillside Avenue;

THENCE southerly with an interior angle of 60 degrees 00 feet a distance of sixty and twenty three hundredths (60.23) feet by said Hillside Avenue to a point of beginning.

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

For Mortgageor's Title see deed dated August 9, 2012, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49450, Page 381.

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments,

if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder

September 27, 2024

October 4, 2024

October 11, 2024

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

**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. WO23C0590CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:

Briana Julia Kujawski
A Petition to Change Name of Adult
has been filed by
Briana Julia Kujawski of Webster MA
requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Brodie Felix Kujawski
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10/22/24 at 10 a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: September 24, 2024

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

October 11, 2024

Boating safety always wins

REGION — US Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts held Vessel Safety Check stations at Wallum Lake, Douglas State Forest and Memorial Beach, Webster boat ramps in June; also, at various locations during 2024. All types of watercrafts are checked by qualified, volunteer examiners to see if they meet federal and state equipment regulations. Boaters are informed of concerns or any potential problems by consent, with no citations, or reports to any law enforcement

agencies. Passing the check is rewarded by getting a VSC decal for the year. Some inland waters require boats to be examined and it could also result in a discount on boat insurance. Examiners are few around the local inland waters and not readily available, so getting the exam is a win.

For the second, and final year, as an incentive to get more boats examined, we again decided to request some great rewards from local safe boating supporters for a

drawing on September 24. Local establishments were more than generous in their support with nine certificates valued at \$400 rewarded to boat owners getting a VSC, and our flotilla examiners performing over 100 VSCs in this year's program.

Andrius Mingela of Webster received a certificate from Hazard Marine in Oxford; Joseph Houde of Mendon and Anthony Rodriguez of Worcester both won certificates from Lakeview Marine in Webster; Melissa Philbrook of

Uxbridge and Michael Smart from Cumberland RI both received gift cards from Indian Ranch in Webster; Hassan Elmaola of Worcester won a certificate from Waterfront Mary's Restaurant on Webster Lake; Scott Foster of Whitinsville won a certificate from Bistro Eighty Ates Restaurant in Webster; Christopher O'Neil of Uxbridge won a gift card for Saloon No. 6 Bar & Eatery in Webster. Michael Pietrowicz of Dudley, a lucky boater also winning in last year's drawing, will enjoy a cer-

tificate from Point Breeze Restaurant on Webster Lake.

You can still participate in this program to make sure that your vessel is safe on the water by going to <http://www.vesselsafetycheck.org/> and click on GET YOUR SAFETY CHECK to locate an examiner and request a VSC. Make sure that you check out our Facebook.com/ 61565626541391 or our website <https://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=013-10-02>

Notice to paddlers
Canoes, Kayaks, and

Paddleboards are considered vessels by law in the US and require lifejackets and a sound producing device, a whistle, onboard always. Children 12 and under on any vessel must always wear a lifejacket. Between Sept. 15 and May 15, anyone on a canoe, kayak or paddleboard must wear a lifejacket at all times in Massachusetts; in Rhode Island lifejackets are now required worn all year on those vessels.

Bay Path Academy Director, Executive Assistant learn about simulation and moulage



SPRINGFIELD — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director, Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Athol, (formerly of Dudley) and Executive Assistant to the Academy Director, Donna Pope, LPN of Southbridge represented Bay Path at the recently concluded Springfield College Mini-Sun Event sponsored by Laerdal. The event was held at the Health Sciences Center of Springfield College, Springfield, Friday, Oct. 4. Dr. Doherty of the

Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions discussed advancing interprofessional collaboration through simulation-based learning. Other speakers included Dr. Gladys Fernandez of Baystate Medical Center on using quality and patient safety data to develop simulation programming. Dr. Chris Scott of Springfield Technical Community College on integration simulation, lessons learned from accreditation, and

debriefing with video by Katie Maxie-Brock, RN, a SIMCapture Ed specialist. Participants had the opportunity to work with moulage firsthand led by Jorge Yarzbeski of UMass Chan Medical School Icel's Program.

