

Auburn News

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Friday, November 8, 2024

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Holy Cross football team visits Park Avenue Elementary

Volunteer Audit Committee rejected by Attorney General's Office



Courtesy

Mr. Aronian (Dean of Students) and The Holy Cross Football Team posing for a picture after the event.

Oxford splits tax rate

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — For the first time in years, the selectmen set a split tax rate last week, shifting the burden by 10 percent toward business property.

Instead of a single \$12.94 rate, next year will see residential property getting \$12.67 and businesses getting \$14.23. In his PowerPoint, Assessor Alex Sendzik showed that would mean the average single-family home of about \$408,000 will see a bill of \$5169, while the average business property of \$455,000 will see one of \$6480.

The idea of splitting the rate was first voiced by Amy Frick, and later backed by John Eul and Russ Rheault when the vote came. Frick said she felt a split would help some residents, especially seniors.

Rheault agreed that taxpayers "are hurting," and "even a little bit would help." While businesses can get more customers to make up the taxes, "if you're on a fixed income, you don't have that [option]."

Eul said he saw a 10 percent split as a "crawl walk, run" way to explore the effect of such a change on the community. While noting he has worked on three tax increment financing deals in town, he's "also sensitive to the residents."

He said he thought the town's bigger companies "can afford it." By contrast, he later said even an \$800,000 home (twice the average) pays about \$10,000 in taxes, but cannot cover the cost of having just one child in the schools, about \$18,000 a year.

Although Chair Mark Lee ultimately voted against the split, he said most people don't care much about the rate, they "look at the total bill." In recent years, that's become an issue because "a lot of people's homes have doubled [in value] ... and that's not something we can do a whole lot about."

He later added many fixed-income people "can't afford the inflated rents" but get stuck because they can't find less costly housing. In some cases, retired people aren't making enough and have to tap the equity in their homes to survive, he added.

Robert King, by contrast, largely sided with local businesses, also voting no. He said their owners typically don't reside in town and "only get to vote with their feet." He said he wasn't sure of its impact on mixed-use properties (those with commercial and residential units) and was "worried about the message it sends" to businesses. At present, there's a lot of vacant commercial space and most of the town isn't sewered (something others agreed with), he noted.

During his presentation, Sendzik said "Slightly higher commercial tax rates may or may not inhibit commercial growth," and encouraged the board to consider how a split rate might reflect different levels of how town services are used by various entities. He showed several communities of about Oxford's size have split rates, including Auburn, Bellingham, Clinton, Berlin and Milford, while others don't. Before the vote, he said his board was recommending a single rate.

He also noted his average business value excluded five of the very large properties on the grounds they skewed the average a lot. That prompted King to observe the town can't "cherry pick" the larger firms to pay higher rates while protecting smaller ones.

Town Manager Jen Callahan compared that to building a millionaires' mansion next to a 1500 square foot house. She also noted "Home Depot and Market Basket made record, record profits" in recent years, and Oxford's rate is far lower than Worcester's \$30 rate.

For those needing tax help, the board mentioned that there are several programs available. One of the best known is the senior tax workoff, which Callahan said has "grown exponentially" in recent years. But the Assessors also have various kinds of deferral programs whereby taxes are delayed until the owner sells or dies for those who qualify.

MGL Chap 55, section 5, lists several pages of them. Some are specific to seniors, veterans and other groups, while some are income-based.

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

WEBSTER — On Oct. 30, Holy Cross' football team came to play flag football with third and fourth graders at Park Avenue Elementary. Joe Pesansky was slinging the ball left and right to the students as Holy Cross players played on all sides of the ball.

"This was my favorite event so far," said a third grader from Ms. Cournoyer's class.

The Holy Cross football players were really great as they took the extra step to connect with the students.

"It was cool to see these guys," said a fourth grader from Mr. Leblanc's

class. "It was a lot of fun."

The players took the time to answer questions from the student, but more importantly asked them questions back - totally interactive and genuine. The event was coordinated through Aaron Dashiell, the Assistant Director of Athletics at Holy Cross, and according to Matthew Aronian, The Dean of Students at Park Avenue Elementary, was a great way to engage the youth in our community.

"Aaron was awesome and was really the backbone behind this community event," said Aronian as he blew the

whistle between plays. "You can't beat these types of events, it gives the students a chance to see what could be if they work hard and stay focused."

Park Avenue Elementary School works hard to continue a strong PBIS platform that includes community events like these. Amy Puliafico (Principal), Jess Ochocki (Assistant Principal) and Keith Goodier (Assistant Principal), as well as faculty here at Park Avenue work hard to keep the PBIS initiative strong and well.

Dudley officials drafting new regulations to prevent PFAS

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — In a continued effort to prevent the spread of PFAS contamination, the Dudley Board of Health is considering a new regulation that would require additional testing for any soil reused in the installation of new septic systems.

The recommendation came from Health Director Patrick Hannon during a meeting of the Board of Health on Oct.

15 who explained that as Dudley and the commonwealth continue to assess PFAS contamination they have come to realize that the reuse of contaminated material could be exacerbating the problem. Hannon noted that through viewing monthly meetings with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) it has come to the attention of many that soils around septic systems can con-

tain PFAS contamination. Currently, when a septic system is replaced there is no safeguard or requirement to prevent the reuse or disposal of contaminated soil, which Hannon said is a problem.

"DEP and some other engineers in the business have come across the fact that the soil absorption systems or the septic fields in people's residences contain a lot of PFAS from fabric softeners and other things

that go through their drains and that currently when a septic system gets replaced in town we don't know where that dirt goes," said Hannon. "If you're downgradient from someone who has a septic system, after 25 or 30 years their septic system may finally send some PFAS in your direction. Rather than having dirt moving around town and not being disposed of properly I would like to

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Courtesy

Following a recent golf tournament that supported local veterans, checks were presented to the Webster/Dudley Veterans Council, Webster/Dudley American Legion Post 184, and VFW Post 654. The Webster and Dudley Veterans held their annual golf tournament at The Dudley Hill Golf Club at Nichols College. Proceeds will support both Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades, as well as programs providing full Military Honors to deceased veterans. Additionally, funds will help members of Post 184 run various programs to assist local veterans. These include a free monthly all-you-can-eat breakfast held for veterans on the first Sunday of every month from 8 a.m. to noon at the Post. Funds will also help VFW Post 654 provide scholarships to students at Bartlett High School, Shepherd Hill Regional High School, and Bay Path Regional Vocational and Technical High School. The VFW also supports the VFW National Children's Home.

Dudley voters approve re-forming Personnel Board

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Town of Dudley took a big step toward reviving its retired Personnel Board following the approval of a pair of citizen petitions at the end of a special town meeting on Oct. 21.

The petitions were the subject of extensive discussion during a public hearing weeks prior with petitioner John Briare and supporters seeking to reinstate the Personnel Board that was effectively disbanded in 2022 after a vote in 2018 amended the town's bylaws. The proposals in October effectively sought to reverse that decision while also updating the Personnel Board bylaw to take into include a Human Resource Manager.

The bylaw changes were addressed as two separate articles, the first seeking to amend the Town Administrator Bylaw to change the qualification for the position, involve the Personnel Board in the hiring process including termination and

establishing proper compensation, establish the Town Administrator or their designee as Human Resources Manager while removing the title of Personnel Director from the bylaw, and more. The second article proposed the reformation of the Personnel Board which, among other responsibilities, would be directly involved in personnel matters including complaints, hiring, discipline, performance evaluations, onboarding and training, benefits, and more while including the Human Resource Manager position as the implementing power of policies established by the board in the Employee Handbook. Minor amendments proposed by Briare for both articles were approved before the final votes were taken.

Both proposals proved to be divisive with town officials, including the Board of Selectmen, urging voters not to support the articles leaning on the advice of the town's Labor Counsel who had previously warned that utilizing a Personnel Board and the way the

bylaw change was written could be contrary to modern trends and state statute. However, Briare and other supporters argued that the Personnel Board worked effectively for the town in the past and that the bylaw is structured to fill the Board with qualified personnel.

"The town has functioned successfully for decades with a Personnel Board and if you look at the quality of the members that were on that Personnel Board — and you look at that wonderful private sector and government experience that we had with our residents within our own town, there are those experts. To say that they were not qualified or that within our own rights we didn't have the talent to be professionals in human resource, that doesn't do justice for the years of experience and service those people provided. We tried to make a change in 2018. In my personal opinion it has not worked out well for the town," said Briare.

Speaking against the articles, Selectman Jana Deschenes shared her

concerns that the bylaws would make it more difficult to draw in new hires, negotiate salaries, and that it would put too much power in the hands of volunteers who she felt should be paid for such expertise.

"Most other Personnel Board and Personnel Board Bylaws that I've read across the state are advisory in nature and that means they have a voice and a seat at the table, but they have to pay attention to everyone else as well. It really makes me nervous that we are looking to shift work that should be paid and done by employees to volunteers. That's not because I don't think the volunteers are capable. We agree that there are people in the community who are capable of doing this work, and if that's the case we should be paying for that work," Deschenes said.

Other comments against the proposed bylaw changes included the lack of input

from town employees and the fact that the town has utilized grant funding to address its hiring standards and implement a system to impose fair wages. There were also questions about the power the bylaw changes would provide the Personnel Board concerning training and the potential liabilities it could bring to the town. A common issue noted at both the public hearing and the special town meeting was whether the bylaw changes would be allowed by the Attorney General's office due to perceived conflicts with state statutes.

Proponents argued that the bylaw meets the

same standards as what was previously in place in 2018 with some adjustments and even improves upon them by including the Human Resource Manager position. At least one commenter expressed the need for the bylaw to put certain powers back in the hands of citizens.

Despite an attempt to table at least the Personnel Board bylaw articles for the annual town meeting in 2025, both articles were approved by a hand-count vote. It remains to be seen if the bylaw changes are approved by the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.

DCRSD embracing multi-tiered system of support

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY / CHARLTON — The Dudley Charlton Regional School District is embracing a proven system to help enhance support among staff across the district bringing together educators and administrators to provide the appropriate resources to provide accessible learning for all students.

Called the "multi-tiered system of support," the approach involves creating three distinct but intertwined approaches to personalization learning strategies starting with the base tier that involves full classroom teaching and including two higher tiers that provide more targeted and individualized

support. Assistant Superintendent of Schools Kelly True provided an update on the district's implementation of these systems during a School Committee meeting in October where she called it a "huge focus" for the entire staff this school year. The district has also put a heavy focus on least restrictive learning (LRE) which True says will be heavily supported by these systems.

"That is going to help us with our work around LRE, with our work around just what's happening in our core classes, making sure that curriculum is accessible for kids and that it's engaging. All those great things that we want. But it starts with leadership and us putting those structures in place for multi-tiered systems of sup-

port," said True. "We are really working as an administrative team so that every building has a working multi-tiered system of support for both academics and social emotional wellness which is a lot of work — We're working together in a course that is going to be very helpful for us and we also have partnered with a consultant."

That consultant is Eric Sheninger who has authored writeups promoting personalized learning strategies and how they bridge the gaps in education. Sheninger will be providing the district with eight visits and consultations to help assist in creating the most accessible learning environment possible in Dudley and Charlton.

