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Friday, March 12, 2021

Community celebrates longtime Oxford Food Shelf volunteers

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

OXFORD – The community is celebrating a pair of longtime volunteers who recently retired from the Oxford Ecumenical Council, which manages the Oxford Food Shelf.

John Kneeland, who has served as chairperson of the Oxford Ecumenical Council for the past 18 years, retired in December. Doug Selby, another dedicated volunteer, retired after several years on the council. Together, Kneeland and Selby have combined to volunteer at the Food Shelf for more than 50 years.

The Oxford Ecumenical Council has two representatives from each of the Christian churches in Oxford. The Food Shelf operates on donations, receiving most of its food from the Worcester County Food Bank in

Shrewsbury. Some food is donated by local grocery stores, and the Congregational Church in Oxford grows a share garden every summer.

The Oxford Food Shelf's unique setup enables families to arrive each month and choose the food they need (rather than receive a box of food selected by volunteers). This setup affords individuals the flexibility they need during a difficult period in their lives.

For Kneeland and Selby, the mission of volunteering at the Food Shelf far transcends community service.

“Over time, the clients became like family, and our volunteers and the host church workers treated one another with dignity and respect – and sometimes with hugs and kisses,” Selby said.

Even after retire-



Courtesy

From left to right: volunteers Doug Selby, Ron Chesties, Chris St. Martin, and John Kneeland.

ment from the council, Kneeland continues to volunteer and help the new chairperson, Christina St. Martin, transition into her role.

Looking back on his nearly 20 years with the council, Kneeland thanks Selby and everyone else who came together to help those in need.

“Doug is a great man to work with. He knows how to take charge and get

things done,” Kneeland said. “There are so many great people involved.”

In recognition of his outstanding service, Kneeland was named Citizen of the Year in Oxford in 2019. And when the COVID-19 pandemic

struck a year later, he and the team of volunteers were once again ready to meet the challenges. Thanks to their hard work, the Food Shelf was able to transition into a new drive-

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Dudley officials support parking improvements

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – While Dudley's updated Economic Development Plan is being reviewed by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, we have an idea of at least one priority project and one scrapped

concept thanks to recent talks between the Town Planner and the Planning Board.

Interim Town Planner William Scanlon spoke to the town's Economic Development Committee on Feb. 16, nearly a week after consulting the Planning Board about the development plan and stated that two spe-

cific items of discussion received starkly different responses from planning officials. The first time was proposed improvements to parking in town which received positive feedback from the Planning Board.

“They were very receptive of the idea of looking at the parking require-

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Oxford begins HCA process with new marijuana growing facility

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – On March 2, selectmen voted unanimously to have the Town Manager negotiate a host community agreement with owners of a proposed cannabis growing facility seeking to locate on Pioneer Drive.

The entity is called BVO – Baystate's Very Own – and owner Ken Lucas said he's seeking a Tier 2 cultivation license to grow “craft quality cannabis [for] a recreational market that's saturated with mid-grade products.” He plans to have up to 4,320 flowering plants of 15-20 strains in four growing rooms “once we're fully operational” a couple years after opening.

He predicted five harvests per year per room, with production totaling 5,700 to 6,840 pounds of usable cannabis per year. Estimating the value will fall to \$3000 per pound (it's now about \$4,000), that would bring in around \$17 million a year, Lucas said.

Part of the negotiated agreement will include a 3 percent local tax on that revenue, possibly plus donations to local organizations, but the exact amount the town will receive remains to be determined. Under state law, such agreements are valid for five years, and Lucas said he's willing to renegotiate it when the term expires.

By then, Lucas said he plans to be ready to expand. Among other things, he intends to market various products beyond cannabis itself.

“Once I get one [facility under my belt], I'm sure I'd like to continue challenging myself,” he said.

The plan includes around 15 jobs, including management, office support, six growers and five trimmers, with annual salaries starting around \$35,000. Describing his goal as “to fill it with honest, good people who deserve chances,” he said he wants to specifically employ minorities, women, veterans, disabled people and LGBTQ people, and plans to reserve at least 20 percent of the jobs for them. He said he expects staff to start at about half-capacity with workloads gradually increasing and salaries likewise.

“I'm a firm believer in paying your employees an honest wage,” Lucas said. “When your workload doubles, you shouldn't just get a \$1.25 an hour raise.”

Lucas said he also wants to encourage staff to volunteer by paying them up to four hours a month to do community service, and will set aside funds for a scholarship for students seeking to go into the cannabis industry.

“We're really excited to bring justice to the plant,” said BVO's head grower James Wormser, noting there are “a lot of hoops to leap through” to open such a facility. He said he wants BVO to become “a contributor, not a negative impact” on the community.

Wormser told the board the facility will use a complex HVAC system that includes air treat-

ment by ultraviolet and ionization, plus areas under positive and negative pressure, to prevent odors from leaking into the public. State laws require a lot of testing and various safeguards to prevent mold, metals and other contaminants from getting into the cannabis. He described those laws as “the highest standards in the world right now.”

