

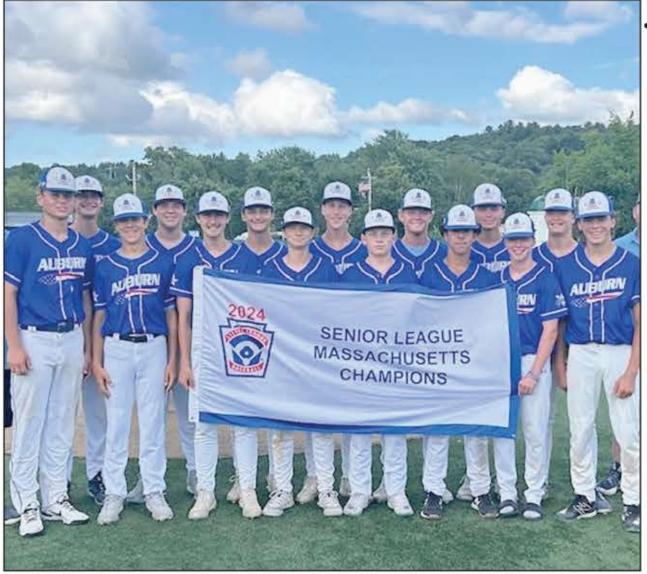
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Friday, July 26, 2024

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Auburn captures Little League state championship



Auburn captured the Senior Little League state championship earlier this month.

AUBURN - Powered by clutch hitting and dominant pitching late in the game, Auburn captured the Senior Little League state championship earlier this month.

Held on July 7 in Oxford, the championship battle between Auburn Little League and Swansea Little League was deadlocked at 2-2 entering the final inning.

In the top half of the decisive seventh frame, Auburn broke the tie with consecutive doubles from Bryce Everson and Owen Morrow that made it 3-2. Matthew Friedland then drove home Morrow with a single to add an insurance run, and Auburn pitcher Joe Ricardi retired the side in the bottom of the seventh inning to seal the 4-2 championship victory.

the third inning, with Morrow lacing a one-out single to left field before Friedland doubled to drive him in.

Swansea quickly battled back in the bottom of the third frame, scoring a pair of runs to take a 2-1 lead.

Pierangeli gets excellent first-year review

BY GUS STEEVES

WEBSTER — The School Committee gave Superintendent Monique Pierangeli an excellent review to cap her first year in the role.

The ratings were just about equally split between "proficient" and "exemplary," the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's two highest ratings. According to Chair Kelly Seddiki, "Proficient practice is understood to be fully satisfactory. This is the rigorous, expected level of performance for school superintendents. Exemplary ... indicates the practice significantly exceeds 'proficient,' and could serve as a model of practice regionally or statewide.

After the ratings, Seddiki briefly went through selected comments from the reviews, without attributing comments to specific members. She noted the newest one, Miranda Sgariglia, had not been on the board long enough to review Pierangeli, but otherwise "all of us put a lot of time and effort into them."

Those included general points like describing this as "a very productive first year," and praising the superintendent for building "a strong foundation for continued success." One noted "morale in the district appears to be improving" because of her work, while another called her a "principled and fair leader."

One member described as "particularly noteworthy" Pierangeli's introduction of new teaching resources, student focus groups and other things, and urged her to "continue to model and set high expectations" for staff and students. Another thought her leadership on infrastructure and processes was "exemplary," while one praised her work on engaging families and the community with "ongoing two-way communication."

"I've never been evaluated in public, nor have many of us," Seddiki remarked. "But it's something that's a reality for superintendents around the state" and one of the board's major duties.

'To see you grow from business manager to assistant superintendent now to superintendent fills my heart [as does] to see how you approach everything and everybody. What you see is what you get with you," Vice Chair Sheila Blythe said. "... Every interaction with you has been great.'

Pierangeli described the process as "really awkward, but I appreciate and take the feedback to heart." She largely credited the ongoing changes to a "collaborative effort" by the administrative team, which she said is "critical to our success."

"We have a long way to go," she added. "... We will do ore, and I believe our families deserve more."

Courtesy

Oxford selectmen promote police officers, honor lifesavers

BY GUS STEEVES CORRESPONDEN

OXFORD — The selectboard's most recent meeting July 16 focused mostly on emergency-related business, promoting two police officers and honoring three civilians for lifesaving activities.

According to Fire Chief Laurent McDonald, the latter incident occurred July 11 at Johnson Little League field. He said the umpire (whom he did not name) "was struck by a ball in the neck" that was traveling "as fast as a car." He refused assistance at the time and stayed in the game, but other staff eventually took him off the field. After the game ended, he had a heart attack

Among the audience were Dr Jen Lafemina and her surgical aide Emily Lutfy, who did six rounds of CPR while awaiting an ambulance. At the same time, league president Phil Davis ran to the nearby fire station and actually broke in to get the defibrillator stored there, bringing it back. (McDonald dubbed that "quick thinking, heroic vandalism.") It turned out they did not need it, because CPR had restored the umpire's "spontaneous circulation," McDonald said.

Lafemina called up several players from that day, noting the teams were "playing for him that night" because he routinely encouraged them. "Every day, we get to make choices; we have the choice to be kind and good," she said. "...This is our umpire's legacy."

For Lutfy, the incident was "just a right place, right time, and doing what we work our lives for."

The umpire is still in the hospital. Lafemina, Lutfy and Davis all received awards from the town and citations from the legislature.

"It almost took a tragic turn, but through your actions, there's an opportunity for inspiration," Rep. Joe McKenna said. "Maybe we have our next paramedic, EMS responder or surgeon [who saw that].

Rep Paul Frost agreed, saying their action "really shows community spirit." He said he'd be willing to help get state funds to provide defibrillators for the playing fields, "that way no vandalism needs to happen.'

Before that, the board voted unanimously to accept Police Chief Mike Daniels' recommendations to promote Sgt Mike Gifford to lieutenant and Officer Ryan Kasik to sergeant. Daniels said Gifford has been in the department 12 years, Kasik for six, and both have

The game began with Swansea winning the coin toss and electing to be the home team.

Auburn opened the scoring in the top of

Auburn answered in the visitors' half of the fourth inning to tie the game at 2.

The Auburn team was scheduled to travel to Bangor, ME, to represent Massachusetts in the East Regionals against Cherry Hill Little League, of New Jersey.

Afterward, the board got a summary of the administration's process of reviewing and selecting a new high school biology curriculum from Curriculum Director Debbie Rivera. She said the school has been using the Miller-Levine curriculum, but piloted specific lessons from two new ones over the last few months of last year - Open Sci Ed and BioScience Curriculum Study. After collecting teacher and student comments on them, they determined OSE "had the highest rating."

A key part of what they liked about it was that "Students are leading their own growth in learning," Turn To PIERANGELI page A13

Scanlon retires as Dudley's Interim Planner



Courtesy

The Dudley Board of Selectmen recognized Bill Scanlon for his years serving as Interim Town Planner.

Steve Sullivan praised

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Town of Dudley has bid farewell to Interim Planner Bill Scanlon after four years of filling the vacan-

Scanlon took over the position in 2020 in what was expected to be a temporary move, however his tenure spanned most of the decade so far as he has helped continue existing projects while also kickstarting new ones. The Board of Selectmen honored his service to the town on July 8 presenting Scanlon with a certificate of recognition thanking him for his dedication, leadership, and profes-Turn To OXFORD page A13 sionalism. Board Chair

Scanlon as a critical figure for Dudley helping procure grants and lead a variety of projects that have or will inevitably improve the quality of life in Dudley including the First Avenue projects, the Marino-Jericho Property inventory and assessment, ADA improvement for the town beach, the conception of a gateway plan, procuring Community Development Block Grants, working with MassWorks for infrastructure in and around the Stevens Mill Complex, bringing in an MVP Action Grant for a storm water plant, advising on bridge and dam projects, helping with the industrial park feasibility study and a long list of

other initiatives.

"I know you're a part time employee, but you never treated it as such. You were here way beyond the hours you were budgeted. You were here well beyond hours anybody could expect," Sullivan told Scanlon. "You've been an unbelievable asset to this town. You've left a big hole. It's going to be tough to replace you.'

Scanlon himself was soft spoken in his response, reminding the selectmen and the town that his accomplishments were a team effort. He feels confident Dudley will find the right candidate to pick up where he left off.

"I don't want to give the false impression that I

was responsible for all of those (projects). I've had very good relationships with staff here at the town hall. Many of those require teamwork or various departments - While I think we've begun to accomplish a lot there's still a lot that needs to be done. I feel somewhat sad about leaving things in the middle of still being worked on, but I think it's all in good hands and I'm sure whoever takes over will be able to keep going on those projects and keep the town moving forward," Scanlon said.

As of this writing the town had yet to officially post the Town Planner job and begin the hiring process.

Project Bread, McGovern, USDA & DESE visit Webster during Summer Food Rocks Tour

WEBSTER On July 18, Project Bread, the state's leading food security organization, and Congressman Jim McGovern, Representative, U.S. Massachusetts 2nd Congressional District, visited meal sites in Worcester and Webster during the 10th annual Summer Food Rocks Tour. They stopped at an early Summer Eats lunch location at Logan Field in Worcester followed by a second lunch stop at Gladys E. Kelly Library in Webster.

Led by McGovern and Erin McAleer, CEO of Project Bread, the tour emphasized the importance of Summer Eats to bring free meals to children and families while students are out of school, as well as Summer EBT, newly passed additional funds for groceries during the summer. Accompanying the tour were Lorraine Ward, Director of Food Access and Nutrition at the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA); Rob Leshin, Director of Food & Nutrition Programs at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and Lizbeth Silbermann, Northeast Regional Administrator for the USDA.

"When children go to school, Massachusetts guarantees access to free breakfast and lunch for all students. And when school ends, Summer Eats steps in," shared McAleer during a press conference in Webster. "Summer Eats provides nutritious meals, fun activities, and a supportive environment for kids. This program is run by familiar and caring staff from school cafeterias, rec programs, and local parks departments, so it's easy to feel a sense of community when you come to a site. Free meals for kids and teens makes a difference!"

In Massachusetts, one in five households and one in four households with children are currently facing food insecurity. Summer Eats, the Massachusetts Summer Food Service Program, provides free meals to children and teens in communities across the state to ensure they conEntrance steps of Gladys E. Kelly Public Library. Pictured, left to right: Kelsey Sanders, Webster Food Services Director; Lisa Kontoes, Webster School District Business Manager; Erin McAleer, CEO of Project Bread; Congressman Jim McGovern; Lizbeth Silbermann, USDA Northeast Regional Administrator; Rob Leshin, DESE Director of Food & Nutrition Programs.

tinue growing, learning, and thriving over school vacation. Meals

are administered by sponsors in coordination with DESE, and activities and educational programming are often offered for children eating onsite. In Webster, children spun Project Bread's prize wheel for Summer Eats swag and made kites, while enjoying a taco

Webster School District Business Manager, Lisa Kontoes, opened the press conference by uplifting their local successes through the Summer Eats Program.

salad lunch.

have reliable access to food during the summer, they return in September ready to learn," Kontoes said.

Providing Summer Eats meals since 2016, Webster has seen exceptional growth, tripling the number of meals provided from 2022 to 2023.

"It's our goal to take the stress off of our families by providing nutritious meals so they don't have those concerns, and we're off to a great start this year," she added.

McGovern highlighted the strength of the newly launched Summer EBT program that he championed in Congress.

"Summer is often the hungriest time of year for our kids," he said. "These incredible sites across the Commonwealth and the country give kids access to nutritious food. And this summer, families are receiving an extra \$120 per eligible child thanks to the permanent Summer EBT program. Every family deserves the same access to fruits and vegetables and nutritious food. I am hopeful that these summer meals, plus the new Summer EBT benefits will mean better food security and less hunger for families in MA and across the country."

Silbermann continued to note the importance of summer nutrition programs offered by the USDA and the anticipated impact for families.

"Massachusetts is really fortunate to have such strong partners who work tirelessly to make sure there are summer meals provided across Commonwealth. the [Summer EBT] benefits will reduce the number of kids who face severe food insecurity by onethird. We owe it to our children to set them up with the tools they need to grow, learn, and thrive," Silbermann said.

USDA estimates that 650,000 kids will receive grocery benefits this summer through the permanently implemented this past school year Massachusetts, Leshin noted that "universally free meals continue 12 months in a year."