Pope, a graduate of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, Class of 2017, felt encouraged with the training. Pope was with the STDH Program at Center of Hope Foundation in Southbridge prior to joining Bay Path as the executive assistant to the Academy Director. She briefly worked as a Flu Clinic Nurse at Maxim Healthcare in Worcester.

While a student at Bay Path, Pope was inducted to the National Technical Honor Society. She represented Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy at SkillsUSA District competition earning a Gold Medal and at State competition earning a Bronze Medal both for Health Knowledge Bowl. Pope is Mental Health First Aid Certified and volunteered for multiple events at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy such as the Admissions Panel Interview, Blood Pressure Clinics, and mentorship. She also volunteers for the Baptist Haiti Mission.

Courtesy
Pictured: Regina F. Doherty, OT, OTD, OTR, FAOTA, FNAP with Donna Pope, LPN.

DA hosts discussion on grief, finding support after overdose death

SHREWSBURY — With a goal to support all families experiencing the loss of a loved one to an overdose, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. hosted an event last Wednesday focused on grief and how to find support.

The event featured a panel discussion with Deb Dowd-Foley, a longtime peer grief support group facilitator, Cheryl A. Juare, founder and president of Team Sharing, Inc. a parent-support non-profit, and Dennis Bates, CEO of Washburn House.

"Each life lost to overdose creates a void of grief felt by the family, friends, and loved ones left behind," said Early. "We want all those experiencing this grief to know they are not alone, and we want to help them find the support they need through the grieving process."

The panelists discussed their own personal stories of loss and grief, as

well as talked through the options for people to find support locally.

Before forming Team Sharing, Juare talked about grieving the loss of her first son, Corey at the age of 23, to overdose alone for three years before later meeting with a small group of six mothers who had also lost children to addiction.

"I finally realized I am normal. I finally realized I am going to be okay. It was lifechanging," Juare said.

She also said the group rallied for her when she lost her second son, Sean, to overdose 10 years later.

"This community is how I survived the loss," she added.

Dowd-Foley agreed that participating in support groups was what helped her work through her grief after losing her 27-year-old son Brian to an overdose.

"I can't emphasize enough the importance of finding the support of people who understand what

you are going through," Dowd-Foley said. "There was guilt and shame that added to the grief...All the whys. Why didn't I hear him come in? Why didn't I save him?"

She said that finding support, whether it be a grief counselor, Facebook groups, or peer support groups, was a huge help in grief. She also advocated for people to practice self-care, including journaling and meditation, and said doing what's right for you is important through the grief process.

"The courage of these parents who come here and say this is what's really going on, I commend them. That is how we're going to end the stigma," said Bates. "The beauty of what we have here is community. The people here who've been hurt the most are also the ones who can help the most."

Grief support services referenced at the meeting included: Support After a Death by Overdose (SADO.D.), which can be



Courtesy
District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr., Washburn House CEO Dennis Bates, Peer Group Facilitator Deb Dowd-Foley, and Sully Roberts, Community Engagement Specialist at Veterans Inc.

found at sadod.org; The Sun Will Rise Foundation, which can be found at thesunwillrise.org; and Team Sharing, Inc., which can be found at teamsharing-inc.org.

Early has been passionately committed to addressing the polysubstance use crisis, as well as trauma and mental health. In 2015, he formed the Central Mass. Opioid

Task Force, which he renamed last year the Prevention and Support Network. There are more than 700 members in the network.

Local youth performers to appear in "The Nutcracker" at Hanover Theatre!

WORCESTER — Dancers from a wide range of surrounding communities including, Sturbridge, Auburn, Dudley, and Windham County, will grace the stage at The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts in "The Nutcracker," generously sponsored by Berkshire Bank, on Nov. 29 - Dec. 1.

Featuring live music from The Hanover Theatre Orchestra conducted by Eric Culver; this production of "The Nutcracker" will enchant you with dazzling lighting and scenery by Broadway designers, brilliant dancing and vibrant costumes.