Similarly high standards govern security, according to David Olds of American Alarm, BVO's security consultant. Olds said his firm secures about 70 cannabis facilities in Massachusetts, and this is its third in Oxford. He summarized his plans; in short, the place will have cameras everywhere – “more camera coverage than a bank, on par with a casino.” He noted the state requires cameras to cover every step of the cannabis production and internal movement process, plus various specific sites within the building and the exterior.

Beyond that, “the whole building is, by nature, a limited access area” because there's no retail here, Olds added. “... Everywhere you go, you're basically hitting a locked door” that can only be opened by a staff member's key card. Nothing about the site will be open to the public, and any visitors will always be accompanied by staff people.

Lucas said he has already spoken to the police chief, who agrees with the plans so far.

From the board's side,

Turn To **FACILITY** page **A14**

St. Joseph students celebrate 100th day of school year

WEBSTER — St. Joseph School Kindergarten and first grade students recently celebrated their 100th Day of School. It's an exciting time of year because the 100th day marks a special opportunity to celebrate the number “100” and milestones in the students' classrooms. It is an especially fun day because activities recognizing this achievement can span multiple subjects, and the creativity is endless.

Mrs. Cozza's Kindergarten students enjoyed several 100th Day STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Projects, including creating unique designs with 100 pattern blocks, building unique structures with 100 LEGOs, and making trail mix with 100 pieces of their favorite snacks. Also, the students fine-tuned their counting skills while creating unique works of art.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Maynard's First Grade students enjoyed several 100th Day games, collected 100 items, wrote 100 words, and tried to take 100 licks to get to the center of their Tootsie Pops. All of the students were

excited to be “100 Days Smarter!” However, the best part of celebrating the 100th Day of School is realizing that there are

only 80 days left in the school year, and warm weather will soon be here. Hurrah for reaching 100 days!



Courtesy

St. Joseph School Kindergarten student, Cameron Blodgett, displays his 100 Day project made up of 100 Mario stickers.

Dudley exploring new road treatment option

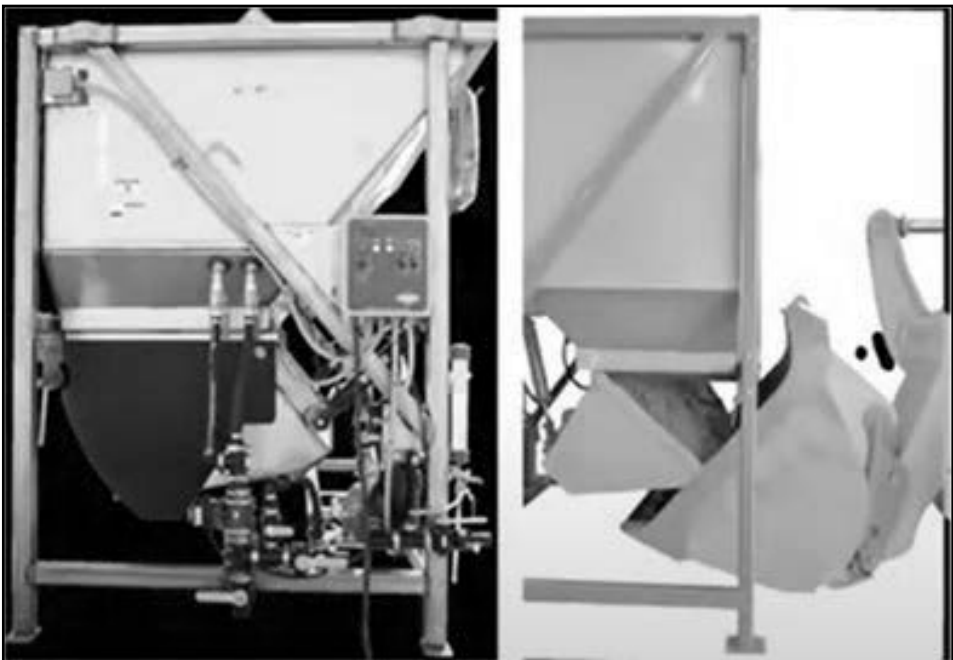
BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY – The Dudley Highway Department has begun exploring new and more effective ways to treating the roadways during the traditionally harsh New England winters. Currently, Dudley uses rock salt to help make the roads more passable for commuters and prevent ice and water buildup, but the potential for using a liquid deicer was brought to the Board of Selectmen in late February for consideration.

Dudley’s recently hired Highway Superintendent, Jeffrey Murray, is certainly hitting the ground running as one of his first big moves in the position was to propose the purchase of new equipment to help facilitate a shift in approach to how Dudley treats its roadways for winter weather and the aftermath. During a livestreamed meeting with selectmen on Feb. 22, Murray proposed moving from rock salt to a liquid deicer compound that he believes will provide a longer lasting and more effective treatment for the roadways to prevent ice buildup and make the roads safer in winter months.