"He's going to be working with our

administrative team this year to help guide us on things like looking at data, using data to support our multi-tiered systems of support, and the things that we want to be able to put into place in our schools. He's going to help us get those off the ground as well as help us with different trainings that we can do with our staff and help support the administrators and the work that they're doing with their staff within their buildings, which I think is really important," said True.

The district plans to incorporate Sheninger into their professional development programs and meetings this school year with the end goal of enhancing academic wellness and social emotional health for all.

Grange to explore farming as healing

DUDLEY — On Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 6 p.m., Dudley Grange will explore a topic that very close to home for some of us.

At 6 p.m., Jen Kearney and Beth Cogoli of the Family Farm Education Center will talk about how they use farm animals, planting, and even something as basic as weeding as a way to help people thrive with various disabilities.

The two of them have seen it from opposite directions — Kearney as a provider at the YMCA and Seven Hills, Cogoli as a parent.

After acknowledging the lack of community support for people with special needs, Kearney endeavored to combine her love for farming, agriculture and the environment to offer a safe place for everyone to learn and thrive.

For Cogoli, the same goal came through her oldest son, who has autism. After he adopted a sheep, she watched him blossom and discovered that the best therapy existed in nature with animals. After the quick construction of a barn and run, she invited others to the farm to experience this newfound resource.

Since its incorporation in March of 2020 the Oakham-based Center has served more than 2,500 people and rescued more than 100 farm animals. Working with only three acres and a volunteer staff, the farm now hosts groups for Seven Hills, Stetson School and Making Opportunities Count as well as individuals who visit daily.

The farm is home to a cow, Madam Moo, 13 goats, two pigs, 18 bunnies, two sheep and an array of chickens.

Dudley Grange is at 139 Center Rd., Dudley, right next to Nichols College. This event is free and open to the public.

For Advertising Information Call 774-200-7308 email: mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

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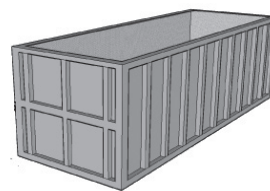
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JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

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

THE NEST GRAND OPENING:

November 18th at 9:30 AM:
Come join us for the Grand Opening of our Small Business Incubator and Co-Working space, The Nest. We will discuss what The Nest can offer Small Business owners and entrepreneurs, and you can meet with some of our collaborators that will be hosting workshops in the space.

Adult Programming
YOGA – Saturday: November 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th at 9:30 AM

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

FRIENDS CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS: Eduardo Ortiz -- November 14th at 6:30 PM

Eduardo Ortiz is a professional musician, director, bass player, and composer. Son of the trumpet player maestro Dante Ortiz, his career began 50 years ago in his native country, Dominican Republic. During the past 20 years, he has been an ambassador representing Dominican culture through his artistry in Massachusetts and locally in the city of Worcester. Eduardo has also a rich deep background in Jazz and Latin

music for both live audiences and in recording and studio production. He has composed over 20 pieces. Just released his first album “El tiempo pasa” and is currently working on his second production. Eduardo lives in the city of Worcester with his beautiful and supportive wife Niurka Ortiz, close to his grandkids and daughters.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP—November 18th at 6:30 PM

This month’s book discussion will be in the Library’s The Nest. The Group will be discussing Such Kindness by Andre Dubus III. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcox@cwmares.org for inquiries.

COOKBOOK CLUB— December 10th at 6:00 PM

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

ADULT BOARDGAME NIGHT--- November 25th at 6:00 PM

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

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

This program is for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please call ahead if special accommodations or requirements are needed. We are happy to accommodate! Sensory Bins: Chair Yoga: 11/25/24 Craft Program: 11/18/24

How to Protect Against Cyber Fraud with Webster Five and The Webster Police Department--- November 12th at 3:30 PM

Join Webster Five Bank and the Webster Police Depart to learn how to protect yourself against cyber fraud.

Beyond the Bicep: The Real Story of Rosie the Riveter Tuesday November 19th at 6:00 PM

Her image has adorned everything from lunchboxes to lampshades, but what is the real story of Rosie the Riveter? Together we’ll trace her journey from propaganda poster to feminist icon while uncovering the history of the real life Rosies who not only inspired that infamous bicep, but whose work in wartime industries helped secure an Allied victory during World War II.

Travels through the Heart and Soul of New England Stories of Struggle, Resilience, and Triumph--- Thursday 21st at 6:30 PM

Journalist and author Ted Reinstein has reported all around New England for 25 years, telling the colorful stories of this historic yet ever-changing corner of America. Now, he condenses his countless travels into a single, unique labor of love: a journey through the heart and soul of New England, meeting the most memorable people—and their unlikely stories—all along the way. People whose struggles, toughness, triumphs, and humor not only define the very essence of New England, but represent the timeless best of America as well.

Children’s and Young Adult Programming

Scavenger Hunt--- All Month Long

What’s more exciting than a scavenger hunt? Come upstairs to the Children’s room to pick up a list of things to find all around the library. Once you’ve completed the scavenger hunt, check in with the Children’s Librarian to redeem a prize.

TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT--- All month long

Take and Make craft kids are now available for pick up upstairs in

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

MAKER MONDAYS – Mondays from 3:30-4:30 PM

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

Me and My Mini: November 7th,14th and 31st at 10:00 AM

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

KIM THE LEGO LADY: November 19th at 4:00 PM

Do you love building, creating, and having fun with LEGO? Look no further! Our brand-new LEGO Club is launching, and we want YOU to be part of the adventure. Join us for interactive building challenges, new skills and create fabulous imaginative builds. For ages 5 to 11.

MINI BLOCK PARTY Tuesday November 12th at 3:30 PM

Love building? This revamped program invites kids to explore their creativity with magnet tiles, wooden blocks, hollow blocks, LEGO, and more

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@cwmares.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.

Sensory Bin Storytime: Colors--- Tuesday at 10:00 AM

Come join us for a fun filled Storytime as we read together and then let our imaginations fly through different sensory bin activities. Each week will offer a different theme exploration related to the books and bins provided. Perfect for ages 2-5. Siblings are welcome to join.

WEDNESDAY STUFFED ANIMAL STORYTIME--- November 13th and 27th at 10:00 AM

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

PETITS PICASSOS: October November 20th at 10:00 AM

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

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Oct. 27 to Nov. 2.

Amy M. Brozowski, age 48, of Webster was arrested on Oct. 31 in connection with a warrant.

A 31-year-old female from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Oct. 31 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Vandalization of Property.

A 50-year-old female from Webster was issued a summons in lieu of arrest on Oct. 31 for Possession of a Class B Drug with Intent to Distribute and Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law. Phillip Smith, age 47, of New Britain, Conn. was arrested during the same incident for possession of a Class B Drug with Intent to Distribute (subsequent offense), Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law, and in connection with a warrant.

A 31-year-old female from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on Nov. 1 for Violation of an Abuse Prevention Order.

Nikole K. King, age 30, of Webster was arrested on Nov. 2 in connection with a warrant.

Friday's Child



Lisa
Age 11
Registration # 7811

Hi! My name is Lisa and I like unicorns!

Lisa is described as both funny and intelligent. She is open to new experiences and has gone horseback riding, taken violin lessons, played volleyball at her school, and taken part in a local Wizard of Oz production. She loves arts and crafts, playing card and board games, and watching videos on her tablet. Lisa enjoys reading and you can always count on her to have a book in hand. Lisa would one day like to take gymnastics

or karate lessons. Lisa also attends a youth group, which she enjoys very much.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7811>

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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.



OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

323 Main St.
(508) 987-6000
Laura Wilson, Director

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

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

*The Oxford Senior Center will be CLOSED on Monday, Nov. 11; Thursday, Nov. 28; & Friday, Nov. 29

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

Weekly Activities:

Mondays and Fridays @ 10:00 am – Cribbage

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

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

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

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

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

Thursdays @ 10:00 am – Dominoes

Fridays @ 9:00 am – Walking Club (weather permitting)

Monthly Activities:

Let's Talk Oxford History – 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1pm - Sponsored by the Oxford Historical Commission

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Special Presentations:

Medicare Open Enrollment Presentation- Friday, November 22nd @ 10:00 AM

BUS TRIP:

The Reagle Music Theatre presents "Christmas Time" with lunch at The Chateau

Sunday, December 15th \$135 pp... Must sign up and pay in full by November 22, 2024

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

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

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

5 Church St.
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Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov

Senior Center hours are Monday-Friday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., with every first Thursday 9 a.m.- 7 p.m.

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least forty-eight hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 11/12, Swedish Meatballs, mashed potatoes, Scandinavian vegetables. Wednesday, 11/13, Roast Pork w/ Gravy, cranberry stuffing, country blend vegetables. Thursday, 11/14, Potato Crunch Fish, herbed potatoes, peas and onions. Friday, 11/15, Soup du Jour, corned beef sandwich, coleslaw.

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

FUEL ASSISTANCE is returning to the Senior Center. Starting Thursday, November 7th, WCAC will be here every other Thursday from 9:30 am- 2:30 pm. These times are first come, first served, and there are no appointments.

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

Come on down to the Bomba Beauty Salon at the Webster Senior Center! Call 508-341-8724 for an appointment. Bomba Beauty Salon is open for walk in

appointments on Wednesdays from 10:00 am- 1:00 pm, and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays by appointment only from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm. Please call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.

We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided. No registration needed. The movie for November 13th is The Lego Movie, and November 20th is Elvis. There will be no movie on November 27th.

The first Thursday of every month we will be open until 7:00 pm with entertainment starting at 5:45 pm. December 5th we will be making burlap mesh poinsettia wreaths. There is no fee for this event, but registration is required. Please call 508-949-3845, or sign up at the front desk.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senior SAFE is a program that supports fire and life safety education for

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

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

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



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



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Douglass Weiss, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon (DKH)



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



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



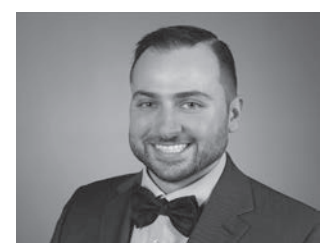
Michael P. Bradley, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon (Ortho RI)



Alyson Hernigle, PA-C, AT-C
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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)
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OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027
Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours:
Monday, Tues., Thurs..... 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156)
For emergencies, call 911

OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)
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Office Hours:
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Tuesday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-1212)
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WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875)
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Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Embracing the shift: Falling back to a cozier season

As the clocks roll back an hour and daylight slips away a bit sooner, it's easy to feel the initial sting of losing those precious evening rays. The transition to shorter days and longer nights can be tough—our routines are thrown off, the dark arrives before dinner, and it feels like our world has shrunk just a little. But while that initial adjustment can feel jarring, there's an opportunity in this seasonal shift to lean into something more comforting and cozier.

When we fall back, we enter a season that invites us to slow down and settle in. The crisp, cool air outside becomes a reason to pull out our favorite sweaters, gather around fires, and sip on warm drinks that taste like nostalgia. It's a time when neighborhoods start to glow with holiday lights, and homes become filled with the sounds of friends and family reconnecting over shared meals and laughter.