For more than 20 years, Project Bread has worked in partnership with DESE to provide youth with access to Summer Eats across the state. All children or teens 18 and younger can eat at hundreds of sites statewide for free. No registration or ID is required. This year, Project Bread has granted a total of \$226,000 to 51 Summer Eats sponsors for their program outreach and capacity-building. Summer Eats can be accessed in conjunction with Summer EBT. additional funding for groceries while kids are out of school. In summer 2023, more than three million meals were served across

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Aaminah Age 9 Registration # 8076

Hi! My name is Aaminah

Aaminah loves to sing, dance, go to her gymnastic classes, color, play outside and watch movies. She will soon be joining a local Girl Scout troop and is so excited about it. In school she receives some assistance in writing and reading as well as support services for her social and emotional needs. She has been described as sweet with a vivid imagination but can so be very impulsive and will freely says what is on her mind. She currently has an incentive plan for daily and evening activities which has been set by her program. Aaminah has 4 siblings with

whom she is very close and will need a family that can commit to keeping her in contact with them on a regular bases by phone, virtually and in-person. The ideal family for her should be trauma informed, patient, and supportive. Aaminah will also need a 2 parent family with no other children in the home or much older children. Aaminah's new family must be trauma informed, patient, supportive, able to set and adhere to these limits as well as being loving and understanding. It is suggested that a family for Aminah would be one that would be a visitor to her on a regular basis, preferably weekly, until such time as Aaminah feels that she can trust and becomes bonded to this family.

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.



Summer EBT, or SUN Bucks, program.

Leshin concluded the press conference remarking on the community partnerships that make free summer meals, and free school meals, possible. With approximately 1,200 Summer Eats sites statewide, and Universal School Meals more than 1,400 sites statewide through the Summer Eats program.

For more information about Summer Eats, including meal site locations, visit www.projectbread.org/summer-eats, text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304, or call 1-800-645-8333 for help in any language.

Seton Hall University names Thomas Cowden to Dean's List

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Seton Hall University is pleased to announce Thomas Cowden of Auburn has qualified for the Spring 2024 Dean's List.

After the close of every semester, undergraduate students completing all courses with a GPA of 3.4, with no grades lower than "C," qualify for the Dean's List.

As one of the nation's leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall has been showing the world what great minds can do since 1856. Home to over 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 rigorous majors, Seton Hall's academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and Bloomberg Businessweek.

About Seton Hall University

One of the country's leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall has been showing the world what great minds can do since 1856. Home to nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 rigorous majors, Seton Hall's academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by The Princeton Review, US News & World Report and Bloomberg Businessweek. Seton Hall, which embraces students of all religions, prepares its graduates to be exemplary servant leaders and caring global citizens. Its attractive main campus is located in suburban South Orange, N.J., and is only 14 miles from New York City, offering a wealth of employment, internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities. A new independent economic analysis of the University found that Seton Hall provides a significant impact on New Jersey's economy, totaling over \$1.6 billion annually and creating and sustaining nearly 10,000 jobs. The University's nationally recognized School of



Law is prominently located in downtown Newark. The University's Interprofessional Health Sciences (IHS) campus in Clifton and Nutley, New Jersey, houses Seton Hall's College of Nursing, its School of Health and Medical Sciences as well as the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine.

For more information, visit www. shu.edu.

Masons working together



Left to right: David Mackencie just removed the medal spicket from the pig as Brother Fred Aubin, and Brother Clay Tull all smiles after successfully cooking and removing this big roasted pig from the grill.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE QUINEBUAG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE

– On Saturday, July 20, two brethren from the 24th Masonic District, Brother Clay Tull of the Quinebaug Masonic idea to have a fund-rais-

Lodge of Southbridge and Brother Fred Aubin of the Oxford Masonic Lodge in Oxford, had an

ing event. The two brethren were at their children's Demolay meeting and talking about were

Outage impacts local communities but it wound up plunging multi- ning the same software," said

BY KEVIN FLANDERS STAFF WRITER

REGION — Several local businesses and agencies were affected by last week's massive IT outage.

The July 19 outage caused havoc around the globe, with thousands of flights canceled internationally. Some travelers were stranded at airports for days.

Across the Bay State, several hospitals postponed non-urgent medical procedures, and local banks, restaurants, and other businesses were also affected.

Meanwhile, area Registry of Motor Vehicles branches dealt with issues stemming from the outage as well, including the cancellations of appointments for learner's permits and other services.

The incident was caused firm after cybersecurity CrowdStrike launched a faulty software update for Microsoft Windows systems. The update was meant to bolster security, ple industries into chaos. In statement,

а CrowdStrike CEO George Kurtz apologized for the outage and committed to making improvements to ensure a similar incident doesn't occur.

"This is not a security incident or cyberattack. The issue has been identified, isolated, and a fix has been deployed," said Kurtz, whose firm provides cybersecurity services to Microsoft and several other major clients.

With the IT glitch occurring just one month after an unrelated 911 outage knocked out emergency communications services statewide on June 18, many residents and local leaders are concerned about the security and reliability of technology systems.

National experts warn that similar outages could happen again, despite commitments from security companies to address vulnerabilities.

"All of these systems are run-

nationally recognized cybersecurity expert James Bore. "We've made all of these tools so widespread that when things inevitably go wrong-and they will, as we've seen-they go wrong at a huge scale."

An investigation into the June 18 incident conducted by the State 911 Department determined that the outage was the result of a firewall issue. The firewall is a safety feature that provides protection against cyberattacks and hacking. As a result of the malfunction, the firewall prevented calls from reaching 911 dispatch centers.

Massachusetts 911 services were not impacted by the July 19 outage, but New Hampshire, Alaska, Arizona, Virginia, and several other states saw issues with 911 call centers.

Locally, most central Massachusetts businesses and agencies were back online within 24 hours of the first outage reports.

how to raise money for their respective lodges. Brother Tull mentioned how he would love to have a Pig Roast and Brother Aubin said I can help you with that. These two brethren decided to open the invitation up to the 24th Masonic District and make this a family and friend's event. The event was held at the Oxford Masonic Lodge. The parking lot was packed with Master Masons from the 24th Masonic Districts along with their family and friends. There were cornhole and badminton games set up for the kids and adults to have fun. The pig that they roasted

was more 150than pounds, and the a r o m a was driving people crazy because it smelled good. SO Also, BBQ Chicken w a s served,

cob, pasta salad, potato salad, corn bread, cole slaw and much more. Money raised at this great event will go towards the lodges' needs and scholarship funds. It was great to see and hear people laughing, the children running around having fun and most of all the comradery and fellowship that Freemasonry is all about. If you would like more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonary. org to find a lodge nearest you.



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August movies at The Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library

DUDLEY — The month of August signals summer vacations are wrapping up, kids are getting ready to get back to school and it's hot, hot, hot. It also means it is THE BEST time to come see a FREE movie at The Pearle L Crawford Memorial Library. This month's line up are proven winners!

Movies are shown every Tuesday at 1 p.m. on the big screen in the Fels Community Room. You are welcome to bring a snack.

Tuesday, Aug. 6: "The Persian Version" Comedy/Drama/LGBTQ+/Romance

Leila is an Iranian American woman who strives to find balance and embrace her opposing cultures. When her large family reunites in New York City for her father's heart transplant, she keeps everyone at arm's length -- until a secret is revealed.

Tuesday, Aug. 13: "Challengers" Drama From visionary filmmaker Luca Guadagnino, Challengers stars Zendaya as Tashi Duncan, a former tennis prodigy turned coach and a force of nature who makes no apologies for her game on does with that superpower -- as she embarks on a magical adventure to reconnect forgotten IFs with their kids.

"The Ministry of Tuesday, Aug. 27: Ungentlemanly Warfare" Action/Comedy

Based upon recently declassified files of the British War Department and inspired by true events, "The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare" is an action-comedy that tells the story of the first-ever special forces organization formed during WWII by UK Prime Minister Winston Churchill and a small group of military officials including author Ian Fleming. The top-secret combat unit, composed of a motley crew of rogues and mavericks, goes on a daring mission against the Nazis using entirely unconventional and utterly 'ungentlemanly" fighting techniques. Ultimately

their audacious approach changed the course of the war and laid the foundation for the British SAS and modern Black Ops warfare.

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tomorrow.



and off the court. Married to a champion on a losing streak (Mike Faist · West Side Story), Tashi's strategy for her husband's redemption takes a surprising turn when he must face off against the washed-up Patrick (Josh O'Connor -The Crown) -- his former best friend and Tashi's former boyfriend. As their pasts and presents collide, and tensions run high, Tashi must ask herself, what will it cost to win.

Tuesday, 20: "IF" Aug. 20: Kids & Family/ Comedy/Drama/ Fantasy

From writer and director John Krasinski, IF is about a girl who discovers that she can see everyone's imaginary friends -- and what she



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SUMMER EATS

Starting July 8th Monday through Thursday at 12:00 PM.

A totally free-of-charge program that provides free meals to all kids and teens. ages 18 and under. Meals for adults will be available for \$5.00. Part of Project Bread, the Massachusetts' Department of Education, and local school and community meal providers.

Adult Programming

YOGA - Tuesday August 13th, 20th and 27th at 6:00 PM

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.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP-August 19th at 6:30 PM

This month's book discussion will be in the Library's Community Room. The Group will be discussing Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcox@cwmars.org for inquiries.

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ADULT BOARDGAME NIGHT---August 12th at 6:00 PM

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

COMPUTER BASICS CLASS--- August 29th at 3:30-4:30 PM

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

MATT YORK PRESENTS: WILLIE NELSON July 29th at 6:30 PM

Longtime New England singer/songwriter Matt York will perform songs and tell stories about the great Willie Nelson. York will focus on Willie's long and illustrious music career that has spanned over seven decades. In both 2022 and 2023, York

was nominated for the Boston Music Award for Best Country Artist and last year, his album. Gently Used, was named one of top albums Worcester the bv Magazine. This pro-Local Mass

Council.

Young Programming Scavenger Hunt--

18 22

-- 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

WEBSTER SENIOR LENTER 5 Church St.

(508) 949-3845 Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov

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

supported by the Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Mass Cultural 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, Children's and and bread with fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, Adult 7/30, Roast pork with gravy, seasoned potatoes, green beans. Wednesday, 7/31, Meatballs with onion gravy, bowtie pasta, Scandinavian vegetables. Thursday, 8/1, Chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, black beans and corn, sour cream. Friday, 8/2, Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, mixed vegetables.

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

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

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

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

Chair Dancing Exercise classes with Forty Arroyo are the perfect workout for any fitness ability! The cost is \$3.00 per class. Classes are on Mondays only at 9:30 am. Wednesday classes have been cancelled until further notice.

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

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

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

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

No registration Required

BUILD TUESDAYS - from 3:30-4:30 PM Join us for the last two Tuesday

for a self-guided STEM-based building challenge, appropriate for all ages. Younger kids should bring a parent. Instruction sheets will be provided. Contact Andrew at 508-949-3880, or atai@ cwmars.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--- July 23rd, and 30th at 10:00 AM

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

OUTDOOR MESSY PLAY---- Every Thursday at 3:30 PM

Outdoor Messy Play is back! We supply the messy materials for your children to play with, along with a hose for washing off outside afterwards! This program is extremely messy, please dress in something you don't mind getting dirty or stained.

WEDNESDAY STORYTIME FUN ----July 31st at 10:00 AM

Join Andrew the Children's Librarian for a few of his favorite stories, felt story fun, and some free play. For ages 0-3

SENSORY BIN EXPLORATION ----August 12th, 19th, and 26th at 10:00 AM

Join us for open sensory bin exploration. Bins will be filled up with sand, rice, dirt, dry pasta, and more! This program is geared towards ages 2 to 5, but siblings are welcome.

FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS---- August 7th and 21st at 11 AM

Grab your bestie and come make beaded bracelets in the children's program room. This is a self-guided program, all materials are provided. Ages 8 and up.

LET'S DANCE A STORY--- August 7th and 21st at 10:00 AM

We read a story and create creative movement and choreography that goes along with the story in the book. The ideal age for this class is 3-6 (grownups must stay but can observe).

WIGGLES AND GIGGLES--- August 8th and 22st at 10:30 AM

Come sing, dance, and make music with Lainey Hanlon! Geared for children ages 2-5 and their caregivers, but all ages welcome!