“It requires a lesser amount for the liquid deicer in relation to a sand salt or a rock salt mix. Studies have shown that as much as 80 percent of rock salt and sand mix can be taken away with only five vehicle passes. What happens is when sand salt mix or a salt mix is spread on a roadway surface is it gets a deicing bounce or just blow off to the sides and becomes ineffective. Essentially what you’re trying to do with any of the deicers is lower the temperature of where water freezes,” Murray told selectmen.

His presentation proposed the use of a salt brine which truck would use to pre-



A photo of a brine mixer that would be purchased as part of Dudley’s potential shift to a liquid deicer compound.

treat roads as a spray using 30-50 gallons of brine per lane mile as opposed to the 250 to 300 pounds of salt that would be spread over the same space. Murray first proposed that the town purchase one or more salt brine machines allowing Dudley to make the product on site at about 3,000 to 5,000 gallons per hour. He then broke down the cost difference which would be between \$1.80 and \$3 per lane mile using salt brine versus between \$6.05 and \$8.45 per lane mile using rock salt. Using the estimated 83 miles of roadway in Dudley as a baseline the top-end total cost of the salt brine was estimated at \$249 compared to just over \$701 using rock salt to cover the town once over. The presentation

also recommended the purchase of one or two prayers which would be needed to disperse the salt brine on the roads. The total estimated cost of equipment, which includes the brine maker, two sprayers, two 5,000 gallon storage tanks and installation and freight costs comes to \$101,206 according to Murray’s research.

“It’s not the only solution. You’d still have the need for a rock salt after a storm. The salt brine would be used primarily for pretreatment and in some instances possibly afterwards. What it does is it gives you a better scrape down on the roadways after a storm event,” Murray said. “It doesn’t allow for the ice to build to begin with and it’s already in

a form that the rock salt wants to be in. it needs to get broken down and I think you’ll notice on the roadways if you see where they’ve spread rock salt it actually doesn’t start working until it is broken down by traffic and it starts to mix and melt down the snow or ice and work itself into a brine. You’ve already done that with spraying the brine mix onto the roadway.”

Selectman Jason Johnson said he wanted to know more about the return on investment and if there would truly be cut costs if the town were to go in this new direction. Murray pointed out that the benefits would include reduced labor costs and overall better pretreating of the roads that would be less costly than the current rock salt approach. The reduced use of sand and rock salt would also be seen in the bottom line after each season. Murray also touted the potential shift as the way of the future that will help Dudley keep up with the times.

“It puts us closer to compliance as far as stormwater management and, quite frankly, the use of sand is becoming a thing of the past and it’s really becoming a mandate that it’s not something that is a desirable thing to be doing to comply with stormwater management regulations,” said Murray.

The question remained how the town would invest in a \$100,000-plus project. Selectmen discussed possibly using capital improvement funds however Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said he would rather look at what debt is expiring and rotating the investment into the budget rather than expending from the capital improvement or stabilization funds. If the town were to move ahead with this new approach funding would almost surely need to be addressed at a town meeting.

Webster Public Schools accepting applications for Integrated Preschool Program

WEBSTER — In September 2021, the Webster Public Schools Integrated Preschool Program anticipates openings in both the morning and afternoon preschool sessions. This program pro-

vides children with and without special needs a quality early childhood educational experience. Each class will meet for either morning or afternoon four-day sessions at Park Avenue Elementary School. The program follows the Webster Public Schools calendar.

Preschool applications can be picked up at the District Administration Office, Student Services Department. Please note that we are located at 77 Poland St. in Webster, in back of the Bartlett High School campus. Applications are also available on the Special Education page of the district Web site (www.webster-schools.org).

Applications will be accepted between March 8 and March 29 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Completed applications should be dropped off at the Student Services office. Applicants must bring a certified birth certificate for their child, as well as proof of residency (i.e. a signed lease, utility bill or statement showing your current address). At the time of application, you will be asked to complete a registration packet which will be maintained with your child’s application and forwarded

to the school if your child is chosen for an open slot.

A virtual open house for all applicants will be held at the Park Avenue Elementary School in June 2021. All applicants will be expected to attend a screening appointment to be held during April 2021. Applicants will receive notification of their screening appointment at the time they complete their application. Upon completion of the screening process, children determined eligible to fill spots as typical, or non-disabled peers, will be maintained on an enrollment list and a lottery will be held, if necessary, during the week of May 3 to determine who will be placed into the available slots. Should we receive more applications than we have space for, applicants not chosen at this time will remain on a waiting list to be considered for future openings. The enrollment waiting list will be maintained at the Student Services Office and used to fill vacancies that become available in the future. Parents of children who remain on the list after all vacancies have been filled will be contacted to verify that they wish to remain on the list.

Final registration will take place by the end of May. All registration forms, including immunization and health examination forms, must be received at the time of application in order for your child to be considered for placement.

There is no registration fee and no tuition for the Integrated Preschool Program.

Children must be four years old before Sept. 1 and be a resident of the town of Webster at the time of application in order to be eligible for enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year.

Transportation to and from the preschool program is the responsibility of the parent.

Please submit your completed application in person at the Student Services Department, Webster Public Schools Administrative Offices, 77 Poland St., Webster, during the designated enrollment dates and times. Applications received after the enrollment period will be considered if slots are available. Late applications will be added to the waiting list.