For those who thrive on outdoor adventure, the shift also marks the beginning of snow sports season. The first snowfalls dust the world in white, creating a canvas that catches the sunlight and transforms the simplest landscapes into scenes of breathtaking beauty. Whether you're skiing down a mountain, sledding with the kids, or taking a quiet walk as snowflakes fall around you, there's something undeniably magical about embracing winter's gifts.

And while the early nights may initially feel like a loss, they can also be an invitation. An invitation to slower evenings at home, wrapped in blankets, breathing in the cool, refreshing air as it seeps through the window. An invitation to more time spent catching up with loved ones, sharing stories, and building up the excitement for the holidays ahead.

Adjusting to the time change isn't always seamless, but soon enough, we settle into this season and realize it's not so bad after all. It's the season of comfort, of gathering, and of finding joy in the simple things. So, as we turn the clocks back and brace for the darker evenings, let's remember to also turn our focus to the light—whether it's in the glow of holiday decorations, the sparkle of snow under the sun, or the warmth shared with those we love.

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

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

Prayer is connecting and communing with God, Part 2

Prayer is Connecting and Communing with God, in my series on Prayer. In Part 1, I mentioned how I want to challenge each of us to reflect on 1) how we pray, 2) why we pray, 3) what we pray, and 4) what the ultimate purpose of prayer is. I hope that by the end of this series we will understand prayer better and begin praying in a more serious, disciplined manner. I want us to discover the joy and blessing of deeply connecting with our Creator and richly communing with the Giver of Life every day through our prayers.

We all know that God is love. This is the foundation of our faith. "In this the love of God was made manifest among us," St John writes. "That God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:7-10). God loves us passionately, extravagantly, and unconditionally and He wants each of us to enter into this intimate relationship with Him, to encounter His divine agape and be "wounded by His love" in the depths of our hearts and souls. Ultimately, He wants us to live in His love.

How can we experience such divine love? Well, prayer is the primary way we develop such an intimate relationship with the Lord. Prayer as our connection and communion with God is more essential to who we are than the rhythm of our breathing or the beating of our heart. Without prayer there is no life, no "abundant life" which Jesus promised each of His followers.

As human beings, we were created to pray just as we were created to speak and to think. It's a part of our nature. The human being is best defined not as some logical or tool-making animal but as a person who prays and communes with the Lord, a person created in the image and likeness of God who is capable of offering the world back to God through our prayers of praise and thanksgiving, confession and intercession.

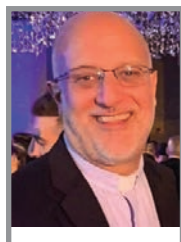
Now, it's not easy to truly pray. The world distracts our minds and fragments our thinking. Our ego misguides our desires. Our intellect fills us with skepticism and tempts us with doubt. How do we connect and commune with God when Satan does all he can to deceive us and turn us away from the Source of Life?

Well, the disciples wondered the same thing. They would often watch Jesus go off on His own to pray. They would see Him spend entire nights up in the mountains or out in deserted places praying. Some of them witnessed Jesus in ecstatic communion with His Father, emanating the uncreated divine light as He prayed. So, one day, the disciples asked Jesus, "Teach us to pray."

They understood that they must learn, they must practice, they must develop the spiritual discipline of praying. They understood that the last thing that Satan wants is for God's people to turn toward Him in prayer. The devil will do whatever he can to divert our attention, to fill our minds and hearts with distractions, to keep us from connecting and communing with God.

That's why when the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He responded by teaching them what we call "The Lord's Prayer," the "Our Father." In this prayer, Jesus offered a simple yet profound prayer that taught both how to pray and what to pray. Thus, I want to reflect on the Lord's Prayer and help us understand and practice it in a more sincere and devout manner.

"Our Father who art in heaven" – The first thing I want us to notice is that we begin our prayer, and the entire first



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

half of the prayer, we focus on God, not ourselves. Yes, we will ask for certain things and take into consideration our own needs in the second half, but we begin prayer by simply acknowledging the Lord Almighty, praising and turning our attention toward Him alone.

"OUR FATHER" – Take note that the prayer begins not as an individualistic prayer but as a communal prayer, where we join the communion of saints. There is no mention of "I, me, my, mine" in the prayer: Right from the beginning, we understand that we enter into the presence of God not alone, but with the company of both the Church triumphant in heaven along with the people of God on earth. Saint John Chrysostom says, "Jesus teaches to make our prayer common, on behalf of all people ... making supplications for the whole body of humanity and never looking only for one's own concerns and salvation." We are brothers and sisters with all people throughout the world and we acknowledge that in our prayer as we turn to the God of all.

By calling God Our Father, we also highlight a fundamental truth of our Christian faith. We have learned that the Lord Almighty, the Alpha and the Omega of Creation, is Someone we may dare to intimately call "Our Father." He is not only the Infinite Being of Eternity but we have permission to relate with Him as a loving parent who cares for us and loves us more than even the most loving earthly father we can imagine.

Our Father IN HEAVEN" - although we turn to God as our loving father, we never forget that He is still "the Lord of heaven and earth." He is the Creator, the Almighty, the Beginning and End of all history and creation. We must take care not to sentimentalize the whole idea of God as a Heavenly Father, but still acknowledge and approach Him with deep reverence and awe!!!

"Hallowed be Your Name." Our first prayer focusing on glorifying God's name, acknowledging His Name as holy. "Aghios" means something not of this world, something set apart different and special. We pray that God "enable us to give Him the unique place which His nature and character deserve and demand."

Yet, how do we hallow or sanctify His Name? We do this not only with words, but by understanding who God is as the Creator and Sustainer of Life. We glorify His name by committing our lives to follow Him, to imitate Him by living holy lives ourselves, by living lives worthy of calling God our Father.

"Your Kingdom come." Jesus came to usher in the Kingdom of Heaven as a present reality which we experience here and now. We enter the Kingdom of God at every Divine Liturgy. The Kingdom of God is in our midst. His Kingdom abides in the hearts of each of us, if we are open to it. We invite God to "reign" in the world beginning by reigning in our hearts. We await the eternal kingdom at Christ's second coming, but we pray that we may fulfil the will of God in our lives by living the reality of His Kingdom here and now.

"Your will be done" – Here, maybe is the most difficult part of our prayer. We offer ourselves to God and pray that His will, not our own, be done in the world and in our lives. We pray that we find the strength and wisdom to discern His will and humbly, obediently and cheerfully fulfill it. And of course, we remember that the safest place to be is in the Will of God.

Turn To **BEYOND** page **A7**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for another successful book sale

To the Editor:
Thank you to everyone who helped or attended the Fall Friends of the Oxford Free Public Library Book/Bake Sale. It was a wonderful success!

So much goes into the preparation and execution of the twice a year book sales. Thanks to the wonderful set up crew who lugged tables, bookcases, and hauled out the many boxes of books, those who came to unpack and organize the books, the volunteers who helped during the sale, and the few, but mighty, ROTC cleanup crew.

Thank you also to everyone who answered the call for baked goods. The

food table was full with an amazing assortment of goodies that the customers really enjoyed.

We appreciate everyone who came to the sale to shop and support the Friends in their goal to fund library programs.

The book sales could not succeed without the many hands that make it happen and the support of the community. Thank you all!

Sincerely,

LEANNE JEZERSKI, SECRETARY
ROBIN BRIGGS, TREASURER
FRIENDS OF THE OXFORD FREE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tiffany Studios and Tiffany & Company



One of the most knowledgeable antique dealers I've worked with used to call Tiffany "the magic word." The Tiffany name coupled with the quality and craftsmanship of their pieces commands a premium.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES

WAYNE TUISKULA

Tiffany's history dates back nearly 200 years. Their website states that Charles Lewis Tiffany and John B. Young opened a "stationery and fancy goods" store with a \$1,000 advance from Tiffany's father. The shop opened at 259 Broadway in New York and focused on "American style" goods that differed from the styles of the day in Europe. In 1845, the Tiffany & Co. Blue Book became the first direct-mail catalog, offering jewelry and accessories to those who couldn't travel to the New York store.

Tiffany's silverware designs earned them a bronze medal at the 1867 Paris Exposition. At the turn of the 20th century, they opened locations in London and Paris. They weren't only known for their silverware. In 1878, they showcased one of the largest and finest yellow diamonds at 128.54 carats with 82 facets.

Louis Comfort Tiffany took over the business in 1902 and formed Tiffany Studios and other offshoots of the main company. Tiffany & Company continued to produce silver and jewelry while Tiffany Studios produced Tiffany Lamps and stained glass. Louis Comfort Tiffany also produced bronze, glass, pottery and other functional and artistic pieces as Tiffany Studios and under different brands.

Tiffany Studios closed in 1932 while Tiffany & Company continued to run. Tiffany & Company produced china for White House dinners, military medals, and sports trophies. Their jewels have been worn by famous women including Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Elizabeth Taylor. Tiffany & Company still runs their landmark store on 5th Avenue in New York City. You can even order breakfast at Tiffany's in their Blue Box Café.

As you would expect, the quality and beauty of Tiffany pieces continues to make them popular with collectors. In one of our auctions last month, we sold a group of Tiffany bronze and glass desk accessories that brought \$1,200. We also sold a Tiffany "Olympian" pattern sterling silver flatware set for \$3,500. An antique Tiffany 18 karat gold necklace with tourmaline stones brought \$23,000.

Stained glass pieces have also fetched some amazing prices at auction. "The Danner Memorial" window made by Tiffany Studios from the First Baptist Church in Canton, Ohio, sold for a little under \$2 million in 2000. A one-of-a-kind Tiffany stained glass and bronze lamp that was exhibited at the Exposition Universelle in Paris in 1900 and at the 1901 Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y., went to auction in 2021. It lit up the auction hall and the bidder's home when it sold for \$3.7 million in 2021.

We have some specialty auctions coming up including a major collection of Civil War memorabilia and a collection of memorabilia of some Hollywood legends. As always, we continue to accept consignments of fine jewelry, sterling silver, paintings by well-known artists, advertising signs, coins, old comic books and baseball cards, and almost any other valuable antique or vintage item for future auctions. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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

Butternut Squash Recipes

As the harvest season wraps up, farmers markets, local stands, and grocery stores are piled high with winter squash, with butternut being a top choice. Butternut squash is healthy, hearty, versatile, and delicious, so it's no surprise it's a seasonal favorite!

From savory soups to flavorful fries, this week's column highlights ways to enjoy the last of the season's finest!



TAKE THE HINT
KAREN TRAINOR

Butternut Squash Bisque
This hearty recipe uses fresh butternut squash and apple cider for a blend of savory and sweet.

Ingredients: 1 tablespoon olive oil; ½ large onion, diced; ½ large carrot, diced; 1 stalk celery, diced; 1 pound butternut squash, peeled, seeded and diced; 2 sprigs fresh thyme, rinsed; 5 cups chicken stock or canned chicken broth; 2 cups apple cider; 2 cups heavy cream, or half cream half chicken stock (optional); Salt and black pepper, to taste.