(abbr.) 5. Lustful woodland gods (Greek mythology) 11. Colombian Town 12. Sour 16. A way to stuff 17. Former AL MVP Vaughn 18. Carried or transported 19. Cannot even fathom 24. Hammer is one 25. A way to separate 26. Not moving 27. Women's service organization (abbr.) 28. German river 29. Quantitative fact 30. A person's head

CLUES ACROSS

1. Average damage per system

- 31. Process that produces ammonia
- 33. French modernist painter
- 34. Too much noise

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Charge with a crime 2. Mended with varn 3. North Atlantic flatfish 4. Boil at low temperature 5. Lapps of northern Scandinavia 6. Poisonous plant 7. Atomic #22 8.36 inches 9. Monetary unit of Russia 10. Type of gin 13. An alternative 14. Alone 15. A way to ooze 20. Publicity 21. American firm 22. Jewish calendar month 23. Popular sandwich 27. Comedian Cook
- 29. The NFL's big game (abbr.) 30. Political action committee
- 31. Make a low, steady sound
- 32. Legendary sportscaster Michaels

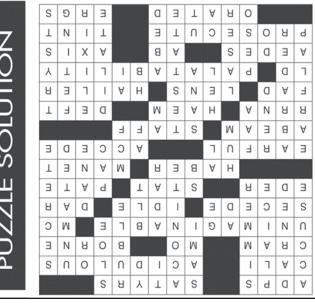
Š Ш PUZZI

56. Agree to a demand
39. One a line at right angles to a
ship's length
40. Employees
43. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
44. Component of hemoglobin
45. Quick and skillful in movement
49. Passing trend
50. Part of the eye
51. One who acclaims
53. Deadly amount (abbr.)
54. Taste property
56. Genus of mosquitoes
58. Blood type
59. A group of countries in special
alliance
60. Institute legal proceedings
against
63. Shade of a color

38. Agree to a demand

- 64. Spoke
- 65. Work units
- 33. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.) 34. Designed to keep ears warm 35. One who scrapes 36. Tear into two or more pieces 37. Supervises flying 38. Flying arm of the U.S. military (abbr.) 40. District in Peru 41. One died leaving a will 42. Morning 44. The world of the dead 45. Widen 46. Drink containing medicine 47. Celebrating 48. Secret encounters 50. A type of tag 51. Halfback 52. Modern tech 54. Monetary unit 55. Resigned to one's sleeping chamber 57. Execute or perform 61. "The Golden State"

62. "The Beehive State" (abbr.)



pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

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

Starting Wednesday, August 7th, 2024 there will be a walking group on Wednesdays and Fridays. You will meet at the Memorial beach walking trail at 9:00am. No registration required, but a sign up sheet is available at the Senior Center front desk.

Webster Senior Center Trips; Happy 2 Gather is a 60's Flashback Show at Lake Pearl in Wrentham MA on Wednesday, September 18th. Cost is \$131.00 per person, and includes show ticket, transportation, luncheon, meal taxes, and gratuity. The Covered Bridge Tour and Octoberfest is a fall excursion on Monday, September 23rd. The first stop is Red Apple Farm in Phillipston, MA where everyone gets a bag of apples to take home, followed by the Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy, NH where you will enjoy a family style lunch which will be accompanied by Al Brogdon's Oompah band. After lunch you will set out on a narrated tour of some of New Hampshire's covered bridges. Price is \$125.00 per person with a \$25 deposit at sign-up, and the final payment is due August 23rd. Trip price does not include bus driver gratuity. For more information call (508) 949-3845.

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.

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(508) 909-4127 <u>SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:</u> KERRI PETERSON (508) 909-4103 kerri@stonebridgepress.news <u>TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:</u> E-MAIL obits@stonebridgepress.news CALL: 508-909-4149 OR send to Webster Times P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550 <u>TO SUBMIT A LETTER</u> <u>TO THE EDITOR:</u> E-MAIL: news@stonebridgepress.news OR send to Webster Times P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550	PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER FRANK G. CHILINSKI 860-928-1818 EXT. 103 FRANK@SALMONPRESS.NEWS BUSINESS MANAGER RYAN CORNEAU 860-928-1818 EXT. 102 ryan@salmonpress.news OPERATIONS DIRECTOR JIM DINICOLA 508-764-6102 jim@stonebridgepress.news EDITOR BRENDAN BERUBE 508-909-4106 news@stonebridgepress.news PRODUCTION MANAGER JULIE CLARKE 860-928-1818, EXT. 305 julie@villagernewspapers.com

FLYING HIGH DOGS---- July 29th at 10:00 AM

Watch these amazing canines fly through the air doing frisbee tricks in an interactive show! Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

LASER TAG FOR TEENS---- July 29th at 6:00 PM

Up to 20 participants ages 12-18 may take part in an outdoor laser tag match. Sneakers and shoes are required. No flip flops. As a lot of running is required, participants with conditions such as asthma must have proper medication at all times. This program is funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

Almanac		
Open to Close		
DUDLEY		
DUDLEY TOWN HALL (508) 949-8000 Monday: 8:00 AM-6:30 PM (second floor offices), Tuesday-Thursday: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Friday: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM. DUDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-4411) Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040) Monday-Sunday		
OXFORD		
OxFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027 Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours{		
Monday, Tues., Thurs9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday		
OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156) For emergencies, call 911 OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012) Monday-Friday		
WEBSTER		
WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850 Office Hours: Monday8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday8 a.m. to 4 p.m.		

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

Saint Joseph students bid farewell to retiring teacher

WEBSTER

Thursday, June 13, was Saint Joseph School students' final day of the 2023-2024 school year. In addition, after 42 years, it was the final day of school for their beloved Third Grade Instructor, Mrs. Donna Recko. It was certainly an emotional day that began with breakfast at her desk and bouquets from her family.

In addition, the teachers gave her a unique "retirement" crown and sash. Then, her family, students, and fellow teachers escorted her to the church for the final Mass of the school year. Following the end-of-year Mass, students receive certificates recognizing their achievements. However, in addition to the students receiving awards, Headmaster Rev. Grzegorz Chodkowski and Principal Mrs. Beth Boudreau presented Recko with a token of their appreciation for her 42 years of dedicated service and for shaping minds and inspiring Christian Values. The award, a symbol of their deep gratitude, also noted that she will always be in their hearts and part of their school family and history.

As Recko left the church, the students, deeply touched by her influence, lined the walkway to bid her a final farewell. Their affection for her was not just visible but palpable as they hugged her and present-ed her with 42 strings of beads, each symbolizing a year of her devoted service. The gesture brought tears to Mrs. Recko and the faculty and staff who looked on-the morning concluded with a heartfelt luncheon at Bistro Eighty Ates, where the faculty presented Mrs. Recko with a unique bracelet, a tangible reminder that she will always hold a cherished place in their hearts and prayers.

Recko grew up in Webster and followed in the footsteps of her parents, Thomas and Reine (Starosta) Gorski, by attending Saint Joseph School. She graduated in 1971. She then graduated from Bartlett High School in 1975 and the College of

the Holy Cross in 1979. Her siblings, Denise, Tom Jr., Tina Gorski-Strong, and her children, Jessica Ryan, Jenna Maguire, and Jillian Recko, also attended Saint Joseph School.

During her 42 years as a teacher at Saint Joseph School, Recko's commitment was unwavering. She taught Third Grade for 40 of those years and served the school in various other roles. She was a Floor Coordinator, Homework Room Supervisor, a Saint Joseph School School Consultative Board and NEASC Accreditation Committee member, and a Home and School Association parent and faculty representative. Mrs. Recko was instrumental in establishing a successful Saint Joseph School Athletic Program, serving as the Assistant Athletic Director, a cheerleading coach, and co-chair of the Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser for many In 2018, Saint years. Joseph School awarded Recko the "Partners in Education Award,' which is presented to peo-

ple who've made a significant impact on the school community.

Her involvement also extended beyond the school. She was an active member of the parish Women's Club, serving on the board and as a liaison to the Felician Sisters. She could always be found at the pastry booth, selling delicious homemade items yearly at the festival. Her life has been a testament to her dedication to the Saint Joseph Community. Saint Joseph School

wishes Recko a joyful retirement and hopes this new chapter is filled with beautiful moments with her husband, James, her children, and grandchildren Tyler Bushey, Ethan Ryan, Noah Ryan, and Liam Maguire.

As the school bids her a happy retirement, they do so with the hope that she will continue to be a part of their community somehow. They eagerly look forward to seeing her at future school events, knowing her presence will always be a source of joy and inspiration.



Courtesv

Saint Joseph School Third Grade Instructor Mrs. Donna Recko retires after 42 years of dedicated service.

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$675,000, 127 Auburn St, Dupont Auburn St T, and Dupont, John B, to Pakachoag Acres Re LLC.

\$635,000, 609 Oxford St S, Stafford, Kenneth A, and Stafford, Sandra, to Hendricks-Defiore, E B, and Ensley, Marcia D.

\$580,000, 5 Kellogg St, Hibbard Jr, George B, and Hibbard, Irene V, to Gomes, Dante D, and Nunes, Ananda.

\$460,000, 195 Rochdale St, Helie, Kathleen A, and Benkoski, Patricia A, to Yang, Fang.

\$230,000, 2 John William Dr #C, Nichols, Nancy, and Citizens Bank Na, to Hannoush, Samir.

DUDLEY

\$625,000, 8 Tobin Dr, Babbitt, Brian M, and Babbitt, Ginnean M, to Louissaint, Luckson, and Louissaint, Nathalie A.

Deborah.

OXFORD

Laurie J, to Bruno, Derek J, and Bruno, Melissa J.

Solutions LLC.

Andreozzi, Kristen, to Gasco, Wayne.

DA provides funding for safe end of year celebration at Auburn High School

AUBURN — Worcester **County District Attorney** Joseph D. Early Jr. provided funding to support programming safety around the end of the

school year at Auburn High School thanks to his annual grant program, which helps keep students from driving impaired.

"These events should be times of celebration for our students and their families, but these celebrations can turn into tragedies. We know that



life can and often does change in the blink of an eye, especially when alcohol or drugs are involved," Early said. "Our goal is to prevent tragedies before they

\$365,000, 54 Leicester St, Andreozzi, Kristen, and Andreozzi, Bryan C, to Cruz, Yessenia I, and Cruz, Rolando.

WEBSTER

to Cathy, Craig D, and Oberholtzer, Christian.

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Gallimore. Shara L.

Cyr, Christopher P, to 18 Eastern Ave Nt, and Conner Land TLLC Tr.

Danielle, and Janson, Shaun.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

> **BRENDAN BERUBE** EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Understanding and protecting democracy

At the core of every democracy lies the essence of freedom, equality, and justice. A democracy is more than just a system of government; it is a way of life, a shared commitment to uphold the values that define our collective existence. Living in a democracy means participating in a lively, evolving dialogue where every voice matters, and every vote counts. It is a system that, at its best, reflects the will of the people and prioritizes the common good.

At its core, democracy is built on several foundational principles:

Rule of law: This principle ensures that everyone, including those in power, is subject to the law. It guarantees that justice is administered fairly and that laws are applied equally to all citizens.

Free and fair elections: Regular elections that are free from corruption and manipulation are essential. They provide a mechanism for the people to choose their leaders and hold them accountable.

Individual rights and freedoms: Democracy protects the rights of individuals, including freedom of speech, assembly, religion, and the press. These rights allow citizens to express their opinions, criticize the government, and advocate for change.

Pluralism and inclusivity: A democratic society embraces diversity and encourages the inclusion of different perspectives and groups. This diversity enriches the democratic process and ensures that all voices are heard. In a democracy, every voice matters, not just the voice of those with whom you agree. Every voice.

Active civic participation: Democracy thrives when citizens are engaged and involved in the political process. This participation includes voting, attending town hall meetings, engaging in public discourse, and volunteering for community initiatives. While democracy offers many benefits, it is not immune to threats. Protecting our democracy requires vigilance, commitment, and action from every citizen. Here are some key ways we can safeguard our democratic system: Educate and inform: An informed electorate is crucial for a healthy democracy. Citizens should seek to educate themselves about the issues, candidates, and policies that affect their lives. Media literacy is also important to discern reliable sources of information from misinformation and propaganda. Searching for the facts, rather than skimming headlines and memes, and stepping outside your vacuum is key. Promote civic engagement: Encouraging active participation in the democratic process strengthens our society. This can be achieved through voter registration drives, civic education programs, and opportunities for community involvement. Defend the rule of law: Ensuring that the rule of law is upheld is vital. This includes supporting an independent judiciary, respecting court decisions, and advocating for legal reforms when necessary. Protect voting rights: Efforts to suppress voting, whether through restrictive laws or discriminatory practices, must be resisted. Advocacy for policies that make voting accessible and secure for all citizens is essential. Nurture dialogue and tolerance: In a democracy, disagreement is natural and healthy. Cultivating a culture of respectful dialogue and tolerance for differing opinions helps to bridge divides and find common ground. Support independent media: A free and independent press is a cornerstone of democracy. Supporting journalistic integrity and resisting attempts to undermine or control the media is crucial for maintaining transparency and accountability. Hold leaders accountable: Democracy requires that elected officials are held accountable for their actions. This can be done through regular elections, but also through civic actions such as petitions, protests, and lobbying for legislative changes.