Any questions can be directed to the Student Support Services Department at (508) 943-3646, ext. 2.

REAL ESTATE

Dudley

\$326,500, 11 Progress Ave, Shoba, Maharaj, and Goodnow, Shoba, to Sanchez-Perez, Ricardo.
\$320,000, 7 Lynn Ln, Thibaudeau, Deborah A, to Germaain, Tami J.
\$268,000, 89 Dudley Oxford Rd, Flynn, Kevin M, and Flynn, Rosemary, to Dagostino, Matthew, and Seifert, Stephanie.
\$249,500, Dudley Oxford Rd, Malesky Cheryl Ann Est, and Lemieux, Joseph P, to Phranasith, Chandavone, and Phranasith, Som.

Oxford

\$330,000, 17 Walcott St, Curran, Richard D, to Benjamin, Nicole M, and Hartnett, Daniel E. Paxton
\$402,873, 2 Lincoln Cir, Downey, Thomas J, and Carpenter, Stanley R, to Pryor, John A.
\$117,500, Davis Hill Rd, Urbanovitch, Ginger A, and Urbanovitch, Frank, to Wentzell, Jeffrey.

Webster

\$600,000, 12 Henry Rd, Suleski IRT, and Stevens, Gary E, to Levesque, Peter C, and Levesque, Jane.
\$280,000, 4 Lakeview Rd, Martell, Robert A, to Seymour, Cheryl.
\$270,000, 33 May St, Tri Luk LLC, to Rivera, Brandon M.
\$145,000, 34 Stoughton Ave, Lester Marie J Est, and Hackett, Elizabeth, to BD Construction LLC.

Good Citizens Award announced

OXFORD — The General Ebenezer Learned Oxford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) would like to announce the school winners of the Good Citizens Award from the schools that the chapter sponsors. Bartlett High School, in Webster, is represented by Gabriela Piowarczky, Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School in Charlton, is represented by Cheyenne Courtney. Daniel Bowen represents David Prouty High School in Spencer, Keegan Gleason represents Millbury Jr./Sr. High School. The North Brookfield High School representative is Mikayla Bokis, the Oxford High School representative is Amy Vo, and Joshua Gray represents Quaboag Regional High School in Warren. Cutter

Beck not only represents Shepherd Hill Regional High School, but also is the General Ebenezer Learned Chapter at the state level.

The DAR Good Citizens Award and Scholarship Contest, created in 1934, is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship.

This award recognizes and rewards individuals who possess the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities. These students are selected by their teachers and peers because they demonstrate these qualities to an outstanding degree.

This program is only open to high-school seniors whose schools are accredited by their state board of education.

Only one student per year may be honored as a school’s DAR Good Citizen. United States citizenship is not required.

Additional rules and guidelines can be acquired by contacting your local DAR chapter.

Once a student is chosen as the DAR Good Citizen the student is invited to participate in the scholarship portion of the program. This consists of a personal statement and an essay

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women’s service organization. DAR members are dedicated to promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism in communities across the nation. All students are invited to participate and learn more about the educational programs the DAR offers.



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Kindergarten Registration Information



Please join us
VIRTUALLY
at Park Ave
Elementary School
for our Kindergarten
Information Night!

Pick up and return
registration packets at
The WPS Central
Office
located at
77 Poland Street.

Please ask for the
WPS Registrar:
Ms. Desiree Moniz



Who: Parents of children who live in Webster, MA and will be age 5 as of August 31, 2021
When: March 11, 2021 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Zoom Link:
https://webster-schools-org.zoom.us/j/83640895249?pwd=Z2RWRHBuNmUwdHc3amNrN3oON2FYUT09
Hear from our staff - Administration, Teachers, Related Service Providers, Counselors, Nurse, Administrative Assistants, Food Service, Before & After School Care & more!

Nomination papers available for Dudley elections

DUDLEY — Nomination papers for the town of Dudley’s municipal election are available at the office of the Town Clerk by appointment only beginning Monday, March 8. Fifty certified signatures are required (no electronic signatures allowed).

Offices to be elected, Annual Town Election, June 14

Selectman, three years (two seats)
Treasurer/Collector, three years
Assessor, three years
Dudley-Charlton Regional School Board, three years
Board of Health, three years
Water/Sewer Commissioner, three years (two seats)
Planning Board, one year
Planning Board, three years
Library Trustee, three years (two seats)
Housing Authority, one year

The last day for candidates to obtain nomination papers is Monday, April 26. The last day for candidates to submit nomination papers with the Town Clerk

and Board of Registrars is also Monday, April 26 at 5 p.m.

The last day for the Board of Registrars to certify nomination papers and file with the Town Clerk is Monday, May 10. The last day to object or withdraw is Wednesday, May 12.

The last day to register to vote is Tuesday, May 25.

The last day to post or publish the warrant is Monday, June 7.