Directions: Heat the oil in a large pot and sauté the onion, carrot, and celery until the carrot and celery are soft and the onion is translucent, about 5 minutes. Add the squash and thyme and sauté until all of the vegetables are coated with oil, about 2 minutes. Add the stock and the 2 cups of cider and simmer until the squash is very soft, about 30 minutes. Remove from heat. Puree the mixture, in small batches, in a blender on medium speed until smooth and well blended. Place the pureed mixture into another pot and stir in either the cream or stock to achieve the desired consistency. Add the salt and black pepper. Heat gently and serve. **Note:** When heating this soup, be careful not to overcook it to retain its sweet and savory flavor. **

Easy Butternut Squash Soup
This six ingredient Butternut Squash recipe Easy, is not only easy, but healthy. You won't even miss the cream!

Ingredients: ½ T olive oil; 2 garlic cloves, minced; one onion, diced; one butternut squash, peeled and diced into cubes; 32 ounces vegetable broth; 1-2 tsp salt

Directions: In a Dutch oven or heavy pot, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add onion and garlic and cook until softened, about five minutes.

Add cut up butternut squash and vegetable broth. Bring to a boil then cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes until squash is softened.

Blend to desire smoothness with immersion blender (or in a blender). Season with salt. Makes eight cups; 135 calories per cup.

*recipe from YummyHealthyEasy.com
**

Butternut Squash Fries

Ingredients: one medium butternut squash (chose squash with longer necks for more fries); 2 T olive or avocado oil; ½ teaspoon each salt and pepper.

Instructions: Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper.

Peel squash; cut into half, then cut into shorter strips to form fries. (If you have a crinkle cutter, even better!)

In a bowl, coat the squash strips with oil, salt and pepper. Place evenly on the cookie sheet.

Cook for 20 minutes, turn fries, and then cook for another 10 to 20 minutes, until browned and crispy. (Cooking time varies, depending upon how thick the squash is cut.) **

Chinese Butternut Ravioli
This is a restaurant recipe shared years ago, and worth republishing. It's a seasonal treat that combines the flavors of fresh butternut squash and native maple syrup with an Asian twist. And it's so easy to prepare!

Ingredients: Butternut squash; butter; brown sugar; won ton wrappers; egg white; pure maple syrup.

Instructions: Mash and prepare butternut squash with butter and brown sugar as desired. Brush one side of won ton wrapper with egg white wash. Fill center of wrapper with squash and top with another wrapper (washed sides touching). Pinch edges to form a seal. Boil in water for three or more minutes until won tons are tender. Serve hot topped with warmed maple syrup. **

From the archives: Below are two butternut squash tips previously shared by readers:

This tip cuts prep time for butternut squash down to size!

I have an easy tip for prepping butternut squash. The squash is delicious, but it can be such a difficult thing to prepare. Here's a trick you can use to make that process easier: Just place the squash in the microwave for 2-3 minutes. Afterwards you'll see that the squash becomes much easier to seed, peel and cube.

Donna Lewandowski
Charlton, MA
**

Who knew? This reader's slow cooker method eliminates the hassle of peeling and cutting hard-as-a-rock butternut squash!

Here is my tip. Put the whole butternut squash right in the crockpot, add just a little water and cook it until

soft. It comes out so good, I can even eat the skin. I wish my father knew this on all those holidays! Just scoop out the seeds in the middle, no peeling needed.

Cathy Patchen
North Brookfield, MA
**

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

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

BEYOND

continued from page A6

How do we determine the Will of God? Through constant prayer and meditation, through silence and attentive listening to the quiet voice of God; through reading Holy Scripture and other spiritual reading; through the voice of other people, spiritual mentors and guides; and through the life of the church.

"Give us this day our daily bread" - At the half-way point of the prayer, we turn to our own needs, asking for daily bread. Yet this bread can imply both spiritual and physical sustenance. Jesus said "I am the Bread of Life." Christ offers Himself in the Eucharist as the supernatural Bread through His Body. We look at reading Holy Scripture as our daily bread. And then, of course, we ask for the physical sustenance we need. Bread is pretty basic.

Saint John Chrysostom said, "It is not for riches, nor luxurious living, nor costly clothes, nor exquisite food nor any other such thing, but for bread only. And for "daily" bread, so that we receive what we need for today, and then turn to God again tomorrow for what we need. We put our trust in God."

"Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us" - Here we acknowledge our own sins, shortcomings, failures, and debts, asking for His mercy and grace. We also ask for the ability to forgive others, which we acknowledge comes as we open our hearts to receive the forgiveness of God. Remember, we don't forgive others because they deserve our mercy; We forgive others because God first forgives us.

We pray for His mercy toward us so we can show the same mercy toward others.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, or from the evil one" - We can misunderstand the word "temptation" as if we are asking God not to seduce us into evil. The Greek word peirasmon is better translated as test or trial. Thus, we're asking God to not lead us into the times of trial alone where we might fail but to deliver us during this testing from all that is evil and from the Evil One himself. We are praying for strength to overcome the devil and all his works during our times of trial and temptation.

The Lord's Prayer is the first prayer Jesus offered His followers when He was trying to teach them how to pray. The "Our Father" shows us both how to pray and what to pray for. Through this prayer we connect and commune with God. Praying is not easy to do. We need to learn how to pray and practice again and again. Yet, Jesus offered this prayer as the beginning of learning to pray. Let us be attentive with what we are saying each time we pray the "Our Father."

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your Kingdom come, Your Will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Happy Election Week

We stand at the crossroads of another chapter in our nation's story. The act of voting, an honor hard-won and cherished, reflects our journey from a small group of colonies to a mighty republic, constantly tested and reshaped by the hands of its people.

It all began in 1775 with a small group of determined colonists who risked everything for self-governance. Visionaries like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin knew that independence from Britain was only the start. They would go on to craft a nation based on untested ideals of liberty, rallying under the Declaration of Independence—a declaration of rights for all who

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
TOBY MOORE

would call themselves American, even if America's early reality fell far short of this lofty vision.

We faced immediate and daunting challenges. As westward expansion continued, conflicts erupted between settlers and Indigenous tribes.

Tragically, Native American nations were forced from their lands, often with devastating consequences that continue today, reminding us of promises not kept and wrongs that still echo through our history.

Even as America grew, another dark shadow loomed: the institution of slavery. By the 1800s, slavery was entrenched in American life, particu-

larly in the South, where millions of people lived in bondage. Abolitionists like Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman risked their lives to challenge this brutal institution. Their courage would be a rallying cry for the Civil War, a four-year battle that tore the nation apart. Yet, under the leadership of Abraham Lincoln, the Union's victory brought freedom to enslaved people and solidified the principle that "all men are created equal."

The fight for freedom did not end there. The women's suffrage movement took hold in the late 19th century, as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and countless others pushed for equal rights. Decades of relentless advocacy finally succeeded with the passage

of the 19th Amendment in 1920, granting women the right to vote and affirming that America's promise of freedom extended to all citizens.

Just when we seemed to be on a path of unity, the world was thrown into chaos. World War I and later World War II. Veterans of those wars, like Dwight D. Eisenhower and George S. Patton, returned as heroes, their courage reinforcing America's role as a beacon of freedom, yet even as our soldiers fought for liberty abroad, Americans at home wrestled with deep issues of justice and equality.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s marked a new era of

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QCC police hold pet supply drive for hurricane victims

WORCESTER — The Quinsigamond Community College community is coming to the aid of pets affected by the recent hurricanes in several Southern states, through a recent Pet Food Drive sponsored by the QCC Police Department. More than 100 pounds of food and several boxes of supplies and toys have been donated.

“Hurricanes Helene and Milton devastated several of our southern states impacting millions of people as well as their pets. As a community college police department, we strive to put community first in all that we do and this includes helping other communities in need,” said QCC Police Chief Stephen DiGiovanni.

Central Massachusetts Disaster Animal Response Team (CMDART) collaborated with Lions Clubs of Massachusetts to receive and deliver the donations. Over the last several weeks, the college received an outpouring of canned and dry pet food, treats, bedding, leashes and toys. QCC’s donations will join others from across New England to support hurricane victims with pets. The items will be distributed out of North Carolina Lions Camp Dogwood, a retreat for the blind and visually impaired in Sherrills Ford, N.C.

“During catastrophic events, pets are often forgotten about or left behind. They deserve just as much help after these disasters,” said Campus Police Officer Nick Yacuzzi, who is also canine handler to Siggy, QCC’s community resource dog. “Siggy has made a positive impact on our college community and now we are paying it forward by helping support other pet owners in need.”

CMDART is taking applications for volunteers across Central Mass and for those who may want to learn about emergency animal sheltering to help with disasters.

“When the world is full of stress as it is now, the coming together of people who care demonstrates a small positive impact we can make. CMDART was very glad to help mediate this transport to help animals and pet owners impacted in the South,” said JoAnn Griffin, president and team lead of CMDART.



QCC’s Chief elevates responsiveness of public safety communications

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College’s Chief of Police, Stephen DiGiovanni, and Karen Hutner, executive director of Strategic Communications and Public Relations have successfully completed the FBI-LEEDA Master Public Information Officer (PIO) course. Hutner also acts as the Public Information Officer for QCC Police. This advanced, week-long program was held in Columbus, Ohio, and was designed to build on the foundational skills taught in FBI-LEEDA’s Media and Public Relations course, which both Hutner and DiGiovanni completed last year.

“This Master PIO course provides critical tools and knowledge that is a vital component in effectively communicating to our college community, particularly in times of crisis,” said QCC Chief of Police Stephen DiGiovanni. “By adopting these advanced strategies, we’re better equipped to support our college’s communications and crisis management initiatives.”

The Master PIO course is crafted to guide participants from tactical to strategic approaches in media and brand management. This four-and-a-half-day intensive curriculum covers a comprehensive approach to advanced media engagement, internal and external communications strategies, and story pitching. Additionally, attendees learned high-quality video production for social media, developed strategic messaging calendars and participated in scenario-based tabletop exercises aimed at creating a framework for crisis communication manuals.

“Our ability to connect effectively with our community hinges on a strong, proactive media engagement strategy, in addition to communicating effectively to our community,” Hutner said.

FBI-LEEDA is a non-profit organization that provides leadership education for law enforcement professionals. The Master PIO course represents one of the organization’s highest levels of training, advancing the skills and impact of participants nationwide.



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DA earns award for efforts to prevent distracted driving



Courtesy

Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., is congratulated for earning a traffic safety award.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
REGION — Worcester County District Attorney Joseph Early, Jr., recently received an award for helping to prevent distracted driving.

AAA Northeast presented DA Early with a Traffic Safety Hero Award during a ceremony held last month. The award recognizes Early's efforts through multiple initiatives to reduce incidents of distracted driving.

Among the DA's most effective programs this year is the "Eyes Up, Phones Down" campaign.

Launched in March, the campaign is supported by several community, state, and regional partners. These include AAA Northeast, the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles, the Massachusetts

Department of Transportation, the City of Worcester, the Worcester Police Department, the Safe Roads Alliance, and WalkBike Worcester.

"I am so thankful to AAA for this recognition and for being a partner in our mission of prevention. This award really reflects the efforts of a lot of good people with a passion to make our roads safer," Early said. "They play an essential role in this campaign. Together, all of us are working to prevent traffic deaths and serious motor vehicle crashes."

The Eyes Up, Phones Down campaign specifically encourages drivers to activate the "Do Not Disturb" feature on their cell phones, which mutes notifications while driving. The goal of the campaign is for residents to

avoid distracted driving and help reduce crashes.