VIEWPOINT betweek's newspaper is Friday at noon. SEND ALL ITEMS to Editor Week's newspaper is Friday at noon. SEND ALL ITEMS to Editor Brendan Berube at THE WEBSTER TIMES — news@stonebridgepress

THE DEADLINE to submit letters to the editor and commentaries for next Brendan Berube at The Webster Times - news@stonebridgepress.news

Hot Tips to Keep Cool

Hot on the heels of recent record breaking temperatures, this week's column will review common sense ways to keep your cool, even in a heat wave! Read on for some DIY strategies to keep comfortable this season:

Heat Wave Hints: Hating

a heat wave? To cool off a home, install white window shades, drapes, or blinds to reflect heat away from the house. And close curtains on south and west facing windows during the day Window fans are a good option if they're located on the downwind side of the house facing out. Place the fan so that it blows air out of the house.

Open & Close: Be sure to keep windows and shades shut tight during the day; then open them later in the day to bring in a cool breeze.

Leaving the room? Shut off the fan!: Contrary to popular belief fans, including ceiling fans, don't actually lower the temperature of a room. While fans make us feel cool, it's due to the "wind chill effect", which accelerates the evaporation of sweat on the skin. Therefore, leaving a fan on to cool off an empty room does nothing more than waste energy!

Cool and Dry: Did you know a dehumidifier can cool your space? While a dehumidifier doesn't lower the temperature, it pulls moisture from the air, thus creating a drier space that feels cooler and more comfortable.

Choose Cotton: Did you ever wonder why on a hot day you swelter in polyester, but feel cooler in cotton? Cotton is a breathable fabric, which makes us feel cool because its loose fibers allow heat to escape. Synthetic fibers make us sweat by trapping heat and moisture against our skin.

In addition, it's been proven cotton shirts are 50% more effective at blocking the sun's rays after they'd been washed a few times. And blue clothing was discovered to be five times more effective than white clothing at blocking UV rays because blue absorbs more light.

PlantaTree:Treesarenotonlyattractive, they provide valuable shading and cooling. For quickest results, opt for quick growing varieties. Need more convincing? Consider this fact: Daytime air temperatures can be three to nine degrees cooler in tree-shaded neighborhoods. Shady Deal: Shading is a valuable weapon in the battle against the heat of the summer sun. Shading that blocks summertime sun on the east, south and west sides of a house, but not cool breezes, is an effective way to keep your house cooler. Planting shade trees, especially on the west and south sides of your house can improve comfort and increase coolness.



a solid surface awning and the side of your helps house vent accumulated heat.

Did You Know? A home's inside temperature can rise as much as 20F or more if the east and west windows and walls are not shaded.

Fine Vines: Vines also keep your house naturally cool. Grown on trellises, vines such as ivy or grapevines can shade windows or the whole side of a house. The dark and coarse leaves also absorb solar radiation.

The Grass is Greener: Grass is a great natural coolant, and the more lawn you have, the greater the cooling benefit. On a hot summer day, grass can be up to 14 degrees cooler than exposed soil, and as much as 30 degrees cooler than concrete or asphalt! According to experts, the front lawns of a block of eight average houses have the cooling effect of about 70 tons of air conditioning! That's enough to cool 16 average homes.

If you use an air conditioner, make sure you're using it to its full advantage. Here are some top tips for optimal operation of your cooling unit:

* Did you know an air conditioning unit operating in the shade uses less electricity than one in the sun? Plant trees or shrubs to shade air conditioning units, but be sure not to block the airflow. To boost efficiency, use a fan with your window air conditioner to circulate the cool air throughout the home. Never place lamps or TVs near your air conditioning thermostat. The heat from these appliances will cause the air conditioner to run longer. Be sure to add insulation around air conditioning ducts when they located in unconditioned spacare es such as attics, crawl spaces, and garages. Also, check to see that your fireplace damper is tightly closed. * If your air conditioner is old, consider replacing it. Since the new energy efficient models can save you up to 50% on your cooling bills, it can pay for itself!

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 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 invent-

ing them (although I can take credit for

some), I'm counting on you readers out

Do you have a helpful hint or handy

tip that has worked for you? Do you have

a question regarding household or gar-

den matters? If so, why not share them

with readers of Stonebridge Press news-

papers? Send questions and/or hints to:

Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge

Evening News, PO Box 90: Southbridge.

MA 01550. Or email KDRR@aol.

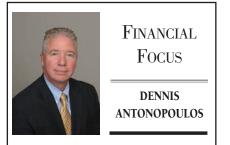
com. Hints are entered into a draw-

ing for dinner for two at the historic

Publick House Inn.

there to share your best helpful hints!

Are you afraid of running of outliving your money?



Do you worry about running out of money during your retirement years? If so, how can you help prevent this from happening?

In the first place, if you have this type of fear, you're far from alone. Consider this:

58 percent of retirement savers from all age groups, including current retirees, say that outliving their assets is their greatest retirement fear, according to a study by Cerulli Associates, a financial services research organization.

This type of fear can certainly affect your quality of life when you retire. Still, there's no need to panic – because vou can take steps to help prevent the running-out-of-money scenario.

Here are a few to consider:

Know how much you'll need during retirement. You need to get a clear picture, or at least as good an estimate as possible, of how much money you'll need to support your retirement lifestyle. Once you do retire, some costs, such as transportation or other work-related expenses, might go down, while others - medical expenses, in particular – will likely go up. The fear of running out of money, like many fears, is caused largely by what you don't know, so having a good sense of how much you'll need in retirement can help reduce your anxieties

Build financial resources before retirement. You're probably at your peak earning capacity in the years close to your retirement, so consider contributing as much as you can afford to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. Maximize your Social Security payments. You can start collecting Social Security as early as 62, but your monthly benefits will be larger if you can afford to wait until your full retirement age, between 66 and 67. (Payments will "max out" at age 70.) Re-enter the workforce. Going back to work in some capacity is one way to possibly help build retirement resources and delay taking Social Security. If you have a particular area of expertise, and you enjoyed the work you did, you might be able to go back to it on a parttime basis or do some consulting. You could boost your cash flow, and potentially extend your contributions to an IRA and to an employer's retirement plan. Cut costs during retirement. Possibly the biggest cost-cutting measure is downsizing - are you willing and able to move to a less expensive area or scale down your current living space? Of course, this is an emotional decision, as well as a financial one, and downsizing isn't for everyone, but it might be something to at least consider. As for the lesser ways of reducing expenses, take advantage of senior discounts, which are offered in many areas, including entertainment, public transportation, restaurants and retail establishments. And look for other opportunities, such as cutting out streaming services you don't use. Look for more income from your investments. As you get closer to retirement, and even when you do retire, you might want to adjust your investment portfolio to provide you with more income-producing opportunities. However, even as a retiree, you'll want some growth potential in your investments to help keep you ahead of inflation.

Instant Shade: Erect awnings, porches, or trellises on east, south and west sides of a building. This reduces solar heat penetration through walls and windows, keeping things cool. Note: Maintaining a gap between the top of

Presidential bravery

Throughout American history, several presidents have faced the terrifying threat of assassination, yet many of their responses were marked by extraordinary bravery and resolve.

One of the earliest known attempts occurred in 1835 against President Andrew Jackson. An unemployed house painter aimed two pistols at Jackson at close range. Jackson's strong stance against the national bank and his efforts to disman-

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.

tle it had made him many enemies, likely contributing to the attack. Miraculously, both pistols misfired. Undeterred, Jackson attacked his assailant with his cane.

In a remarkable but lesser-known incident, an individual once entered

the White House to assassinate President John Tyler. Demonstrating incredible presence of mind, Tyler calmly talked the man out of his plan.

The first successful assassination was that of President Abraham Lincoln, who was shot at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. Lincoln's courageous actions during his presidency, such as his determined efforts to end slavery and preserve the Union during the Civil War, challenged powerful interests and likely contributed to his assassination. His legacy of leadership and vision for a unified nation continues to endure.

President James A. Garfield faced a fatal attack when he was shot at the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Station in Washington, D.C. Garfield lingered for 11 weeks before succumbing to his injuries. During that time, he fulfilled his presidential duties as best he could. Garfield's determination to reform the government by making public service jobs available based on merit rather than political connections likely influenced the motivations behind the attack.

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page A11

Ultimately, the more you can bolster your financial security before and during retirement, the less fear you may have of outliving your money.

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

POSITIVELY SPEAKING TOBY

MOORE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What have we become?

To the Editor:

Am I the only reader who is disturbed by the unfounded, outlandish claims expressed in letters to the Webster Times?

In his letter published July 19, Eric Spahl goes on and on about how the country is endangered by non-citizens voting, presumably for Democrats. He believes that a bill recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives which would require voters to show "valid identification" in order to vote will prevent all those non-citizens - read illegal immigrants — from voting. His most bizarre claim is that 10 percent of responders in a recent poll of non-citizens say they intend to vote in future elections. Ten percent of how many? And just how does Mr. Spahl think this poll was conducted? How did pollsters identify these non-citizens? Did they knock on their doors? Did they call them on the phone? Maybe they mailed them a questionnaire.

I wonder if Mr. Spahl has ever voted in Dudley. Granted, you don't have to show "valid identification." But you do have to register in advance, a procedure which insures your identity as a qualified resident of voting age. When you actually vote you have to check in and allow poll workers to certify that you are properly registered before you are given a ballot. I have seen friends, who are long-time residents, denied ballots because their registration was not in order. Please explain to me just how non-citizens could subvert that system or the many other more stringent systems in more conservative states? Why would they even bother? Are these non-citizens really so well-organized and are their interests so aligned that they can significantly influence the electoral process? Even Democrats don't seem able to do that very often.

Voting is not a privilege, as Mr. Spahl asserts. It is a right, one that even many eligible citizens unfortunately choose not to exercise. Study after study after study has concluded that voter fraud is miniscule. Dozens of state and federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court have found no credible evi-

dence of voter fraud. The non-partisan Brennan Center for Justice, has concluded that voter fraud by voting in person and by voting by mail is very rare, that voter impersonation is virtually non-existent, and that many instances of alleged fraud are in fact honest mistakes made by voters or administrators.

One outlier is the ultra-conservative Heritage Foundation, the author of Project 2025, the notorious extremist plan for the next prospective Trump Administration that undermines every principle that we have always believed was guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. It claims voter fraud is a big problem. Yet the only evidence it could cite is an 1844 election in New York City in which the legendarily corrupt Tammany Hall organization managed to ring 55,000 votes from 41,000 eligible voters. Conservatives by and large also ignore the fact that the very few instances of voter fraud in recent elections have been committed by the very Republicans who rail ad infinitum about illegal voting.

In another letter Jim Allison complains about the 26 beds in Webster provided by the state to house asylum seekers and the billion dollars expended by the state to aid immigrants. He wants us all to remember that the Democratic Party that supports such largesse is no longer Tip O'Neill's Democratic Party, which he once supported.

I would argue that it is indeed the same party of Tip O'Neill, whose ancestors benefited from the same sort of empathy, as did my ancestors and, I suspect, as did Mr. Allison's ancestors. Immigrants today, just like those of two generations ago, are desperately fleeing unspeakable violence and poverty. The main difference is that there were fewer legal roadblocks for our ancestors than there are for today's immigrants. And, of course, today's immigrants are mostly the wrong color. No, Mr. Allison, the Democratic party

really hasn't changed. We have. The real issue is, just what sort of people have we become?

> FRANK MAGIERA DUDLEY

Grateful for Janet Malser Trust's faith in our vision

To the Editor:

The Webster United Church of Christ, Federated congregation would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the Janet Malser Humanities Trust for the very generous grant we recently received. The support of the Trust's a testament to the positive change we aspire to create within our community. The grant is dedicated to the implementation of a new ministry called Threads of Hope. This ministry is an expression of the church's concern for people in need. It will strive to provide adequate clothing for families, or any person with an identifiable need, whether unsheltered or in financial strife. Everything will be given free of charge to any individual or family. When one thinks about clothing banks or closets, one thinks about the thrift stores run by local non-profit organizations. We think of racks and racks of clothing that have been donated and are available for purchase. An emergency clothing closet is filled with socks, underwear, long johns, jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts, rain gear, winter boots, shoes, blankets, tarps, tents, sleeping bag, handwarmers, hygiene products (men and women and children, including feminine hygiene), backpacks, etc. Some facts: 18 percent of the Webster population is under the poverty line (double from Massachusetts, and more than 1.5 times the rate in Worcester). Evictions are increasing. There are no emergency shelters in southern Worcester County. The unhoused population now includes people who have lost their homes/jobs and cannot afford the three months upfront required by landlords. People are financially struggling and must prioritize expenses, often at the expense of items like clothing and hygiene products. What is the difference between the closet in our home, and someone who doesn't have a home? It seems so obvious to realize... they are living out of a bag. But have you ever packed for a trip? How many clothes can you get inside that bag? Unfortunately, that means that clothing options and wardrobe changes are in limited supply. Why is there such a large need for clothing and why do we provide the same clothes to the same people so often? If you are fortunate, you likely have a washer and dryer in your home with running water and electricity. Or if you do have some money, you can go to the laundromat. At the end of the day, you get home from work and you change into "comfortable" clothes tossing your items from the day into the laundry. So what do you do when your clothing items are limited and you don't have

the ability to clean them? They become disposable. Clothing is worn until it is soiled or damaged beyond repair, and discarded when clean clothing becomes available from a clothing closet.