Nomination papers can be obtained by contacting the Dudley Town Clerk’s office at (508) 949-8004 and making an appointment beginning Monday, March 8. The location of the appointment will be in the lobby of the Dudley Municipal Center. With the new restrictions and difficulties arising because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have outlined some guidelines and suggestions below to help candidates navigate the collection of signatures. Please contact our office at any time if you have questions.

Obtaining signatures; What is not allowed?

-Electronic signatures. All signatures must be in ink.

-Time extension. There are no extended deadlines approved by the state of Massachusetts for obtaining nomination signatures.

-Reduction of signatures. The number of signatures required remains the same.

Suggestions for obtaining signatures

Some candidates are offering fresh pens, gloves and sanitizer while keeping 6’ distancing with masks which are required.

Some candidates are announcing the locations of supporters who have covered porches and encouraging registered voters to stop in to sign. Candidates could set specific hours to sign so their nomination papers do not stay unsupervised.

Advertise designated signing areas/times through social media, email/ advertising campaigns.

Candidates are encouraged to obtain more than 50 signatures in case the signer/voter has moved or is not a registered voter.

WEBSTER TIMES

ACCURACY WATCH:

The Webster Times is committed to accuracy in all its news reports. Although numerous safeguards are in place to ensure accurate reporting, mistakes can occur. Confirmed fact errors will be corrected in a timely manner on page A3. We cannot run corrections based upon differences of opinion or unconfirmable facts. We will, however, print letters to the editor from area residents who wish to add their comments to our news coverage. If you find a mistake, please email news@stonebridgepress.news or call (508) 909-4106. During non-business hours, leave a message in the editor’s voicemail box.

St. Andrew Bobola offers takeout Lenten fish dinners

DUDLEY — Every Friday from March 12 through March 26, St. Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main St., Dudley, will be offering Take Out Lenten dinners with your choice of baked or fried fish from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and again from 4 to 6 p.m.

Fried dinners include French Fries, Cole Slaw and Tartar Sauce. Baked Dinners include baked potato, sour cream, coleslaw and Tartar Sauce. You can call ahead to order (508-943-5633) but please understand there may still be a wait time in our parking lot, depending upon order volume! Cost is \$12 per person for adults and \$6pp for children. During Lent, come take home a great meal and avoid cooking on Fridays!

Local town employees to take part in cybersecurity training

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON – Town employees of both Dudley and Charlton were among the 44,000 employees of 107 government organizations in the commonwealth who will receive training in cybersecurity awareness and detection of cyber threats thanks to a grant program announced by Gov. Charlie Baker in late February.

The Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is in its second round and seeks to provide education and resources to agencies and organizations to help identify security breaches and cyber attacks which the National Governors Association has deemed the most effective factor in preventing security breaches and data loss. The training provided through the grant will educate both municipal and school employees in how to identify and responds to potential cyber security threats with the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security managing the program through \$250,000 in funding from the capital IT authorizations from the governor’s General Government Bond Bill passed in 2020.

“Cyber threats continue to evolve, making cyber awareness training an essential tool for municipalities and public schools in the Commonwealth to equip their employees with the knowledge on how to avoid the potentially costly missteps of falling prey to cyber attacks,” said Baker in a press release. “We will continue to seek out opportunities to improve the cybersecurity posture of the Commonwealth and its communities.”

The training provided will be in an online format in keeping with social distancing and will include simulations that examine luring techniques by cyber

criminals to gain access to IT systems through phishing attacks, SMS attacks, USB drop attacks and link-based, attachment-based and data-entry based attacks.

Through the grant, 213 employees of the town of Charlton and 30 town employees in Dudley will take part in the training. In recent years both towns have made cybersecurity a priority thanks to an attack on Charlton’s computer network in the summer of 2019. Dudley responded by attempting to revamp its own cybersecurity to avoid a situation similar to its neighboring town. Both towns have received grant funds to invest in their networks in the months that followed, and the added training will only continue to build on the progress these communities have made to avoid a cybersecurity risk in an age of ever-increasing dependence on technology. Nichols College located in Dudley has also started a new master’s program with an emphasis on cybersecurity.