Additionally, the campaign utilizes a variety of public education tools, including social media postings, educational pamphlets, and presentations to driving school students.

AAA Northeast hosts an annual Community Safety Traffic Awards ceremony, during which the organization not only recognizes Traffic Safety Heroes, but also local police departments and individual officers or school crossing guards for their safety efforts each year.

This year, 18 police departments and 23 individuals in Massachusetts received awards.

AAA Northeast leaders thank the DA's Office for its efforts in increasing road and pedestrian safety.

"All of us who care about making the roads safer for all road users know that we can accomplish much more when we work together. The Eyes Up, Phones Down campaign proved to be a great stakeholder partnership, and we commend District Attorney Early for his leadership on the distracted driving issue," said Mary Maguire, the vice president of public affairs at AAA Northeast.

To learn more about several other public safety initiatives led by the DA's Office, visit www.WorcesterDA.com.



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Bay Path Academy Director attends JAK-L Foundation's Masquerade Gala for Mental Health



Courtesy

Kim Sterczala of Cahill Tire Automotive Center in Oxford, member of JAK-L Event, Committee and Bolandrina.

JAK-L Foundation directly aligns with my belief in breaking the stigma associated with mental illness and raising awareness for mental health, I fully support their efforts."

For JAK-L Foundation's Masquerade Gala, tickets were available at jak-l.com and the two local locations Essentials Hair Design in Webster, and Cahill Tire Automotive Center in Oxford. Funds raised help support local programs for Mental Health and Scholarships for local schools. Live music, mask contest, dancing, photo booth, and fabulous prizes from raffles and silent auctions along with delicious food made for an enchanted evening.

"Additionally, empowering communities and saving lives, it's what prudent nurses do," said Bolandrina.

She added, "It's a chance to make an impact in mental health awareness, and a chance to show community support."

Further, Bolandrina stated, "I am grateful for the opportunity to participate, for my husband Joseph's support, and Kim's invitation. We look forward to participating again next year and for the May 17, 2025 Walk."

WORCESTER — Grehline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Athol, Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy was joined by her husband, Joseph Bolandrina in the Nov. 2 JAK-L Foundation Masquerade Gala at Union Station. The JAK-L Foundation mission is to expand mental health awareness and directly impact the community to reduce the stigma around accessing mental health support. The JAK-L Foundation wants to directly support suicide prevention as part of their work and encourage the community to prioritize mental health.

JAK-L Foundation is a non-profit organization founded to raise money for mental health awareness in memory of Julie Lulu, a beloved daughter, sister, mother, niece, and friend. Directly from JAK-L Foundation's Web site (<https://jak-l.com/>): "We lost Julie to suicide in 2017 after a long battle with her own mental health struggles. Julie was a fierce, loving, and goofy person and that got lost in the midst of her battle at times."

Further stated at the Web site, "We, as a family, know how devastating the loss to suicide is and our goal is to raise money with the goal of supporting others and their families so that they don't have to experience what we did." The office of JAK-L Foundation is located at 43 Buffum Rd., Charlton.

Bolandrina stated, "The mission of

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OBITUARIES

Beatrice E. Young, 89



P E P P E R E L L — Beatrice E. (Dancause) Young, 89, of Idal Street, died Thursday, October 31, 2024, in her home. She was predeceased by her husband of 59 years, Clarence “Kelly” H. Young who died in 2013. She is survived by two children, Robin Day and her husband Ronald of Pepperell; and David Young of Pepperell; a sister, Janice Kekelik and her husband Richard of Dudley; her brother-in-law, Walter Fettig of Dudley; her daughter-in-law, Brenda Young of Millbury; ten grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson. She was predeceased by a son, Gary Young; and a sister, Rita Fettig.

She was born in Webster, daughter of the late Henry and Doris (Latour)

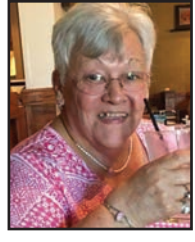
Dancause, and lived in Webster for 20 years, Lowell for 30 years, and Oxford for 20 years, before moving to Pepperell several years ago.

Mrs. Young was a homemaker throughout her life. She operated a vegetable stand with her husband in their yard for twenty years. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church in Webster. She enjoyed playing Bingo, traveling to Branson, MO, going to the Senior Center in Pepperell, and camping at Wyman’s Beach in Westford. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family.

A funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, November 11, 2024, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 18 East Main St., Webster. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to MSPCA-Angell, 350 South Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130.

Paradis-Givner Funeral Home in Oxford is directing the arrangements.

Theresa J. Gaboury 80



Theresa J. {Cierpich} Gaboury 80, of Parrish, FL, passed away peacefully on October 21, 2024. Theresa was born March 22, 1944, the daughter of the late Francis and late Claire {Laurion}

Cierpich. She is survived by her four children, Dianna Hammond, Mark Gaboury, Tina Corso and Marlene Brodeur. Her Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, one Brother and three Sisters and numerous Nieces and Nephews. A Celebration Of Life will be held at a later date.

John Joseph Antos, 69



Webster - John Joseph Antos, age 69, passed away peacefully at his home after a brief illness.

John is survived by two sons Josh Antos and his wife Denise Angelo-Antos. Joseph Antos and his

partner Courtney Kent, and his granddaughter Vivian Antos. His ex-wife and friend, Michelle (Donais) Antos. His sister Susan Patterson of Tucson, AZ. Nephew Jeremy Nadolny, niece Tanya Nadolny, and nephew John Antos all of Tucson, AZ. He was predeceased by his father Stanley, his mother Sally and her partner of 40 years Alan “Eppy” Epstein. He loved his family, especially his mother and grandparents Joe and Bernadette (Bea) Twardzik who predeceased him and his many relatives in the Twardzik and Donais families.

John was born on October 26, 1955 in Dudley, son of the late Stanley and Sally (Twardzik) Antos. He grew up as a resident of Dudley and enjoyed all the years spent in the neighborhood known as “Jericho”. John moved to Webster in 1990 and lived there the rest of his life.

John was an outstanding athlete. Following in the footsteps of the Twardzik family, he lettered in both baseball & football in his 4 years at Bartlett High School. He was a Central Mass and Border Conference All Star. He helped lead the 1973 Baseball Team coached by the legend Ziggy Strzelecki to the State Semi Finals in Pittsfield, MA. Also, during his high school years, he played Legion Ball. He was a standout pitcher and utility player for the Post 173.

John graduated as the last male athlete in the last class in 1973 from the Webster/Dudley Barlett High School era. He went on to work at Saint Gobain (formerly Norton Company) for 45 years, retiring in 2022.

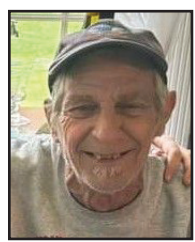
John was heavily involved in the Webster Little League for over 3 decades in multiple capacities as a coach, umpire, and Board of Director. In addition, he was a high school umpire for 20 years.

John’s love of baseball and softball continued as he played in the Webster Men’s Modified softball league for Andy’s, PAV, and Cheers II. He also played in the Dudley Sunday morning softball league for High St. Café. John played in the men’s pitch league at Bush Hall and spent many years playing with family and friends.

John loved all sports and was a die-hard Yankees and Giants fan. He was an avid golfer and enjoyed playing golf in the Friday night league at the Raceway Golf Course.

John’s funeral will be held on Friday, November 15, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main Street, Dudley (PLEASE MEET AT THE CHURCH). Burial will follow in the family plot at Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. Memorial calling hours will be held Thursday, November 14, 2024 from 5:00 to 8:00 at Bartel Funeral Home, 33 Schofield Ave, Dudley. The family would like to thank Mark Bartel for his compassion and assistance during this difficult time. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory can be made to the Webster Little League Baseball, Little League Lane, Webster, MA 01570. www.Bartelfuneralhome.com

Frank ‘Frankie’ Olszta, 72



WEBSTER - Frank ‘Frankie’ Olszta, 72, died Sunday, October 27, 2024 at home after being stricken ill.

He leaves a son, Nathan F. Olszta of Dudley; a grandson, Luke Olszta; 2 sisters, Lucy Ann Turner of Point Judith, RI, and Nancy Olszta of Oxford; 2 brothers, Edward Olszta of Oxford and Mitchell Olszta of Vernon, CT; nephews and nieces. He also leaves his beloved dogs Ellie and Spot.

He was born on May 29, 1952 in Southbridge, the son of Edward S. and Congetta (Potalivo) Olszta and graduated from Bay Path Regional Vocational

Technical High School in Charlton in 1973. He grew up on Schofield Avenue in Dudley before moving here.

Mr. Olszta was a toll booth operator on the Mass. Turnpike for many years before retiring.

He belonged to the Polish National Alliance of Dudley and to the Italian Associates Club in Southbridge.

He enjoyed drag racing his motorcycle all over New England. He loved music and was a huge motorhead.

Memorial calling hours will be held from 2:00 to 4:00 PM on Saturday, November 16, in the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street.

www.websterfunerals.com

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



REJECTED

continued from page A1

wrote, “Although the Town, by by-law, may establish an advisory committee for the purpose of advising the Board of Selectmen with regards to financial matters, including the selection of a third-party independent audit firm, the Town, by by-law, cannot interfere with the Selectmen’s authority to appoint the “town’s Auditor” by authorizing an Audit Committee to select the “town’s Auditor” independent from the Selectmen nor can the by-law authorize someone other than the “town’s Auditor” to undertake an audit of property held in public trust under G.L. c. 41, §

53. Further, the by-law cannot require the Town Administrator to include money within the Town’s budget to carry out the purposes of the by-law.”

Caprioli stated the bylaw amendment is titled “Audit Advisory Committee,” yet as written it is not intended to advise or offer guidance to the selectmen but instead seeks to remove the Selectmen’s authority with regards to the town’s auditor and over audits in general. Therefore, she said, the by-law that removes this authority from the Selectmen and gives it to the Audit Committee, conflicts with state law.

Further, she said the bylaw calls for the Town Administrator to include a sum of money decid-

ed by the Audit Advisory Committee to conduct an audit.

“The by-law cannot mandate that the Town Administrator (or the

Selectmen) include ‘a sum of money’ in the annual budget for purposes of conducting an audit, nor can the by-law require Town Meeting

to appropriate money requested by the Audit Committee,” Caprioli wrote.

The full decision letter may be viewed at

<https://www.dudley-ma.gov/town-clerk/news/%C2%A0attorney-generals-decision-article-24-dudley-case-11419>.

DUDLEY

continued from page A1

craft a regulation that if you’re going to reuse soil from a septic system in a replacement then it has to be tested for PFAS.”

PFAS contaminants, which are often found in a variety of products, including carpets, fabrics, food packaging, and fire-fighting foam, have been a major concern for Dudley throughout the 2020s. While local well contamination has been associated with the capped landfill and other sources, Hannon’s statements bring to light

the fact that some of the contamination could simply be the result of aged systems and normal household products. While the town has made efforts to help mitigate the problem, a Board of Selectmen meeting a month prior to the Board of Health discussion in October put the focus on the concern of contaminated soils that may be moving in and out of town through local reclamation projects bringing the idea of soil transfers to the forefront of the debate.