What about the children? What about going to school only having a few pairs of clothes to wear? It becomes a source of embarrassment and reason for being bullied. One of the key indicators to teachers that children might be in trouble is their clothing condition. If children are coming to school in soiled clothes or the same clothes every day, it often gets social workers involved and there are often many more hardships that these students face. While these teachers and social workers do their very best to make sure children are in safe environments, many families are scared of children being placed in alternative living arrangements. Rather than going to school in dirty clothing. children are kept at home or skip school and miss out on an important opportunity for education. Socks are one of the most requested items out of the clothing closet. Why are socks so important? It takes 30 minutes to get frostbite in sub-zero temperatures. Wet socks breed bacteria which cause infection. If one has diabetes, one is at greater risk of skin injury, infection and even amputation. Many homeless walk several miles daily to gain access to food, shelter, and other essentials. Even if clothing can't be changed daily, socks need to be changed more often to keep feet healthy. This is why we are creating Threads of Hope. The site of the ministry will be located in a dedicated room, within the church, with a separate entrance. It will be maintained by trained volunteers. Our plans are to be open several times a week. We are planning on renovating the room, which is bright, located on the main floor, and offers two restrooms. We are planning on opening by the beginning of September. The resources provided through the Janet Malser grant will go a long way toward achieving our outlined objectives. The funds will be allocated to expand our ongoing projects, invest in new resources, and enhance our services.

Latest antiques and collectibles auction news

It's been well over a month since my last auction news update and there's a lot of auction news from this summer to catch up on.

Halloween is still a few months away, but a horror related book didn't scare away bidders recently. The only known privately owned

edition of Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" sold at the end of last month. The 1818 copy of "Frankenstein: or, The Modern Prometheus" was part of the William Strutz Collection, COLLECTIBLES according to the Antique Trader and **UPI**. Strutz

& ESTATES began collectwas in college in the 1950s. He

ANTIQUES,

looked for books of literary importance in fine condition with an excellent provenance (history and ownership). The library in his Bismarck, North Dakota home held over 15,000 books. His copy of "Frankenstein" sold for \$843,750. Other books from the collection also sold well. F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby" brought \$425,000. A presentation copy of J. R. R. Tolkien's novel "The Hobbit" became the most valuable copy ever when it reached \$300,000. Henry David Thoreau's "Walden; or Life in the Woods" also set an auction record for that book when it sold for \$275,000. The entire collection brought \$5.65 million.

Heading back much further in time to the Jurassic period (145 million to 160 million



years ago), а Stegosaurus skeleton recently became the most valuable fossil ever sold at auction. The skeleton called "Apex" "represents the pinnacle of paleontological discoveries,' according to the Robb report. The dinosaur was 11 feet high and 27 ing while he WAYNE TUISKULA feet wide. The skeleton is one of the most complete ever discovered. It

was uncovered by paleontologist Jason Cooper in 2022 at his property in the appropriately named town of Dinosaur, Colorado. Seven serious bidders battled it out for the dinosaur before it was hammered down at \$44.6 million. The winning bidder is considering loaning it to a U.S. institution. After the auction he stated, "Apex was born in America and is going to stay in America.'

Our next auction items bring us from prehistoric times into the future. The original Star Trek TV series ran from 1966 to 1969 but the show was set in 2266 to 2269. The phaser and communicator used by William Shatner's character James T. Kirk will go to auction in November

after being displayed at the San Diego Comic-Con this week. A prop collector purchased them from a Paramount Pictures employee and they haven't been seen by the public in about 50 years, according to the Hollywood Reporter. The pistol-like phaser and communicator are each expected to sell for between \$100,000 and \$200,000. Auction goers will surely be stunned when the phaser bidding ends.

We are planning a winter auction and are accepting consignments of space related memorabilia and toys, along with comic books, sports cards, and sports memorabilia. We are currently cataloging for our major auction of art, gold jewelry, sterling silver, coins, historical items, and other antiques scheduled for late August or September. Please visit our Web site, https://centralmassauctions.com, for links to upcoming events.

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

Harvest and enjoy garden-fresh cucumbers

been bred to maintain

a bit longer. They have the days remaining until the first fall frost to determine if you have enough time to plant, grow, and harvest a second cucumber crop.

We are grateful for the trust shown in our vision, mission, and the initiatives we undertake toward the betterment of our community.

With grace and peace,

PASTOR SABINA TERRADES AND OUR CONGREGATION WEBSTER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, FEDERATED



Melinda Myers

For the best flavor and greatest nutritional value grow fresh-from-the-garden cucumbers.

Low in calories and versatile, cucumbers can flavor beverages, perk

up a salad, served as a snack, or made into pickles. This popular vegetable is a good source of fiber, potassium, and Vitamin K. Plus, they have a high water content, making them a mild diuretic to help in weight loss and

reduce blood pressure. To ensure the best flavor and greatest nutritional value, grow your own or purchase cucumbers fresh from the farmer's market.

Harvest cucumbers or purchase them based on the variety and intended use. Pick the fruit when it is one and a half to two and a half inches long if you plan on making sweet pickles. If dill pickles are on the menu, allow the cucumbers to grow bigger to about three to four inches.

Wait to harvest those you plan on using fresh in salads, beverages, or for snacking. Harvest slicing cucumbers when the skin is firm, bright green, and the fruit is six to nine inches long. You can leave burpless-type cucumbers on the vine

their mild flavor when harvested at 10 to 12 inches in length.

Go big and impress your family with the crisp, mild flavor of the long Japanese cucumber. Pick these when they are 12 to 18 inches long. Their flavor remains mild and the skin is easy to digest despite the longer size.

Misshapen and bitter-flavored cucumbers are usually the result of drought, improper fertilization, and large fluctuations in temperature. These are safe to eat but may not have the best flavor.



The bitter flavor in cucumbers is caused by the cucurbitacin B and C in the plant moving from the leaves, stems, and roots into the fruit when the plants are under stress. Remove about an inch of the stem end and peel where these compounds concentrate to improve the flavor. Consider growing varieties that are typically less bitter like Sweet Slice, Sweet Success, and Marketmore 76.

Compost poor quality fruit that are not suitable for eating. Then adjust your care to ensure better quality cucumbers for the remainder of the season.

Consider making a second planting if space and time allow. Many cucumbers reach maturity in 60 days or less. Calculate

Grow the All-America Selections winner Green Light, ready to harvest in as few as 37 to 42 days. Train the long vines on a pole or trellis to save space and for easier picking. Harvest the fruit when three to four inches long for great taste without peeling.

Try growing Patio Snacker cucumber if space is limited. This compact plant produces an abundance of six- to seven-inch fruit in about 50 days.

Extend the season indoors with the new Kitchen miniâ Quick Snack cucumbers. These small plants will grow indoors in a sunny window, with no pollination needed, and produce fruit that tastes best when picked at two and a half inches long.

No matter how you plan to enjoy this multi-purpose vegetable, harvest it at just the right time for the best flavor and intended use.

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

July is BUY NOW, PAY LATER MONTH at Renewal by Andersen.¹

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<section-header>

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Sheriff's Office Farm Program celebrates record year



Worcester County Sheriff's Office staff deliver fresh organic produce from the Sheriff's Office's Organic Farm to the Auburn Senior Center.

REGION Worcester County Sheriff's Office is experiencing a record year of

The harvests on its inmaterun organic farm. The unprecedented amount of produce is all thanks



to the consistently high humidity, stimulating sunshine, and rapturous rainstorms.

For more than a dozen years, inmates at the Worcester County House Correction have of grown fresh produce on the Sheriff's Office's Organic Farm as part of the inmate work-release program. The produce harvested by the inmate work crews has benefitted not only dozens of Worcester County food banks, senior centers, soup kitchens, veteran groups, and charitable organizations but also the inmate population serving time in the facility.

Recently, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office made a significant donation of produce to the Auburn Senior Center and to the Oxford Senior Center for its Meals on



bage, corn, watermelon, cantaloupe, and pumpkins will soon be bountiful as the longer days of summer fade into cooler fall weather.

With multiple expansions in recent years, it is estimated that the Worcester County Sheriff's Office farms approximately 18 acres of land. During an average year, 500 pounds of fresh produce is harvested each day, totaling approximately 40,000 pounds of produce a year.

However, with the conditions that Mother Nature has provided, the 2024 growing season is off to an elec-

tric start. The Sheriff's Office noted that work release crews yield 750-1,000 pounds of produce with each harvest. Further, the Sheriff's Office has added a second delivery crew to distribute the produce to community partners throughout Worcester County. Inmates who can participate in the work-release program are lowrisk and non-violent. The inmates who qualify for the program, and choose to be in it, receive "good time" credits

each month for

their positive behavior and active participation in programming. The time commitment varies based on the workload and time of the year. Typically, inmates work 10-25 hours a week.

Since taking office in 2011, Sheriff Lew has Evangelidis remained committed to developing the Organic Farm and being dedicated to the communities he represents. After multiple expansions of the farm under Evangelidis' leadership, the Worcester County Jail boasts the largest organic farm on a correctional facility in

Massachusetts.

"We are blessed with the opportunity to run the organic farm program right at our facility," commented Evangelidis. "Besides providing thousands of pounds of fresh produce to those in need, the program has many other benefits. Inmates who qualify for the program have the dignity of doing a full day's work. This work ultimately benefits the communities in which many of these individuals were born and raised. The rehabilitative power of the farm is tremendous."





UBITUARIES

Robert J. Laramie, 77



WEBSTER - Robert J." Bob" Laramie, 77, died unexpectedly Friday, July 12, 2024 in Bay State Medical Center, Springfield with his family at his NASCAR racing. side.

He leaves his wife of almost 57 years,

Madelyn C. (Tyrrell) Laramie; 2 daughters, Melissa A. Laramie and Jennifer l. Laramie, both of Webster; 3 grandchildren, Jackson, Maxx and Eloise; a sister, Carol Barbour of Webster; nephews and nieces.

He was born on September 29, 1946 in Webster, the first child of Desire and Hattie (Springer) Laramie and was a lifelong resident. He graduated from Bartlett High School in 1964 and earned an Associate's Degree from New England School of Accounting.

He served in the United States Army Reserves for 6 years.

Mr. Laramie worked as an accountant all his life, most recently at the David Rischitelli Accounting Firm in Shrewsbury. He was still preparing individual and corporate taxes from his home.

He was an avid camper and belonged to the Quinebaug Valley Campers since 1982 and served as its treasurer for 13 years. He also enjoyed

Bob was a member of Saint Louis Church

and enjoyed cooking at the parish festivals for many years.

His greatest joy in life was spending his time with his grandchildren, attending all their sports events and other activities. He was a constant presence in their lives.

His funeral was held from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street on Wednesday, July 24, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street. Burial will be held privately. Visitation was held from 9:00 to 10:30 AM Wednesday in the funeral home, prior to the Mass. Donations in his name may be made to Saint Louis Church, c/o the Parish Center, 52 Negus Street, Webster, MA 01570.

www.websterfunerals.com

Theodore "Ted" Daniel Geotis, 73



Theodore "Ted" Daniel Geotis, 73, passed away unex-pectedly on Tuesday July 16, 2024

Ted was born May 2, 1951 in Webster, MA. He is the son of the late James and Victoria Geotis.

Ted was predeceased by his infant son William, brothers John and David Geotis, sisters Thelma Carpenter and Doris Maniatis, step-son Ofc Michael Lee and Goddaughter and niece Det. Cynthia Johnson

Ted is survived by his step-son Shawn Sandgren (Joann) from Southbridge, his brothers Chris (Joan) and Jay Geotis both of Webster, sisters Helen (Raymond) Lepine of Brooklyn CT and Evelyn Aperges of Webster, along with many aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, great and great great nieces and nephews, and his good friend David Heller

Ted graduated Bartlett High School and was an avid sports fan. He played Varsity football for 3 years and 4 years semi-pro football being named Allstar Quarterback in 1975: He even tried out for the New York Jets. Ted was invited to play in the Harry Arganis Bowl in Boston. Ted was President and Founder of the Webster men's touch football league. He introduced night softball to Webster and was President of the Webster Softball League for 5 years. He coached several baseball and football teams though the years. Ted was inducted to the BHS Hall of Fame in 2002. Ted also enjoyed golf as often as possible with his circle of friends. Ted was a man of few words with a gentle soul and big heart. He enjoyed spending time with family and friends.