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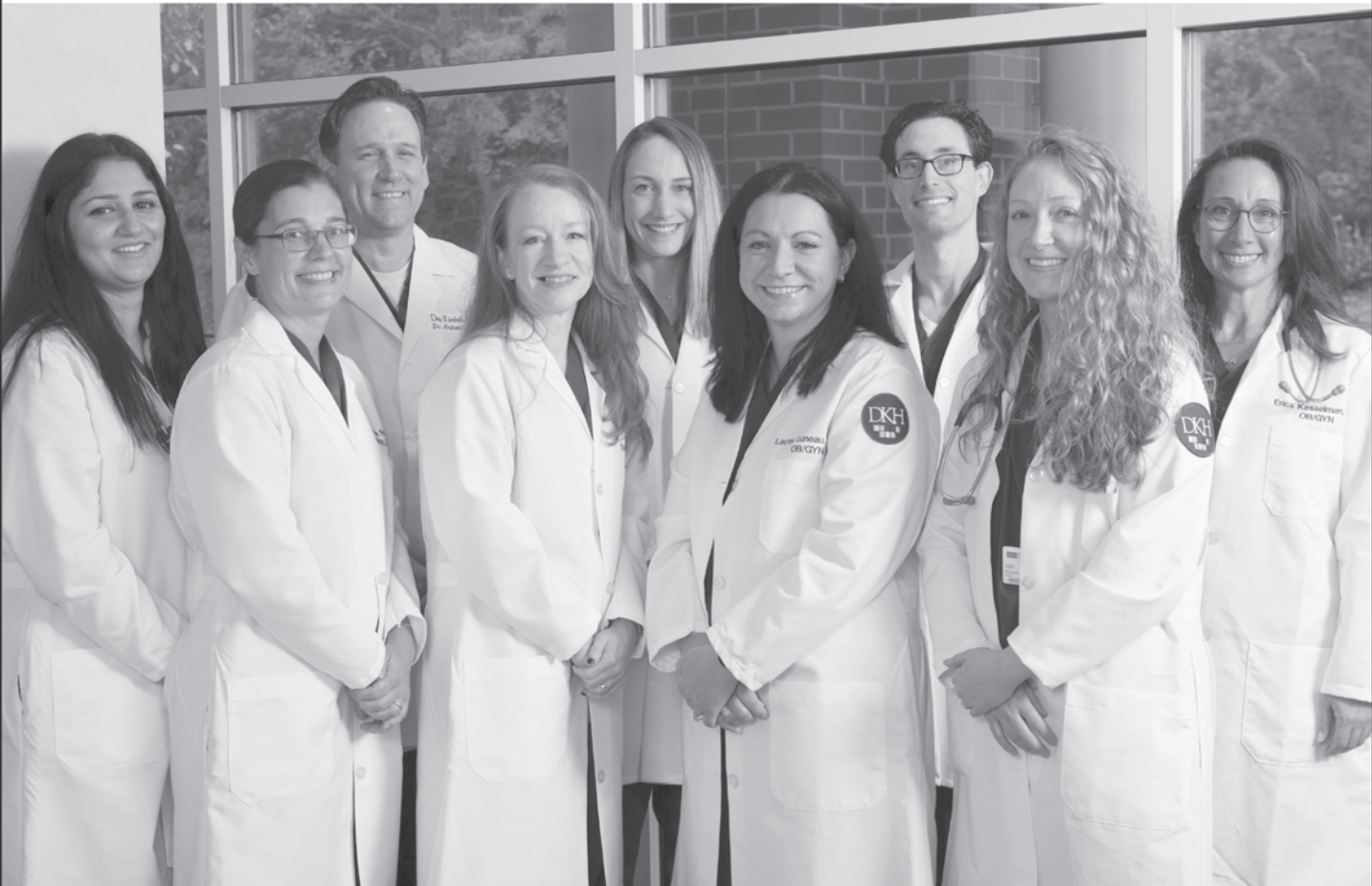
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Day Kimball Healthcare’s Women’s Health Team
Front Row: Amna Aziz, MD; Elena Poloukhine, MD; Robyn Martin, APRN; Lacey Luneau, PA-C; Regan Murchison, MD
Back Row: Andrew MacKenzie, MD; Julie Van Saun, PA-C; Devon Jacobson, MD; Erica Kesselman, MD

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DUDLEY

DUDLEY TOWN HALL (508) 949-8000

Board of Selectmen (949-8001)

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fridays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Evening appointments if needed.

Note: Office hours are for selectmen’s secretary and town administrator. S electmen do not hold office hours.

Town Clerk (949-8004)

Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday nights 5 to 7 p.m.

Fridays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

DUDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-4411)

Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week

DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040)

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

OXFORD

OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027

Board of Selectmen

Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Town Clerk (987-6032)

Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156)

For emergencies, call 911

OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)

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

WEBSTER

WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850

Office Hours:

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

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

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

WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-1212)

For emergencies, call 911

WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875)

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

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

Webster resident helps Bryant’s student-run Investment Fund navigate turbulent financial markets

SMITHFIELD, R.I. — For more than 15 years, the student portfolio managers of Bryant University’s Archway Investment Fund (AIF), including Webster resident Eric Fontaine, have applied the investment principles they’ve learned in the classroom by managing a real-life investment portfolio and making real trades. This past year, the AIF faced what was perhaps its greatest test as the students successfully navigated turbulent financial markets due to the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. “The COVID-19 pandemic presented a number of challenges, including the tran-

sition to virtual learning in the spring term, and a hybrid learning model for the fall term,” notes Professor of Finance and Department Chair Asli Asciglu, who has overseen the AIF since 2015. “That is difficult enough for a normal course, but in this case the students also dealt with extremely complex health, economic, and financial market developments that were truly unprecedented in their impact on investment portfolios.” Prepared to excel

Established in 2005 with an initial \$200,000 cash investment, the AIF is now a multi-asset program with sepa-

rate equity and fixed income portfolios worth more than \$2 million. Unlike the student-managed funds at many other institutions, the Fund is tightly integrated into the Finance Department curriculum, serving as a capstone learning opportunity for students preparing to begin investment careers.