Hannon’s recommended regulation would require any soil displaced

or reused as fill for the installation of new septic systems be tested for PFAS using federal standard which MassDEP is considering adopting on the state level. The regulation’s purpose would be to prevent the continued contamination of PFAS on private properties and help alleviate runoff into neighboring properties. The Board of Health instructed Hannon to create a draft of the regulation for their next meeting which was set for Nov. 26. Specifics of the document, including any potential penalties or how much those tests may cost homeowners,

were not discussed at the October meeting.

Hannon also brought up that during the Board of Selectmen meeting in September, which featured a discussion with representatives from MassDEP, the state’s “Well Mod” established in 2023 regulation was brought to light which has become a recommended standard for towns across the commonwealth. The Health Director stated he did adapt that regulation to the town of Dudley and plans to bring it to the November meeting for consideration as well.

POSTIVELY

continued from page A7

change, challenging systems of segregation and discrimination. Leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and John Lewis reminded the nation that “freedom for all” meant just that—for every race, creed, and color.

They pushed America toward the promises written into its founding documents through marches, sit-ins, and speeches, which led to legislative milestones like the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act, which continue to protect and empower citizens today.

Since then, we’ve faced significant challenges and times of turmoil—from foreign wars to September 11th and beyond.

Through it all, our strength has been found not in perfection but in a continued willingness to change and strive for a better future.

And here we are again, after a divisive election, with candidates on all sides calling for different

paths forward.

We must remember that we are united by a shared love for our country and by the knowledge that, regardless of who sits in the Oval Office, the power rests with the people. We must uphold the ideals that have defined America: liberty, justice, and freedom for all.

So whether your candidate wins or loses, whether this election played out precisely as you’d hoped or not, we all have a role to play in moving forward. Our nation’s history is built on debate, disagreement, and, ultimately, unity in the pursuit of freedom. That pursuit makes us the “shining city on a hill”—a place of hope, progress, and promise. Our light must never be extinguished.

Together, we can keep America strong, free, and fair—a place where all voices are heard and everyone, regardless of race, religion, or background, can pursue their dreams.

Happy Election Week, and may our love of country keep us united, now and always.

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy welcomes new adjunct faculty

CHARLTON—The Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is pleased to welcome newly appointed adjunct faculty Megan Redkey, BSN, RN, CCRN of Gardner.

Professor Redkey is an experienced RN with a specialty in critical care. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science at University of Massachusetts Boston (December 2019) and her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at MCPHS University, Worcester, MA (May 2021) where she was inducted to the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Her academic honors include Magna Cum Laude and Dean’s List. She is expected to complete his Doctor of Nursing Practice degree (Family Nurse Practitioner Track) in 2027 at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, Tan Chingfen Graduate School of Nursing. Her



Megan Redkey

certifications include AACN CCRN, AHA BLS, AHA ACLS, and AHA PALS. Her work experience includes Critical Care Float Pool at UMass Memorial Medical Center University Campus where she provides care and management of patients to all ICU and

specialty inpatient settings including surgical, transplant, trauma, neuro, cardiovascular, pulmonary, pediatric/PICU, PACU/SACU, cardiac step-down, and cardiac short-stay including maintenance of specialty education associated with each unit. She

was previously connected with the Heart and Vascular Critical Care Unit at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, where she precepted and was a back-up/trainee, shadow experience partner for new grads/students, dayshift. Professor Redkey volunteers with the Medical Reserve Corps, Wachusett Unit.

“We are excited to have Professor Redkey join the Practical Nursing Academy,” stated Grehelene Bolandrina DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director. “She brings with her expertise and experience that would greatly benefit the PN students and our Bay Path community.”



Country Bank donates \$10,000 to American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund

REGION — Country Bank, a full-service financial institution serving Central and Western Massachusetts, is pleased to demonstrate its unwavering support for those affected by recent hurricanes, with a generous \$10,000 donation to the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund. This contribution reflects the bank's commitment to its motto, "Made to Make a Difference," by providing assistance during times of need.

As Florida communities face the devastating impacts of Hurricane Helene and the impending landing of Hurricane Milton, the urgency for support and relief efforts is paramount. Country Bank, under the leadership of Mary McGovern, President and CEO, is standing by those greatly impacted during this recent event.

"We believe in supporting those greatly impacted during these weather-related events, especially when it matters most," said Mary McGovern. "Our donation to the American Red Cross is not just a financial contribution; it's a commitment to helping those in dire situations rebuild their lives and restore hope."

The American Red Cross, a key player in disaster response, provides shelter, food, and emotional support to individuals and families affected by hurricanes. Country Bank's donation is aimed at supporting the American Red Cross's ability to provide immediate relief and long-term recovery services to impacted communities.

Country Bank encourages other local businesses and community members to join in the effort to support hurricane relief. Together, we can make meaningful difference and help those impacted recover from these challenging circumstances. Learn more at redcross.org.

About Country Bank

Country Bank is a full-service \$1.8B mutual community bank serving Central and Western Massachusetts with 14 offices in Ware, Palmer, West Brookfield, Brimfield, Belchertown, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Leicester, Paxton, Charlton, Springfield and Worcester. With a commitment to personalized service and community involvement, Country Bank offers individuals, businesses, and municipalities a comprehensive range of banking products and services. Country Bank is a member of FDIC, DIF, and the SUM network. Country Bank can be reached at 800-322-8233 or online at countrybank.com.



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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 Grace Boro to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Mega Capital Funding Inc., dated March 17, 2023 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68940, Page 170, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from:

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Mega Capital Funding Inc., its successors and assigns to Mega Capital Funding, Inc., recorded on August 26, 2024, in Book No. 70937, at Page 59

for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00 PM on December 2, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 15 Glenview Road a/k/a 15 Glen View Road, Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

The land in Auburn, County of Worcester, bounded and described as follows: Being all of Lot #14 on a Plan of Highlawn Manor Estates, dated July, 1951, drawn by R.B. Cullinan, Surveyor, recorded in Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 186, Plan 61, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a stone bound on the easterly side of Glenview Road, it being the northerly corner of said Lot # 14 as shown on said plan;

THENCE S. 50 degrees 35' 40" E. 142.81 feet by Lot #13 as shown on said plan to a stake;

THENCE S. 35 degrees 14' 30" W. by lots 9 & 10 as shown on said plan 100 feet to a stake;

THENCE N. 52 degrees 37' W. by lots # 15 as shown on said plan 149.77 feet to a stake;

THENCE by a curve to the right a radius of which is 160 feet, a distance of 40.39 feet to a stone bound;

THENCE N. 37 degrees 23' E. 19.07 feet to a stone bound;

THENCE by a curve to the right the radius of which is 124.29 feet, a distance of 47.05 feet to the point of beginning. Said last three courses being by Glenview Road.

Containing 15,200 square feet of land, more or less.

For mortgagor's(s) title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68821, Page 330.

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

TERMS OF SALE:

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

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

MEGA CAPITAL FUNDING, INC.
Present holder of said mortgage
By its Attorneys,
HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.
150 California St.
Newton, MA 02458
(617)558-0500
26353
November 1, 2024
November 8, 2024
November 15, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. W024P3456EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Joseph David Ciesla
Date of Death: 11/15/2023

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Stanley F. Ciesla of Webster MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that:
Stanley F. Ciesla of Webster MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/19/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: October 31, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 8, 2024

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT**
Docket Number: 24 SM 003768

TO:
Eddie Colon

ORDER OF NOTICE

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq.)

U.S. Bank National Association not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee for RMTP Trust, Series 2021 BKM-TT-V

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Webster, 76 Myrtle Street, given by Eddie Colon to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Seacoast Mortgage Corporation, dated August 8, 2018, and recorded at the Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 59230, Page 134, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before **12/9/2024** or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 10/25/2024
Attest:
Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
November 8, 2024

(SEAL)
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT**
Docket Number: 24 SM 003748
ORDER OF NOTICE

TO:
Lisa Blanchard; Heirs, Devisees, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Shaun Blanchard; Michael Joseph Blanchard; Shawn Thomas Blanchard And to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act: 50 U.S.C. c. 50 § 3901 (et seq): PennyMac Loan Services, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 60 Mason Road, given by Shaun Blanchard and Lisa Blanchard to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., dated December 21, 2007, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 42299, Page 97, and now held by the plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/ Defendants' Servicemembers status. If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at **Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108** on or before December 9, 2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act. Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on October 24, 2024. Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
November 8, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 24 SM 003789 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: Thomas R. Millett Jr and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq) The Bank of New York Mellon FKA The Bank of New York as Trustee for the Benefit of the Certificateholders of the CWABS Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2004-1 claiming to have an interest in a mortgage covering real property in Webster, numbered 13 Goddard Street, Webster, given by Thomas R. Millett Jr to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Nominee for America's Wholesale Lender, dated October 30, 2003, recorded or filed at

Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 32113, Page 88, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer

in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before December 16, 2024, or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on October 29, 2024, Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
November 8, 2024

**TOWN OF DUDLEY
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
71 WEST MAIN STREET,
DUDLEY MA 01571**

Please take notice that:
William LePage
Have applied to the Zoning- Board of Appeals to vary the terms of the Zoning By-Laws Section: 2.04.02 Density Requirements
Location: 4 Sophies Way
In the following respect: A 13ft variance on front setback and 10.6ft variance on side setback for new construction.
The Public Hearing will be held on De-

cember 5, 2024@ 7:00pm at the Town Hall room 321A, at which time you may be heard relative to this Public Hearing. Please contact Amanda Jacobson at 508-949-8012 or building@dudleyma.gov to attend the meeting.
George Slingo, Chairman Zoning Board of Appeals
November 8, 2024
November 15, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
Premises: 557 School Street, Webster, MA 01570

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Minnie E. Huard to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Prime Mortgage Financial, Inc., and now held by **Freedom Mortgage Corporation**, said mortgage dated January 18, 2006 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38255, Page 349, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Prime Mortgage Financial, Inc. to Freedom Mortgage Corporation by assignment dated November 10, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 69869, Page 307; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on December 9, 2024 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

the land in said Webster, together with the buildings thereon, and all the privileges and appurtenances connected therewith, and situated on the easterly side of School Street, and bounded and described as follows, to wit:

BEGINNING at a spike driven into the sidewalk on the easterly line of School Street at its intersection with the northerly line of Fourth Street, so-called, and being the southwesterly angle of the tract hereby conveyed;

THENCE easterly one-hundred and thirty-one (131) feet by said Fourth Street to an iron pipe driven into the ground at other land of Brandes Estate;

THENCE northerly sixty-six (66) feet by said other land of said Estate to an iron pipe driven into the ground at land of Mrs. Edward Hagner;

THENCE westerly one-hundred and thirty-one (131) feet by land of said Wagner to a drill-hole in the sidewalk on the easterly line of said School Street;

THENCE southerly sixty-six (66) feet by said School Street to the point of beginning.

BEING the same premises described in a deed from Helen Woznicki to Samuel G. Wylie et ux, dated April 4, 1931, and recorded Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 2540, Page 4. The above described premises are subject to a Life Estate as described in a deed from the grantor to Samuel B. Wylie dated this same date and recorded herewith

For title reference see Deed recorded in Book 7359, Page 75.