Ted retired from the Town of Webster Custodial Department in 2016, prior to that working with D. Mason Paving for many years.

Ted was a member of Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church.

The funeral will be held at 11:00 am on Wednesday July 24, 2024 at Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Webster. Burial will follow in Mt. Zion Cemeterv.

Calling hours were held on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 from 5-7pm at the Church, 35 Lake Parkway Webster MA 01570

Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Avenue, Dudley is directing arrangements www.bartelfuneralhome.com

School District adding Special Ed Coordinator, PN Nurse

BY JASON BLEAU CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON The Dudley Charlton Regional School District is adding two new positions for the next school year to further enhance the district's special education and health resources. Both positions were requested during the Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee's July 10 meeting and approved unanimously by the committee within the limits of the existing budget.

The committee first heard a request from District Director of **Pupil Personnel Services** Heather Harriman who recommended adding a Special Education Coordinator to help with the rising caseloads in the district.

'We currently have five special education coordinators in the district, and we have a large growing number of special education students. We have

almost 200 students more than we had a few years ago. So, the caseloads of our special education coordinators are growing. I think they have about 35 more students each on their caseload than they had just a couple of years ago. In order to really meet with our initiatives, work on these restrictive environments, we really need that additional coordinator," said Harriman.

Even with the new fulltime position Harriman indicated there would still be resource sharing among the seven schools to cover all the special education cases. The district can afford the hire thanks to reductions in the contracted services line item of the budget.

The School Committee also approved the hiring of a new LPN District Nurse at the request of Superintendent Steven Lamarche who acknowledged that in the 2020s healthcare has become a challenge for school districts nationwide.

"Nursing has been very difficult, especially post pandemic. Their requirements for their position have become more and more extensive as well. So, we've been looking to try to add," said Lamarche, who acknowledged that a nursing position was cut during the budgetary struggles in 2023. "Our nurses have certainly asked for this since the reductions with the override and are looking for support to put this back in place. This district-wide LPN nurse would help all buildings at times under the direction of the nurse coordinator Stephanie Moisan. Again, it's been a request that it is something we'd like to post and have in place to start the school year."

The new LPN will be funded through Medicaid reimbursements. Both new positions are expected to be in place for the start of school this fall.

Dudley announces completion of gateway revitalization plan

DUDLEY — Dudley town leaders and the Economic Development Committee (EDC) collaborated with the Central Massachusetts Region Planning Commission (CMRPC) to develop the Dudley Gateway Revitalization Plan.

This initiative builds upon findings from a Webster-Dudley Corridor Study that was focused on West Main Street, also known as the Dudley Gateway.

The primary objectives of the gateway plan are to facilitate compact, mixed-use development redevelopment, and enhance street scape aesthetics, and improve infractructure foster active mobility, safety, and accessibility. A key aim is to culti-

vate a distinctive town identity and create a welcoming environment that attracts residents and visitors to Dudley's vibrant business district.

The plan provides guidelines for sign and building façade improvements accompanied by strategies to fund the enhancement of West Main Street aesthetic appeal. Considerations for enhancing walkability, biking, and connectivity to nearby trails are central to the design.

During a year-long process, the Project Team of the Town Administrator, Town Planner, EDC and CMRPC, conducted community surveys, held monthly meetings to refine marketing and image strategies, and developed conceptual

designs for potential gateway features and streetscape enhancements.

The Dudley Gateway Revitalization Plan is a detailed report with cost estimates, potential funding sources, and a roadmap of short- and longterm recommendations for implementation. A copy of the plan is found www.dudleyma. here: gov/planning-board/ pages/gateway-planning-study

Dudley is committed to advancing strategies that will transform the W. Main Street area into a thriving downtown hub, enriching the quality of life for residents and promoting economic prosperity throughou the

Stephen Raymond Bardy



Webster - Stephen Raymond Bardy Of Webster, MA. Died July 18, 2024 After A Lengthy Illness.

He was predeceased by his wife, Mary Edith Penkala in 2013. He is survived by his son, Stephen Edward

Bardy of Dudley, MA. and his sister Gloria Brown of Woodstock, CT. He was born in Webster, MA., the son of Stephen Edward Bardy and Jessie (Pietrewicz) Bardy and he lived there his whole life. He was predeceased by his brother Edmund Bardy and his sister Barbara Lavallee.

He worked primarily as a truck driver for Wager's Express in Dudley, MA. and Carter Rice in Worcester, MA. He took great interest in maintaining his property, and his main hobby was his intense interest in wood burning to heat his house. Every year he would be preparing for next year's Winter by cutting and splitting wood from trees he felled on his property, and stacking his beloved wood pile. Living like they did "in the old country" gave him a great deal of happiness. Brush burning every Spring was a rite of passage for

his son Stephen, who continues this tradition to this day. He served in the from 1951-Navy 1955, spending much of his time in the Caribbean and the

Mediterranean. The funeral will be

held at St. Louis Church in Webster on Friday, July 26, 2024 at 10:00 am. Burial will follow at the St. Joseph Garden of Peace. There will be no calling hours, please go directly to the church. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in his name to the MSPCA-Angell, Attn: Donations, 350 South Huntington Ave., Boston, MA. 02130. His wife Edith was a lifelong animal lover who donated regularly to animal causes. He continued this monthly since her passing in 2013.

Shaw-Majercik Funeral Home, 48 School Street, Webster has been entrusted with Stephen's arrangements. A memorial guestbook is available at www.shaw-majercik.com where you may post a condolence or light a candle in his memory.

town.

XFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL ANNOUNCES HONOR ROLL

OXFORD — Oxford Middle School has released its honor roll for the fourth quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

High Honors

Grade 8: Khloe Anderson, Andrew Collins. Laura Grenier. Olivia Hammond, Devyn Quarshie, Isabella Roszkowski, Victoria Sullivan, Keagan Vanarsdalen

Grade 7: Ethan Campbell, Chase Checkoway, Bella Coghlan, Sophia Coghlan, Nikolas Coraccio, Emma Farrar, Emmary Gustafson, Ashlyn Halliday, Tucker Harrity, Ali Johnson, Brianna Judge, Nathan Mayo, Keigan McIlvaine, Tyler Melton, Catalina Montalvo, Brooke O'Connor, Savannah Pratt, Destiny Purcell, Harper Shoblom, Colton Toedt

Grade 6: Lily Dolbec, Liam Harrity, Alana LaFrance, Megan Riley, Lillana Tervo, Jordyn Torteson

Honors

Grade 8: Sabrina Adamiak, Haniya Awais, Sydney Chisholm, Ayva Coffey, Kaeli Cordova Del Cid, Rylie Dwyer, Pietro Falsarella, Calleigh Furtado, Tatianagelys Hernandez Barreto, Chloe Hosley, Colin Joyce, Ella Kasprzycki, Olivia LaMountain, Beatriz Luna, Luis Martinez, Jr., Elijah McKenna, Brooke Nitti, Joseph Pretty, Jackson Stuart, Jaelyn Thomas, Mia Urbaez, Caiden Valipour, Abby Vignali

Grade 7: Michael Annancy, Zach Barberio, Mya Borelli, Brenna Burke, Alexander Campbell, Mason Case, Kayden Chuong, Kendra Cutroni, Kellsey Dunn, Michael Forbes, Sophia Francis, Marquis Gagne, Mary-Jane Hall, Ethan Hamilton, Hunter Lafleche, Victoria LaMountain, Ivy Latino, Chloe Lavallee, Riley Maki, Samantha Marrier, Logan McEvoy, Agnes Molloy, Kaliyana Padilla, Joseph Peters, Max Peterson, Noah Poirier, Tyler Remillard, Jayden Rosado, Zachary Rucho, Meghan Salvucci, Declan Sharry, Alexander Skeates, Jameson Tyrrell, Logan Valipour, Malayna Vietra, Jude Worden, Samuel Yogaratnam

Grade 6: Larissa Amorim, Isabella Bishop, Abigail Burque, Yeidiel Hernandez Barreto, Willow Keller, Brookelynn Mangano, Matthew Martellotta, Alana McFarland, Sophia Meneguzzo, Ashton O'Malley, Pedro Paniagua, Mateo Quintero, Maci Turner, Parker Tyrrell, Harrison Voas, Anabelle Watters

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

Local students named to dean's list at Tufts University

MEDFORD — Lilianna Sigalovsky, Class of 2026. of Webster and Sophia Gawronski, Class of 2027, of Auburn were named to the dean's list at Tufts University for the Spring 2024 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater. Tufts University, locat-

ed on campuses in Boston, Medford/Somerville and Grafton, Massachusetts, and in Talloires, France, is recognized among the premier research universities in the United States. Tufts enjoys a global reputation for academic excellence and for the preparation of students as leaders in a wide range of professions.

A growing number of innovative teaching and research initiatives span all Tufts campuses, and collaboration among the faculty and students in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across the university's schools is widely encouraged.

POSITIVELY

continued from page A1

Theodore Roosevelt was shot in the chest by a would-be assassin while campaigning for a third term as a Progressive Party candidate in Milwaukee. Roosevelt's bold stance against political corruption and his efforts to challenge powerful corporate interests likely played a role in the attack. Despite the bullet lodged in his chest, Roosevelt delivered a 90-minute speech before seeking medical attention. He declared, "It takes more than that to

kill a Bull Moose." President Harry S. Truman encountered a grave threat on Nov. 1, 1950, when two Puerto Rican nationalists attempted to storm Blair House, where Truman was staying during White House renovations. Truman's support for Puerto Rican self-determination and other controversial policies may have influenced the attack. Despite the chaos and danger, Truman remained composed.

President John F. Kennedy faced several threats during his presidency, but the most infamous and tragic was his assassination. Kennedy's bold decisions and his stance against powerful establishment interests, including his efforts to de-escalate the Cold War, challenge the influence of major corporations, and advocate for civil rights, likely contributed to his untimely death. His vision and ideals continue to inspire.

President Gerald Ford faced two separate assassination attempts within 17 days. On Sept. 5, a follower of Charles Manson pointed a gun at Ford in Sacramento, California, and then another individual tried to shoot him in San Francisco. Ford's efforts to heal the nation after the Watergate scandal and his controversial pardon of Richard Nixon may have fueled these attacks. Despite the danger, Ford remained calm and collected throughout these incidents, maintaining his public appearances and duties without interruption.

The attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan is another story of bravery. Reagan's policies and his economic reforms stirred significant controversy and may have contributed to the attack. Shot in the chest, Reagan, ever the communicator, quipped

to his surgeons, "I hope

As you already know,

an assassin tried to kill

President Trump. It is an

image that will travel the

world and become seared

into America's national

story for generations to

come: Donald Trump,

bloodied but defiant, sur-

rounded by U.S. Secret

Service officers, mouthing the word "Fight"

repeatedly as he was led

Trump's bold and

controversial stance on

various issues may have

contributed to the moti-

away to safety.

you're all Republicans.'

vations behind the assassination attempt. In that moment, Trump's bravery and determination shone through, reflecting the same spirit seen in the many presidents who faced similar threats throughout American history.

These stories of presidential bravery in the face of assassination attempts highlight not only the personal courage of our presidents, but also show us the ongoing struggles and conflicts that have shaped American history and continue to shape us today.



LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Theresa I. Dick to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Citimortgage, Inc., dated August 24, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 41763, Page 116, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc. to CitiMortgage, Inc., recorded on July 11, 2012, in Book No. 49259, at Page 253

CitiMortgage, Inc. to Green Tree Servicing LLC, recorded on September 19, 2014, in Book No. 52813, at Page 324 Ditech Financial LLC f/k/a Green Tree Servicing LLC to New Residential Mortgage LLC, recorded on March 11, 2019, in Book No. 60131, at Page 44

New Residential Mortgage LLC to LoanCare, LLC, recorded on January 11, 2021, in Book No. 64189, at Page 245

LoanCare, LLC to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, recorded on October 6, 2023, in Book No. 69730, at Page 230

NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing to US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust, recorded on June 17, 2024, in Book No. 70644, at Page 351for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on August 19, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 62 Rockland Road, Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

ALL THAT PARCEL OF LAND IN WORCESTER COUNTY, COMMON-WEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN DEED BOOK 20573, PAGE 237, ID# , BE-ING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT 110, PLAN OF LOTS OWNED BY WHITAKER-IRISH-PERRY REALTY, FILED IN PLAT BOOK 42, PAGE 110, RECORDED 05/01/1920. PROPERTY IS UNREGISTERED BY FEE SIMPLE DEED FROM STEVEN E. WITT AS SET FORTH IN BOOK 20573 PAGE 237 DATED 10/23/1998 AND RE-CORDED 10/27/1998, WORCESTER COUNTY RECORDS, COMMON-WEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS. For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 20573, Page 237.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

July 26, 2024 August 2, 2024 August 9, 2024

18179

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Jessica S. Peterson to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Plains Commerce Bank, its successors and assigns, dated December 16, 2022 and recorded in Worcester County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68619, Page 383 (the "Mortgage") of which mortgage Plains Commerce Bank is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Plains Commerce Bank, its successors and assigns to Plains Commerce Bank dated October 30, 2023 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 69852, Page 44, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 10 Melba Avenue, Auburn, MA 01501 will be sold at a Public Auction at 3:00 PM on August 14, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon, situated in Auburn, bounded and described as follows:

The land in Auburn situated on the easterly side of Claire Drive and the northerly side of Melba Avenue, and being Lot 9 on a resubdivision of Nortonwood, dated June 1955 by R.B. Culinan, Registered Land Surveyor, recorded at the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 206, Plan 71, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a stone set at the intersection of the easterly line of Claire Drive and the northerly line of Melba Avenue;

THENCE N. 68 degrees 57' 45" E. one hundred (100) feet by said line of Melba Avenue to a stake set at a corner of Lot 7 of the "Nortonwood Subdivision"; THENCE N. 21 degrees 02' 16" W. one hundred (100) feet to a corner of Lot 7; THENCE S. 75 degrees 01' 21" W. eighty-nine and 03/100 (89.03) feet by land now or formerly of Yale to a point in the easterly line of Claire Drive:

THENCE S. 15 degrees 03' 30" E. one hundred ten (110) feet by said line of Claire Drive to the point of beginning. Subject to rights and restrictions of record if in force and effect.

Being the same premises conveyed in deed recorded with the Worcester County Registry of Deeds at Book 44162, Page 330. See also deed into mortgagor(s) recorded immediately prior hereto. (978) 256-1500 Peterson, Jessica S., 23-043823 Attn: Public Notice Agency, Inc. Newspaper: Auburn News RE: LEGAL NOTICE OF MORT-GAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE Plains Commerce Bank v. Peterson, Jessica S. File #: 23-043823 July 19, 2024 July 26, 2024 August 2, 2024

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A VIRTUAL DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING Project File No. 605323

A Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Bridge Replacement, O-06-030, (St 56) Leicester Road over The French River project in Oxford, MA.

WHEN: 6:00 PM, Wednesday, August 7, 2024

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Bridge Replacement, O-06-030, (St 56) Leicester Road over The French River project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of replacing the bridge deck, increasing safety, and improving operations of the roadway. The bridge deck will be replaced under full closure, utilizing accelerated bridge construction methods and separate detour routes for cars and trucks will be posted. Safety improvements consisting of new guardrail, pavement markings are proposed. Significant widening of the bridge is not part of this project, however a minimum 6-foot shoulder on both sides of the bridge will be provided to facilitate pedestrian and bicyclist access.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The town is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's

policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented at the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProject-Management@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 605323. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted. This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@ dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing. This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at https://www.mass.gov/orgs/ highway-division/events. JONATHAN GULLIVER HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E. CHIEF ENGINEER July 26, 2024 August 2, 2024

225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2200 Docket No. W024C0347CA CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Worcester Probate and Family Court** before **08/13/24**. 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: July 15, 2024 Stephanie Fattman, Register of Probate

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. WO24P2345EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate of: Lawrence E Bombara

July 26, 2024

Date of Death: 09/20/2020 To all interested persons:

A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by

Jeanne E Bombara of Douglas, 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: Jeanne E Bombara of Douglas, 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 08/06/2024..

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.

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

US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSO-CIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWN-ER TRUSTEE FOR VRMTG ASSET TRUST Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Southern District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68619, Page 379.

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

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

Plains Commerce Bank Korde & Associates, P.C. 900 Chelmsford Street Suite 3102 Lowell, MA 01851

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court

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: July 12 2024 Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate July 26, 2024

DUDLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION Public Hearing Notice

A Public Hearing will be held at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street in Dudley, MA at 6:15 PM on Wednesday, July 31, 2024 to consider a **Notice of Intent** of Diamond Communications, LLC for the property located at 2 Carroll Drive, Dudley, MA 01571 for a proposed communications tower facility.

This is a Public Hearing under the requirements of G.L. CH. 131 §40, as amended. Plans are available at the Conservation Commission's office at the Dudley Municipal Complex on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-3:00 PM. For more information, call 508-949-8011.

July 26, 2024

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

PIERANGELI

continued from page A1

which is "a completely 360" from what traditionally happens, Rivera said. She noted they're now training the teachers and will continue to do so through next year.

The Committee voted unanimously to accept that recommendation and the curriculum, with Linda Millet asking if teachers could visit an OSE-using district to see it in practice. High School Principal Ryan Collins said they've been in touch with Taunton, who offered to let them see "a full pilot, instead of just some lessons."

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

OXFORD

continued from page A1

commendations and awards for various acts, with Gifford dragging a man from a fire and saving a man from jumping off a bridge.

"You see a common theme here with the individuals you have serving this community," Daniels said. "These people are worthy of promotion and worthy of leadership positions."

Partly coincidentally, the meeting also retired an officer – Kasik's former K9 partner Zax, who has "had some issues with his back" and can no longer do police work. Daniels said Kasik could not take Zax home with him because he "has a young family," but knew a Shepherd Rescue organization in Georgia that will take Zax. There, the dog wiOll stay active competing in dog sports that aren't as demanding as police work.

Afterward, the board approved giving Town Manager Jen Callahan four goals for the current fiscal year – addressing ADA infrastructure, working on water infrastructure, developing an educational facilities plan and improving signage in town – with various subgoals in each.

Robert King voted against them, saying he'd polled people on his Facebook page and found they were concerned about roads and taxes, but those weren't in the final list. He also noted they're late according to Callahan's contract. Chair Mark Lee said the website has a road project list, so it "really isn't a manager's goal," and the board will discuss taxes during the budget process. John Eul agreed, noting taxes will depend on what budget the board votes for; if it calls for smaller budget than the manager does, the administration will have to find places to cut it. The people could make that a board goal.

Regarding roads, Callahan said she's "spent an inordinate amount of time

... prioritizing roads" in recent years, citing the two failed override proposals from a couple years ago.

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

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

MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage dated May 21, 2005 from Henry P. Lebel, Jr. to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Homebridge Mortgage Bankers Corp. recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 36407, Page 69, as affected by Loan Modification Agreement recorded September 19, 2012 in Book 49646, Page 31, the undersigned U.S. Bank National Association as Legal Title Trustee for Truman 2016 SC6 Title Trust being the present holder of said mortgage by Assignment of Mortgage dated August 9, 2007 from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. to Chase Home Finance LLC recorded in Book 45158, Page 162, Assignment of Mortgage dated March 8, 2012 from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Homebridge Mortgage Bankers Corp., its successors and assigns, to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association recorded in Book 48743, Page 122, JP Morgan Chase Bank is successor by merger to Chase Home Finance, LLC, Assignment of Mortgage dated August 15, 2014 from JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development recorded in Book 52961, Page 327, Assignment of Mortgage dated March 16, 2015 from The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to U.S. Bank Trust, N.A. as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust recorded in Book 53576, Page 128, Assignment of Mortgage dated January 29, 2015 from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Homebridge Mortgage Bankers Corp., its successors and assigns, to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association recorded in Book 53858, Page 33, Assignment of Mortgage dated July 18, 2015 from The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to U.S. Bank Trust. N.A. as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust recorded in Book 54084, Page 390, Assignment of Mortgage dated December 29, 2021 from JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. successor by merger to Chase Home Finance, LLC to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Homebridge Mortgage Bankers Corp., its successors and assigns, recorded in Book 67373, Page 389, Assignment of Mortgage dated October 20. 2021 from U.S. Bank Trust. N.A. as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust to U.S. Bank National Association as legal Title Trustee for Truman 2016 SC6 Title Trust in Book 67373, Page 392, and Assignment of Mortgage dated November 15, 2023 from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to U.S. Bank National Association as Legal Title Trustee for Truman 2016 SC6 Title Trust recorded in Book 69940, Page 67, for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at: 1:00 P.M., Monday, August 12, 2024 upon the hereinafter-described premises, known as and numbered as 52 Harris Street, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singularly the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: Two parcels of land in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows: PARCEL 1: A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon of every nature and description and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, on the westerly side of Harris Street, bounded and described as follows:

Thence northerly sixty-five (65) feet by land of Leon Dudek, et ux, now or formerly, to an iron pipe driven into the ground at the side of a boulder;

Thence easterly one hundred fifty (150) feet by land of Leon Dudek, et ux, now or formerly to an iron pipe driven into the ground on the westerly side of said Harris Street;

Thence southerly sixty-five (65) feet by said Harris Street to the point of beginning.

PARCEL 2:

A certain tract of land on the westerly side of Harris Street, in Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an iron pipe in the westerly side line of Harris Street, sixty-five (65) feet northerly of land now or formerly of Rock Sledzik;

Thence westerly by land of Emily C. Dudek, a distance of one hundred fifty (150) feet to an iron pipe;

Thence southerly by land of said Emily C. Dudek, sixty-five (65) feet to an iron pipe at land now or formerly of Otto Kindler;

Thence westerly by land now or formerly of Otto Kindler, fifty (50) feet to a point;

Thence northerly by land of Rosa Dudek, seventy-five (75) feet to a point; Thence easterly two hundred (200) feet by land of Rosa Dudek to a point in the westerly side line of said Harris Street;

Thence southerly by said westerly side line of Harris Street, ten (10) feet to the point of beginning.

For Mortgagor's title, see deed recorded herewith. Bk 36407 Pg 67 The above-described premises shall be subject to all easements, restrictions, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, outstanding tax titles, building, zoning and other land use laws and all permits and approvals issued pursuant thereto, including, mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc., its successors and assigns to New York Community Bank, recorded on February 21, 2012, in Book No. 48557, at Page 200

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc. to New York Community Bank, recorded on December 13, 2013, in Book No. 51852, at Page 71

New York Community Bank to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee for Towd Point Master Funding Trust 2017-PM13 HC, recorded on September 13, 2018, in Book No. 59396, at Page 185

New York Community Bank to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as mortgagee, as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc., its successors and assigns, recorded on September 7, 2023, in Book No. 69612, at Page 100

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, as Trustee for Towd Point Master Funding Trust 2017-PM13 HC to Firstkey Mortgage, LLC, recorded on September 14, 2023, in Book No. 69640, at Page 263

FirstKey Mortgage, LLC to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as collateral trust trustee of FirstKey Master Funding 2021-A Collateral Trust, recorded on November 22, 2023, in Book No. 69915, at Page 233

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 5:00 PM on August 5, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 23 Comins Road, Unit 23, Comins Road Condominium, Oxford, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, repair or restoration of the Building or of any adjoining unit or of the Common Elements after damage or destruction by fire or other casualty, or after a taking in condemnation or eminent domain proceedings, or by reason of an alteration or repair to the Common Elements made by or with the consent of the Trustees.

2. An easement in favor of the other units to use the pipes, wires, ducts, flues, conduits, cables, public utility lines, and other Common Elements located in the Unit or elsewhere in the Condominium and serving such other units.

3. The provisions of this Unit Deed, the Master Deed, the Declaration of Trust, and the plans, as the same may be amended from time to time by instrument recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, which provisions, together with any amendments thereto, shall constitute covenants running with the land and shall bind any person having at any time any interest or estate in the Unit, his family, servants, and visitors, as though such provisions were recited and stipulated at length herein. 4. All easements, agreements, restrictions and conditions of record, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable.

The Unit is intended only for residential purposes, and no other use may be made of the Unit.

For mortgagor's(s') title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40456, Page 232.

These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices, P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSO-CIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS COLLAT-ERAL TRUST TRUSTEE OF FIRST-KEY MASTER FUNDING 2021-A COLLATERAL TRUST Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 21629 July 12, 2024 July 19, 2024 July 26, 2024

Beginning at an iron pipe driven into the ground on the westerly line of said Harris Street at land of Rock Sledzik and being the southeasterly angle of the tract hereby conveyed;

Thence westerly one hundred fifty (150) feet by land of said Rock Sledzik and Otto Kindler to an iron pipe driven into the ground at land of Leon Dudek, et ux, now or formerly;

without limitation, orders of conditions, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to said Mortgage, if there be any. Said premises are to be sold subject to the right of redemption of the United States of America, if any there be.