For most of the Spring 2020 semester, the Fund proceeded as it always had, with the Archway students translating the skills and strategies they had learned to managing the fund. Though they are well-prepared for the responsibility, they found, it could still require an adjustment.

“I think that it first hit me when the assignments moved from five-page essays to \$8,000 trade orders,” remembers Cole Hollis ‘20, who was a portfolio manager for the Equity Fund in the spring 2020 semester and now works as an Operations Settlements Analyst for Goldman Sachs. “That was literally an assignment - a normal, day-to-day thing that we were doing. You begin to understand what it means to have this real fiduciary responsibility.”

Rising storm

Even then, none of the students fully realized the task ahead of them as the coronavirus spread and began to affect the economy and daily life. Hollis remembers a macroeconomic presentation at the beginning of the semester that offered a broad look at the U.S. and world economy. “I distinctly remember that there was a single slide with stats about COVID-19 on it, but that was it,” he says. “It was on people’s radar, but we couldn’t really prepare for what happened.”

“Directionally, yes, the students had a sense of what was coming. In terms of magnitude, though, not even close,” affirms Professor Kevin J. Maloney, Ph.D., who teaches the Archway Fixed Income Portfolio Management course and co-teaches the Archway Equity Portfolio Management class with Professor Asciglu.

That would begin to change as the students prepared for Spring Break and the global pandemic worsened. “It was the Friday before break and we were preparing for class and checking the market, and we realized that everything was getting out of control,” Hollis says. “One of my colleagues kept repeating, ‘Everything is crashing.’”

Navigating a new world

When classes resumed a week later, the Archway students had entered a seemingly very different world. Bryant had gone virtual with the students learning from home and the portfolio managers were forced to confront a new, uncertain financial market.

A decade-long economic expansion ended with the onset of COVID-19, causing the global economy to contract sharply. A strong labor market and healthy consumer spending collapsed as the world went into lockdown by the end of March. Supply chains were stressed as the demand for necessity goods outpaced the supply on store shelves. Nearly every industry suffered drastic, unexpected change.

Undaunted, the portfolio managers prepared to get back to work. “It was their job to sharpen their pencils and see what was really happening,” Maloney says.

A learning laboratory

To decode the tempestuous market around them, the students fell back on the extensive education in finance they had received over the course of four years at Bryant. The fundamental concepts, notes Maloney, remained the same, even in a drastically altered context. “You had to think about all of the same things you normally think about, but the context was very different than the context from even two weeks earlier,” he points out.

In some ways, that chaos was the perfect learning environment for the Archway Fund. “The portfolio managers are not just managing the Fund, they are actively learning new things at the same time they are applying what they’ve already learned,” explains Asciglu. Both she and Maloney take great care to ensure to use the market conditions the students see around them as teaching tools. “Every semester I change the way I teach, because the market is dynamic,” she notes. “There is no textbook to follow because a book cannot match the market.”

That was especially true in a time of such upheaval. “There are things you say, ‘This is never going to happen,’ and then we would see them happen that day,” Asciglu remembers.

Risk and reward

As markets changed around them, the students kept a cool head. “In our Securities Analyst course, Professor Goolgasian [Chris J. Goolgasian, CFA, CPA, CAIA, Adjunct Professor of Finance] emphasized that when it comes to investing, you need to act with your mind and not with your heart,” says Hollis. “We had to remember that we were managing for the long-term, not making emotional decisions in the heat of the moment.”

“Investment has two elements: risk and return,” points out Asciglu. “They always go together, so our students need to be able to make informed decisions. Through their Archway experience, they learned what it truly meant to be a disciplined investor.”

Able to virtually access the range of analytical and research tools available to them through Archway, the students turned to the intensive analysis that had served them well before the pandemic. They also relied on their Archway professors, industry-tested finance professionals who drew from their experiences during 2008 market crash. “The Archway faculty are incredible mentors,” says Hollis. “They’re constantly giving us feedback and requiring us to defend our perspectives, our research, our investment theses, and everything that happens in between.”

“They make you sweat a bit,” he laughs. “But that’s important, especially in times of adversity.”

“We always tell our students that we are their guides and risk managers,” says Asciglu. “We have never said no to any stock pitches, or any decision they make, be it selling, buying or changing things. The only thing we did is ask them questions, to make sure they fully understand what they are proposing.”

Through judicious stewardship, the Fund recovered. “We lost almost 11% in March,” Asciglu remembers, “but then in April we made almost all of it back.”

The fall semester

In the fall semester, the fund switched hands to a new class of portfolio managers who had closely followed the markets, and the AIF’s response to them, in their Securities Analysis course, and were ready to tackle the challenges facing them. Though the students were able to return to campus thanks to Bryant’s adoption of Hy-flex technologies and adherence to rigorous safety measures, they still faced an uncertain financial world.

The students had to re-examine a pandemic-era landscape where everything from supply chains to commerce to simple laws of human contact had changed and determine how those changes affected the financial world. “One of the things we’re always trying to get students to do is think about the assumptions they’re making that they don’t even realize they’re making,” says Maloney. “A class like Archway lends itself to this because there are no immediate right answers. The right answer shows up after the fact, so it’s all about making informed judgements.”