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated November 5, 1981 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 7359, Page 75.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
November 8, 2024
November 15, 2024
November 22, 2024

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 9 Lovett Road and 0 Lovett Road, Oxford, MA 01540

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Alvin J Edison and Carey R Bissonnette to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc., and now held by **NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC**, said mortgage dated November 23, 2009 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 45162, Page 328, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Drew Mortgage Associates, Inc. to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association by assignment dated May 21, 2020 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 62507, Page 352; said mortgage was assigned from JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to Community Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment dated July 14, 2021 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 65637, Page 153; said mortgage was assigned from Community Loan Servicing, LLC to Nationstar Mortgage LLC by assignment dated June 27, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 67814, Page 116; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on December 3, 2024 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

PARCEL I

Certain tract or parcel of land situated in the easterly part of said Oxford, and containing about three (3) acres of land, more or less, and buildings thereon, bounded as follows, to wit: BEGINNING: at the southwesterly corner thereof at land now or formerly of one Davis, by the highway, leading to Sutton; THENCE: North 1° East about twelve (12) rods to land now or formerly of Charles White; THENCE: North on land now or formerly of said White about twenty-five (25) rods to land now or formerly of Thomas Foster; THENCE: on land now or formerly of said Foster about twelve rods to said highway; THENCE: westerly on said highway about fifteen (1.5) rods to the place of beginning.

PARCEL II

Land in said Oxford known as a part of the Amos Pratt place bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING: at the southeasterly corner thereof, at a corner in the wall; THENCE: running northerly by land formerly of Roseann Foster now one Crosby, to a corner in the wall; THENCE: westerly by land formerly of said Foster, now, Crosby, to a corner in wall; THENCE: southerly by land formerly of Ivas Davis, to a corner in the wall; THENCE: easterly by land of Sally Reynolds, to place of beginning. Said tract containing three acres, be the same more or less. Together with the right to pass and reposs from said/second tract of land and subject to the right to take water from a certain spring as reserved in a deed recorded in Worcester Registry of Deeds, Book 2664, Pager 71, if such rights exists. Parcels I and II being the same premises as conveyed in a deed from John L. Renaud et ux to Bernard O'Reilly et ux dated May 3, 1948 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 3118, Page 500. Excepting from the above premises is a deed from Erna A. O'Reilly to Brian J. O'Reilly dated April 4, 1960 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 4134, Page 22.

PARCEL III

A certain tract or parcel of land situated in the easterly part of said Oxford, on which formerly stood a barn, situated northerly of and near the house formerly of William Daniel, now of grantee, containing 28 rods, more or less, and being described in a deed from Erastus Ormsbee to Alexander De Witt recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 663, Page 400, as follows: BEGINNING: At the S. E. corner of the granted premises, THENCE: S. 88 1/3° W. 4 rods and 4 links; THENCE: N. 1° E. 2 rods and 17 links; THENCE: N. 50° W. 3 rods 9 links to land now or formerly of Ivers A. Davis; THENCE: N. 78 3/4° E. 6 rods and 14 links; THENCE: S. 1 1/2° E. 6 rods and 2 links to place of beginning. SUBJECT: To rights of way referred to in said deed. Excepting from the above conveyance a strip of land ten feet in width and one hundred feet, more or less, in length, running from the southerly boundary to the northerly boundary of said above described premises, the center of said ten foot strip following the center of the cart road as now located across said premises, and is more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point fifty feet easterly of the northwesterly corner of the above

described premises at land formerly of Ivers A. Davis, now or formerly of Thiebaud;

THENCE: Southerly 100 feet, more or less, to the southerly boundary of the said above described premises at a point seven feet easterly of the southwesterly corner of the above described premises; THENCE: N. 88 1/2° E. ten feet to a point; THENCE: Northerly on a line parallel to and ten feet distant from said first described course 100 Feet, more or less, to said Thiebaud land; THENCE: S. 78 3/4° W. ten feet, more or less, to the place of beginning.

Also hereby conveying a right to the grantee, in common with the grantor and others, to pass and reposs over said ten foot strip.

This conveyance is also made subject to any existing rights of way of the grantor and others. BEING the same premises conveyed to the Mortgagors by deed dated February 27, 2004 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 32930, Page 19.

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated February 27, 2004 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 32930, Page 19.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
November 1, 2024
November 8, 2024
November 15, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 26 Perryville Road, Webster, MA 01570

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Virginia D. Gogolinski to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Genworth Financial Home Equity Access, Inc., and now held by **Longbridge Financial, LLC**, said mortgage dated September 28, 2011 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 47914, Page 339, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Genworth Financial Home Equity Access, Inc. to Reverse Mortgage Solutions, Inc. by assignment dated January 25, 2016 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 54873, Page 209; said mortgage was assigned from Reverse Mortgage Solutions, Inc. to Broad Street Funding Trust I by assignment dated August 16, 2018 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 59398, Page 330; said mortgage was assigned from Broad Street Funding Trust I to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee of RMF Buyout Acquisition Trust 2018-1 by assignment dated June 4, 2019 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 60582, Page 143; said mortgage was assigned from Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Trustee of RMF Buyout Acquisition Trust 2018-1 to Reverse Mortgage Funding, LLC by assignment dated November 19, 2021 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 66665, Page 378; said mortgage was assigned from Reverse Mortgage Funding, LLC to Longbridge Financial, LLC by assignment dated October 30, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 69944, Page 161; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction** on December 3, 2024 at 09:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon of every nature and description and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in the Town of Webster, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at an iron pin at the northerly line of Perryville Road fifty three and twenty one hundredths (53.21) feet westerly from a proposed a

proposed W. C. H. bound point and at land of William H. Sherwood; Thence N. 18 °16' 28" W. by land of said William H. Sherwood one hundred fifty seven and fifty eight hundredths (157.58) feet to an iron pin; Thence S. 67° 44' 20" W. seventy nine and forty nine hundredths (79.49) feet to an iron pipe; Thence southwesterly one hundred seventy and forty one hundredths (170.41) feet on Goodwin Street, so called, to the northerly line of said Perryville Road; Thence easterly by the northerly line of said Perryville Road one hundred eighty one and sixty five hundredths (181.65) feet to an iron pin and the point of beginning. Less and excepting that parcel that was conveyed to William H. Sherwood in Book 4402 at Page 478 of the Worcester County Registry of Deeds. For Title reference see deed as set forth in Book 6071 at Page 304 of the Worcester County Registry of Deeds.

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated November 18, 1976 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 6071, Page 304.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for Longbridge Financial, LLC
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
November 1, 2024
November 8, 2024
November 15, 2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Probate and Family Court 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508) 831-2200 Docket No. WO24P3647EA CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION Estate Of:

**Robert Charles Labossiere, Jr.
Date of Death: 12/05/2023**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Hailey L Labossiere 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:

Hailey L Labossiere of Douglas MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/26/2024**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: October 28, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

November 8, 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 Levester L. Burrell to Mackinac Savings Bank, FSB, dated

October 8, 2014 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 52901, Page 298, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on December 2, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 45 Mill Street, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT:

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

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

THENCE S 33 degrees West one hundred twenty-four (124) feet by the northwesterly line of said Mill Street to a stake at land of the grantors;

THENCE Northwesterly at right angles to said Mill Street by land of the grantors, a distance of one hundred twenty (120) feet to Lot #17

THENCE Northeasterly one hundred twenty (121) feet, more or less, by land of the grantors and being Lot #17 to a pike on the southwesterly line of said Pine Street;

THENCE Southeasterly one hundred twenty (120) feet by the southwesterly line of said Pine Street to the point of beginning.

Parcel II

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

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

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

THENCE North 58 degrees 22' 15" West along land of LaParde a distance of sixty (60) feet;

THENCE North 31 degrees 35' 15" East along land of Joseph Wysocki, a distance of one hundred twenty-five and twenty-one hundredths (125.21) feet to the iron pipe at the point of beginning.

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

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

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

TERMS OF SALE:

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

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

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

Present holder of said mortgage

By its Attorneys,

HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C.

150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

26235

November 8, 2024

November 15, 2024

November 22, 2024

Additional Legals, see next Page

Grow healthier gardens with the help of a soil test

Soil is the foundation of a healthy garden, but let's be honest, most gardeners don't like spending time, energy, and money on it. It's more fun to show off pretty flowers or share tasty vegetables. But creating a healthy soil foundation will increase your growing success which means more beautiful flowers, larger harvests, and a healthier landscape to enjoy.

When creating a new lawn, landscape, or garden bed, begin with a soil test. Use soil testing to evaluate your fertilization practices and diagnose problems in existing lawns and gardens. Prioritize and spread out the cost by starting with new and struggling gardens or lawn areas. Then implement an ongoing testing schedule that tests one or two exist-

ing gardens each year. Testing lawns and gardens every few years can help improve their health while helping you avoid improper and overfertilization that can negatively impact your landscape and the environment.

A soil test report tells you what if any fertilizer is needed and what fertilizer is best to use for the plants you are growing. It also evaluates the soil pH, acidity, and alkalinity, advising you of any needed adjustments. Testing this before fertilizing or adjusting the soil pH can help avoid years of problems caused by applying too much or the wrong fertilizer, lime, sulfur, or other products.

You can take a soil sample for testing whenever the soil is not frozen, and you have not recently applied fertilizer. Fall is an excellent time as it

allows you to implement the soil test results before the next growing season.

Contact your local or state University Extension Service to locate a qualified soil testing lab near you. Many have a state lab that provides this service for a fee while others provide lists of soil-testing labs in your area.

Take separate samples for each type of planting, garden bed, and if needed, lawn area. As you may have discovered, the soil can vary greatly from one place to another. Fill may have been added when the house was built, topsoil used to create planting beds, and other soil amendments incorporated that can impact your growing success. Taking a sample from individual planting beds, mixed borders, and the lawn provides better

information on the existing conditions and what is needed for growing those types of plants.

Use a clean trowel and bucket to gather the soil sample. If needed, slide away mulch and remove a narrow slice of soil, four to six inches deep, where many plant roots grow.

Take several samples from the garden or lawn area you want to test. Collect samples from each edge and several throughout the middle of the bed or lawn area. Mix the samples together, place about a cup in a plastic bag, and send it to the soil testing lab. Allow several weeks for the test to be completed and the results returned.

Consider adding soil testing to your garden preparation and ongoing care. This investment will help you grow health-



Melinda Myers

Soil testing can be used to evaluate fertilization practices and diagnose problems in lawns and gardens.

ier, more productive, and more beautiful gardens and landscapes.

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

Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

Bay Path staff & students learn about Generative AI tools



Courtesy

Loise Ngigi and Shannen Sherman.

WORCESTER — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy faculty, staff, and students recently completed the workshop presented by the Massachusetts Rhode Island League for Nursing (MARILN) on Friday, Oct. 25 at the Hogan Center, College of the Holy Cross.