Tickets are on sale now for Nov. 29 at 2

p.m.; Nov. 29 at 7 p.m.; Nov. 30 at 2 and 7 p.m.; and Dec. 1 at 1 p.m.

"The Nutcracker" is a two-act ballet by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky first performed in Russia in December 1892 and based on the stories of E.T.A. Hoffmann and Alexandre Dumas. The story revolves around Clara, a young girl who receives a nutcracker doll as a Christmas gift and then enters a fantastical world where the Nutcracker and other characters come to life.

"This is my 16th year as artistic director of "The Nutcracker" at The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts. I genuinely love working with all the dancers to put on a magical performance in front of our central Massachusetts community. I remember auditioning as a little girl for the Boston Ballet and the Pittsburgh Ballet at the Worcester Auditorium. It was a priceless opportunity, and I still think of that time every year we begin rehearsals for "The Nutcracker" at The Hanover Theatre," shared Jennifer Agbay.

Tickets to "The Nutcracker" range from \$39 to \$59 depending on seat location, performance and availability. Discounts are available for Broadway subscribers. Please contact the box office at 877-571-7469 or visit TheHanoverTheatre.org for more information.

Discounts are also available for groups of 10 or more. To learn more about group rates call 508-471-1689 or email groupsales@thehanovertheatre.org.

About The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts Since opening in 2008, The Hanover Theatre has entertained more than two million guests with Broadway musicals, comedy headliners, music, dance and more. POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the top theatres in the world. The award-winning historic theatre continues to estab-

lish its place as a world-class center for the performing arts, a venue for local cultural and civic organizations and a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre's facilities at 551 Main Street house function spaces, offices and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory.

The Hanover Theatre Conservatory (THTC) provides performance opportunities, classes, and individual instruction in theatre, dance and technical theatre and design to more than 600 young people and adults from across central Massachusetts each year. Established in 2016, the conservatory cultivates individual attention, ignites creativity and inspires confidence through arts education led by outstanding teaching artists. The state-of-the-art facility includes classrooms, rehearsal and teaching studios, and tech and costume labs for advanced education in stage craft and design. Students receive access to master classes with national touring artists and gain professional experience from performance opportunities with The Hanover Theatre Repertory (THT Rep) and on The Hanover Theatre's world-class stage. THTC believes in access to arts education for all and provides financial aid for those in need. Many conservatory students have continued their pursuit of the arts at institutions such as Emerson College, Boston University, NYU, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Berklee College of Music, Hofstra University, Hartt School at the University of Hartford, Marymount Manhattan College, Syracuse University and more.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, which owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts (THT) and, on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Coalition (WCC), manages Worcester's BrickBox Theater at the



Courtesy

Bottom row (l to r): Jillian Benoit, Kora Reale, Raegan Spencer, McKenna Barrows, Josephine Porter; 2nd row: Julia Ashton, Jamie Ashton, Nina Browning, Victoria Buffone, Liam Barrows, Olivia Aucoin; 3rd row: Olivia Merrick, Ella Hurley, Alexandra Holman, Nadia Boitchenko, Jacqueline Murphy; 4th row: Kiya McCart, Alexis Savory, Clementine Doyle-Bouvier, Quinn McDowell, Olivia Schiavo; 5th row: Paiyton Carpenter, Sarah O'Donnell, Kira Boitchenko, Lila Appling, Paiyton Carpenter Top row: Katherine Totman, Brenna Kinnes, Madison Rizzo, Morgan Soulé, Finola Castiglione.

Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC). All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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One of the craft tables displays lots of gnomes inside the Tavern's barn.

One fest, two fest...

Last weekend was a fall festival weekend in our area, with more to come. On Saturday, Dudley Grange and Black Tavern held their annual Apple Festival/Craft Fair on Dudley Hill. The next day, Southbridge's Ruth Wells Arts Center held theirs, after a Halloween ball and art opening the night before. Here are a few scenes from each...



Arthur Martin with a couple of tin flasks he made (one to replace the other) as part of Old Sturbridge

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One of the art booths included this well-meaning oddity.



A couple women check out one artist's fabrics.

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