TERMS OF SALE: The highest bidder shall be required to make a deposit of \$10.000.00 to the holder of said Mortgage, in cash or by certified or bank cashier's check at the time and place of said sale of said premises. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid to said holder in cash, by certified check or bank cashier's check. and thereupon the deed shall be delivered, in thirty (30) days from the date of sale at the firm of Cunningham, Machanic, Cetlin, Johnson, Harney & Tenney, LLP, Attorneys for said holder, 220 North Main Street, Suite 301, Natick, Massachusetts. The successful bidder shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale. The description of the premises contained in said Mortgage shall control in the event of an error in publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of sale.

U.S. Bank National Association as Legal Title Trustee for Truman 2016 SC6 Title Trust, By its Attorneys, CUNNINGHAM, MACHANIC, CETLIN, JOHNSON, HARNEY & TENNEY, LLP 220 North Main Street, Suite 301 Natick, MA 01760 (508) 651-7524

July 12, 2024 July 19, 2024 July 26, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Barbara W. McCoy to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc., dated January 3, 2007 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40456, Page 238, as modified by a certain modification agreement dated May 1, 2012, and recorded with said Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49180, Page 102, of which TO WIT:

The Unit ("Unit") known as 23 of the Comins Road Condominium located at 19-25 Comins Road, North Oxford, Massachusetts ("Building'), a condominium ("Condominium") established by the Grantor pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 183A, by Master Deed dated September 28. 2006, recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 39886, Page 101 ("Master Deed"), which Unit is shown on the floor plans ("Plans") of the Building recorded simultaneously with the Master Deed, to which is affixed the verified statement of a registered architect in the form required by Section 9 of Chapter 183A.

The Unit is conveyed together with:

1. An undivided interest of 26.00% in the common-areas and facilities ("Common Elements") of the Condominium described in the Master Deed, attributable to the Unit.

2. An easement for the continuance of all encroachments by the Unit on any adjoining units or Common Elements existing as a result of construction of the Building, or which may come into existence hereafter as a result of settling or shifting of the Building, or as a result of repair or restoration of the Building or of the Unit after damage or destruction by fire or other casualty, or after a taking in condemnation or eminent domain proceedings, or by reason of an alteration or repair to the Common Elements made by or with the consent of the trustees.

3. An easement in common with the owners of other units to use any pipes, wires, ducts, flues, cables, conduits, public utility lines, and other common Elements located in any of the other units or elsewhere in the condominium and serving the Unit.

4. Rights and easements in common with other Unit Owners as described in the Master Deed.

Said Unit is conveyed subject to:

1. Easements in favor of adjoining units and in favor of the Common Elements for the continuance of all encroachments of such adjoining units or Common Elements to the Unit, now existing as a result of construction of the Building, or which may come into existence hereafter as a result of settling or shifting of the Building, or as a result of

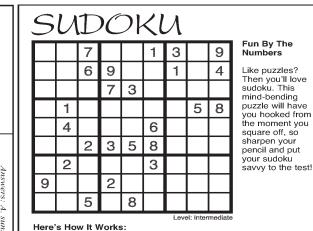
Notice of Public Meeting

Dudley Conservation Commission Pursuant to MGL ch 131 section 40, as amended, and the town of Dudley Wetland Protection By law, there will be a public meeting on a request for a Determination of Applicability for 9 Kruger Island Rd, Dudley Ma. 01571.filed by J.Gary and Susan Cameron. The meeting will take place at Dudley Town Hall 71 West Main St 3rd floor Conference room at 6:00PM on July 31,2024. The public is invited to attend. July 26, 2024

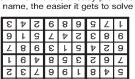


BLUE WATER BRIDGE OPENS BETWEEN PORT HURON, MICHIGAN AND GARNIA, ONTARIO SHELTER шлр құліңѕ мопәқ ңім ирш facility that houses surrendered or lost pets

Can you guess what the bigger picture is? ANSWER: DOG COLLAR



Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!





1686. ALBANY NY IS FORMALLY CHARTERED AS A MUNICIPALITY.

1793: ALEXANDER MACKENZIE BECOMES THE FIRST RECORDED HUMAN TO COMPLETE A TRANSCONTINENTAL CROSSING OF NORTH AMERICA.

1997: THE SECOND

Dudley Grange seeking vendors and crafters for **Apple Festival**

DUDLEY — Dudley Grange's Annual Apple Festival this year is Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There are 10 X 10-foot spaces still available for vendors and crafters.

The Grange's Apple Festival, in conjunction with the Black Tavern Craft Fair, Dudley's Agricultural Commission and the Dudley Historical Commission, bring the old New England Fall Fair experience to Dudley Hill.

For more information on the Dudley Grange Apple Festival or to register for a 10 X 10 foot space, contact karen.gillon@yahoo.com.

UT student Hannah Swenson of Auburn earns Dean's List honors

TAMPA, Fla. — Hannah Swenson, of Auburn, earned dean's list honors at The University of Tampa for the Spring 2024 semester. Swenson was a Sophomore majoring in Marketing BS.

Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.

The University of Tampa is a private, comprehensive university located on 110 acres on the riverfront in downtown Tampa. Known for academic excellence, personal attention and real-world experience in its undergraduate and graduate programs, the University has about 200 programs of study and serves more than 11,000 students from 50 states and most of the world's countries.

Fairfield University congratulates Spring 2024 Dean's List

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — Riley E. Nicholson of Auburn received Dean's List Honors for the Spring 2024 semester

In order to be placed on the Dean's List, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester, have no outstanding or incomplete grades for that semester, and have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.

Local students named to UMass Dean's List

AMHERST-Below is a list of local students who were named to the dean's list at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for the spring 2024 semester

In order to qualify, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.5 gradepoint average or better on

Kelsey Durant Vincent Johnson Molly Grace Raymond Huy Vinh Tran

WEBSTER

Kylee Jean Croteau Caroline Rose Doering Elizabeth Emma Hinchev

Cassidy Larraine Jones Jada Renae Jones Chaya Paige Lipman Tessicini Daria Piwowarczyk Brooks Poplawski Williams

Clue: Not sunny



a four-point scale OXFORD **Genevieve Bartlett** Elisha Kalimbiro Bujiriri

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TOWN OF SPENCER SEWER DEPARTMENT

The Sewer Department is looking to fill one of the following 3 union positions.

Laborer Sewer Department: Assist in the operation and maintenance of a Municipal Sewer System duties including but not limited to, grounds keeping, snow removal, custodial, equipment and collections system maintenance, operate various pertinent equipment, pump station inspection, record keeping, and filing respond to emergency calls as required. The position requires a high school diploma or general education degree (GED), and/or one to three years of related experience. Training will be provided for possible advancement.

Operations & Maintenance Technician: Assist in the operation and maintenance of a Municipal Sewer System including Laboratory analyses, equipment maintenance, scheduled weekend rotation, collections system maintenance, respond to emergency calls, record keeping, and filing. The position requires a high school diploma or general education degree (GED), and/or related experience working in wastewater treatment plants with three years of experience performing equipment and plant maintenance, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Grade 4 Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's License is preferred or ability to obtain within a time period set by Sewer Commissioners and Superintendent. Training will be provided for possible advancement.

Assistant Chief Operator Sewer Department: Assist in the operation and maintenance of a Municipal Sewer System including Laboratory analyses, equipment maintenance, scheduled weekend rotation, collections system maintenance, respond to emergency calls, record keeping, and filing. The position requires a high school diploma or general education degree (GED), and/or five years of related experience working in wastewater treatment plants with three years of experience performing equipment and plant maintenance, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Grade 5 Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's License is preferred or ability to obtain within a time period set by Sewer Commissioners and Superintendent.

Submit application letter, resume and standard Town application form, available at www.spencerma.gov to Town of Spencer, Human Resources Department, 157 Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562. Open until filled. Subject to Union Rules and Regulations.

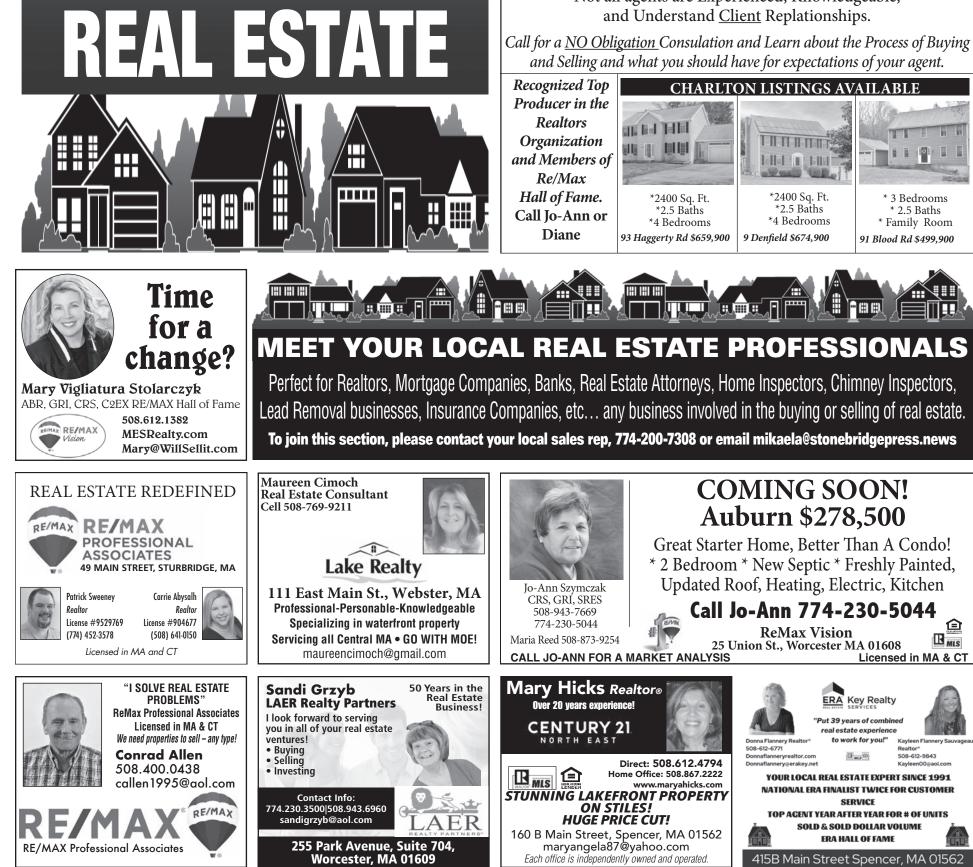
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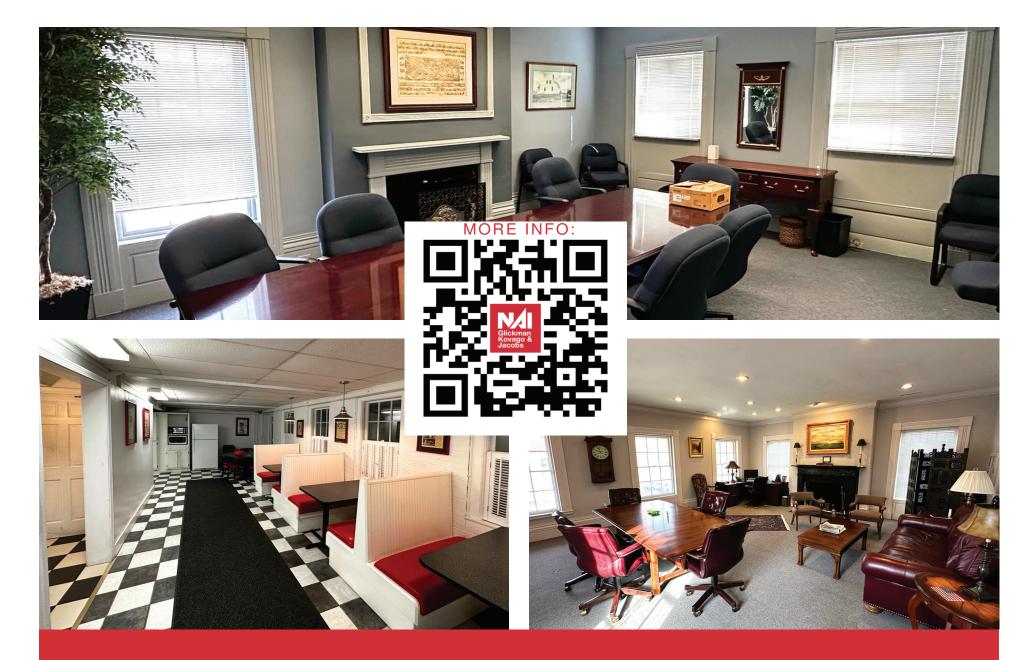
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