The 2024 MARILN Fall Conference and Annual Meeting - Innovate and Educate: Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools for Nurse Educators speakers were Rachel Cox Simms DNP, MS-HPed, RN, FNP-BC Assistant Professor MGH Institute of Health Professions (Boston); Semiha Asli Bozkurt PhD, RN, CHSE Clinical Assistant Professor University of Massachusetts Boston (Boston); Catherine Carroca DHS, MSN, RN, CNE Associate Professor Massachusetts College of Pharmacy of Health Sciences (Boston, MA), and Joseph Gordon-Reznar Associate Chief Nursing Officer Cambridge Health Alliance (Boston). The purpose of the workshop is to empower nurse educators

with the knowledge and skills to effectively integrate generative AI tools into their teaching and professional practices. The participants explored the fundamental principles of generative AI and discovered practical applications for creating engaging educational materials, designing innovative assignments, and enhancing assessments. The workshop addressed ethical considerations and best practices, ensuring responsible AI usage in educational settings. At the end of the workshop, participants were equipped to leverage AI for professional development, scholarly activities, and enrich the learning experience for nursing students.

In the photo above are Loise Ngigi of South Grafton, a member of the PN Class of 2025 and Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Full-time faculty Shannen Sherman, BSN, RN, of CT.

Ngigi is a compassionate Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and certified home health aide (HHA) whose knowledge is based on the accumulation of seven years of direct experience as a certified HHA and CNA. She obtained her nursing assistant certification through the 3 Dimensions College (Worcester) in 2017. She obtained her high school diploma from Moi Girls Kamangu High School in Kenya (2012). As a practical nursing student at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy, she has completed her Dementia Care certification. She is certified in BLS/HCP/CPR (Basic Life Support, Health Care Provider Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), Medical Administration Program (MAP), and Mental Health First Aid. She has expressed interest in volunteering for Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) specifically for the Vaccine clinic and monitoring residents for any side effects after receipt of vaccine. She was a CNA at River Terrace Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center (Lancaster) and is currently a direct support professional at Venture Community Services (Sturbridge).

Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy offers free blood pressure testing

Michelle Drumm, C.D.P., Council on Aging Director, Town of Charlton recently welcomed the Practical Nursing student volunteers from the Practical Nursing Class of 2025. Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy is again offering free blood pressure assessing every last Wednesday of the month, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Charlton Senior Center, 37 Main St.

"It is wonderful for our Practical Nursing student volunteers to be welcomed back at the Charlton Senior Center under Michelle's leadership! Hypertension is one of the most prevalent chronic conditions in the US," stated Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, Academy Director, Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

"It is important for people to know their Blood Pressure numbers because there may not be symptoms that alert you to a potential problem," said Bolandrina. According to the American Heart Association, one in three adults has high blood pressure. By offering free blood pressure testing, the hope is that the interaction with Practical Nursing student volunteers encourage more people to manage their overall health by making blood pressure monitoring a part of it. American Heart Association statistics show that more than 76 million people in the U.S. age 20 and older have high blood pressure. Of those, about 22 percent are unaware of their condition, 69 percent are receiving treatment and only 45 percent have their blood pressure controlled.

Delene Sarsfield of Charlton and Chalinant Desrosiers of Oxford were the recent PN student volunteers to report to the Charlton Senior Center. Both are members of the PN Class of 2025. Both are Mental Health First Aid Certified, Dementia Care Certified and completed training in Domestic Violence.

Sarsfield is a multi-faceted, efficient, ethical, motivated, and dependable Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). She has more than 15 years of centered-based patient care and customer service experience. She is employed at CareOne at Millbury as a CNA (since 2019) and was with Sterling Village at Sterling from 2008 to 2019. She graduated from the Holy Name Central Catholic Jr/Sr High School in Worcester (2005). Sarsfield's long-term goal is to complete her practical nursing education, become an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse), and bridge into



Courtesy

Sarsfield and Desrosiers at the Charlton Senior Center.

an RN (Registered Nurse) program with her field of interest-hospice and palliative care nursing. She is a 2024 PCE (Program for Continuing Education) Grant recipient from P.E.O. International (Philanthropic Educational Organization, www.peointernational.org) Sarsfield was also newly elected as an officer of the UNICEF Club.

Desrosiers is a professional blending office management and student services with her clinical medical assistant background. She had 15 years of experience in customer relations. She is connected to Peak Medical Academy as Office Manager. Previously she was a Medical Assistant at UMass Memorial, Harrington, and Reliant Medical/Optum in Worcester. Her educational experience includes Certification as Clinical Medical Assistant at Peak Medical Academy (Worcester, 2021), International Hospitality Management at IMI International Management Institute Switzerland (Luzern, Switzerland PGCert-International Hospitality Management, 2009), Language & Communication at National Institute of Development Administration (Bangkok, Thailand 2008), and International Business Administration at the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (Bangkok, Thailand 2000).

LEGALS

Additional Legals, see previous Page

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
Docket No. WO24P3328GD
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF
PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF
CONSERVATOR OR OTHER
PROTECTIVE ORDER
PERSON PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304 & §5-405
In the matter of:
Lynette Gane
Of: Webster, MA
RESPONDENT**

Alleged Incapacitated Person
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by
Donald W Gane, Jr of Southwick, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Lynette Gane** is in need of a Conservator or other protective order and requesting that **Lynette Gane of Webster, MA** (or some suitable person) be appointed as Conservator to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is disabled, that the protective order or appointment of Conservator is necessary, and that the proposed conservator is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and

may contain a request for certain specific authority.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of 11/26/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 30, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman
November 8, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P3680EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Frederick L Schaffer Jr
Also known as:
Frederick Schaffer
Date of Death: 08/31/2024**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Laura L Mrad of Oxford 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:
Laura L Mrad of Oxford MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court be-

fore: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/26/2024**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: October 28, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,

Register of Probate

November 8, 2024



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| (P) Land | (L) Mobile Home | (A) Apartment | (W) Waterfront |

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Fallon Health presents grant to Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf

OXFORD — Fallon Health has presented a \$1,000 Community Benefits Mini Grant to the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf.

The Oxford Food Shelf provides free emergency grocery assistance to individuals and families living in Oxford, Massachusetts, and to families who are not residents of Oxford but who are registered members of an Oxford Church.

The Food Shelf will use the funds to stock its shelves when supplies get low, and to purchase such foods as fresh fruits and vegetables. All the food the Food Shelf provides is paid for entirely by donations from individuals and local businesses and organizations, and grants.

Fallon Health's Community Benefits Mini Grant program's main purpose is to support non-profit organizations that help reduce barriers and improve

health outcomes in the communities it serves. Funding supports programs that address hunger, eliminate health care barriers for older adults, or focus on mental health early intervention programs for children and youth.

"We applaud the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf on the important work they're doing to address food and nutrition security by improving and expanding access to healthy food sources," said Cheryl Schmaltz, Community Engagement Manager at Fallon Health. "We know the funding will further accelerate actions that will lead to better and more equitable health outcomes in the community."

Fallon Health personally visits many of the organizations it provides funding to. This provides an important opportunity for them to learn more about the region's needs and how all partners can

work together to be a continued resource to the communities they serve.

Schmaltz recently visited the Oxford Food Shelf to present the \$1,000 grant check to Christina St. Martin, Chairperson of the Oxford Ecumenical Council which manages the Food Shelf. While visiting the Food Shelf, a volunteer staff member gave Schmaltz a tour of the operation.

"We are grateful for the funding," said St. Martin. "We will use it to stock our shelves and help the individuals and families who come to us for food. Higher grocery prices have increased our numbers, which we expect to continue to grow as we near the holidays. Our families and volunteers appreciate all that Fallon Health does for our community."

Located in the lower level of the Oxford Community Center, the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf is open 4:30 to 6:30



p.m. every Thursday, except holidays. The Oxford Food Shelf does not discriminate in any way. Any resident of Oxford can come to the Food Shelf for food.

To make a financial donation, please mail a check to the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf, 4 Maple Rd., Oxford, MA 01540. Food donations may be left in the drop boxes at the Oxford

Community Center or any one of the churches in Oxford.

More information on the Oxford Food Shelf can be found at: www.oxfordfoodshelf.org.

Auburn's Stephanie Manzi recognized by Association for Behavioral Health



Stephanie Manzi

FRAMINGHAM — The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH), a statewide non-profit organization representing 80 community-based behavioral health care providers, honored the winners of its Salute to Excellence Awards at its annual celebration on Oct. 25 at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center.

These individuals and teams demonstrate what community-based providers in the behavioral health sector can achieve when care and commitment come

together," said ABH President and CEO Lydia Conley. "As the demand for mental health services has surged across Massachusetts, individuals and organizations, like this year's awardees, have stepped up to meet the challenge and expand access to critical care."

One of this year's two recipients of the Excellence in Program Leadership Award was Stephanie Manzi, Vice President, Substance Use

Services, Community Healthlink. In just one year, Manzi stabilized the Substance Use Service Division and reopened two critical programs – Clinical Stabilization Services and Transition Support Services – with a third, Detox, on track to reopen this fall. Her ability to build strong working relationships has allowed her to rebuild trust and advocate effectively for her team.

About the Association for Behavioral Healthcare
The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) represents 80 organizations that are the primary providers of community-based behavioral healthcare in Massachusetts. Their nearly 50,000 dedicated employees provide clinically effective and

cost-sensitive care to more than 80,000 individuals on any given day in communities throughout the state. ABH is recognized as the leading statewide association advocating for the preservation, promotion and advancement of community-based mental health and addiction services. Visit www.abhmass.org for more information.

Give something, get something at the Pearle this month

DUDLEY — November is "Give Something, Get Something" month at the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library.

This season, we have several different ways to give back to the community.
-Bring five non-perishable, unexpired food items to the Library. Donations will go to the Webster-Dudley food share.

-Donate a new and unused set of hats/gloves. All donations will go to the Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley.

-Fulfill a heart wish off the Library Giving Tree, see below for details

The Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library Giving Tree is a collaboration with the Seven Hills Foundation. It is an easy way to spread the holiday spirit by giving to local children in need!

How does it work? Visit our holiday display at the Library; there you will select a heart, which lists three gift wishes for a child. You may purchase one, two or all three items. All gifts must be new and unwrapped and returned to the Library by Friday, Dec. 6. Not sure what to buy? Gift cards are always welcome.

If you participate in our "Give Something, Get Something" campaign in November, you will receive a gift set of Living Proof Hair Care products donated by the Glimmer Project. Only while supplies last and one per person please.

Read more about the Glimmer Project at <https://www.projectglimmer.org/about>.

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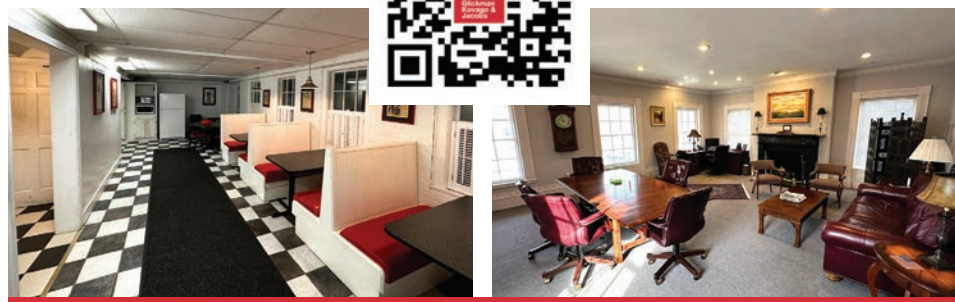
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