That requires strong critical thinking, notes Melissa Hernandez ‘21, a member of the Archway Executive board in the fall 2020 semester - something her Bryant experience had instilled in her and her fellow Archway students. “You need to do your research, but a lot of people have access to the same resources,” she points out. “That’s when your critical thinking skills become so important because those are all your own - that’s where you find your unique insight.”

It also meant understanding new trends like buying into electronic gaming stocks such as Activision Blizzard to take advantage of a population in lockdown or investing in PepsiCo rather than Coca Cola with the understanding that PepsiCo’s distribution model put it in a better position to weather the shuttering of stadiums and restaurants.

“You can never be 100% prepared, because the world is always changing,” states Hernandez. “You have to be able to adjust with it - and really back up your arguments.”

The lesson

In the end, the Archway Fund managers’ hard work, critical thinking, and adherence to the lessons they had learned paid off. The portfolio had a positive excess return during both the spring and fall semesters and both the Fixed Income and Equity portfolios beat their benchmarks. “The students did a good job of thinking about industries and individual companies that were well-positioned to take advantage of the changes in consumer behavior and other factors,” says Maloney.

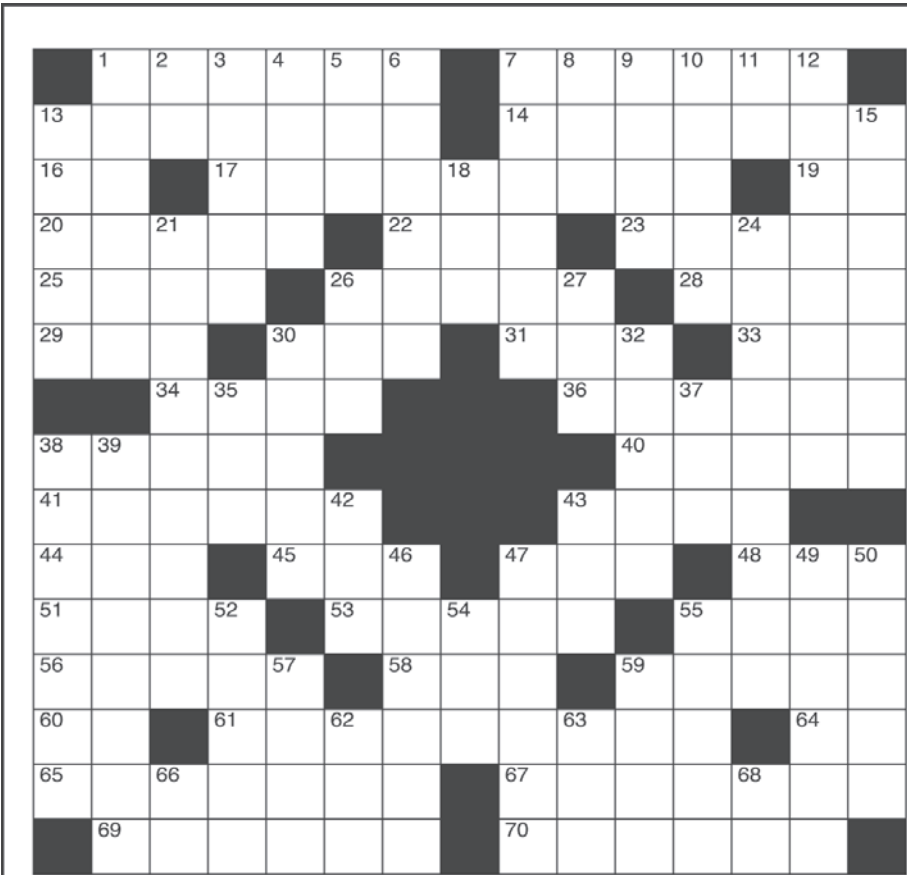
“We are enormously proud of their efforts, and of the excellent investment performance they delivered in the two portfolios,” affirms Asciglu. “We did not get one question from the Bryant administration during this time about the Fund’s performance,” she notes. “They trusted us, which gave the students a great deal of confidence.”

Just as importantly, the Archway Portfolio Managers gained the experience of a lifetime. “It was a very rich environment to teach in,” Maloney states. “The lessons the students learned that year are going to be remembered for a long time.”

“I think my professionalism really advanced from being in that environment, because you are dealing with real money in a unique situation,” Hernandez notes. “If you can manage funds during that volatile time period, you can manage them anytime.”

For Hollis, his time with the Fund was a key advantage that turned employers’ heads. “Just the fact that we’re able to just have this under our belt is a real testament to what Archway students are capable of,” attests Hollis. “My time in Archway definitely helped me stand out in front of employers. When they saw that I, as a student, was a portfolio manager during a pandemic they were like, ‘Oh, my gosh! You were actually in this!’ And I was able to tell them, ‘Yes. Yes, I was.’”

“I will carry that with pride for a long time.”



CLUES ACROSS

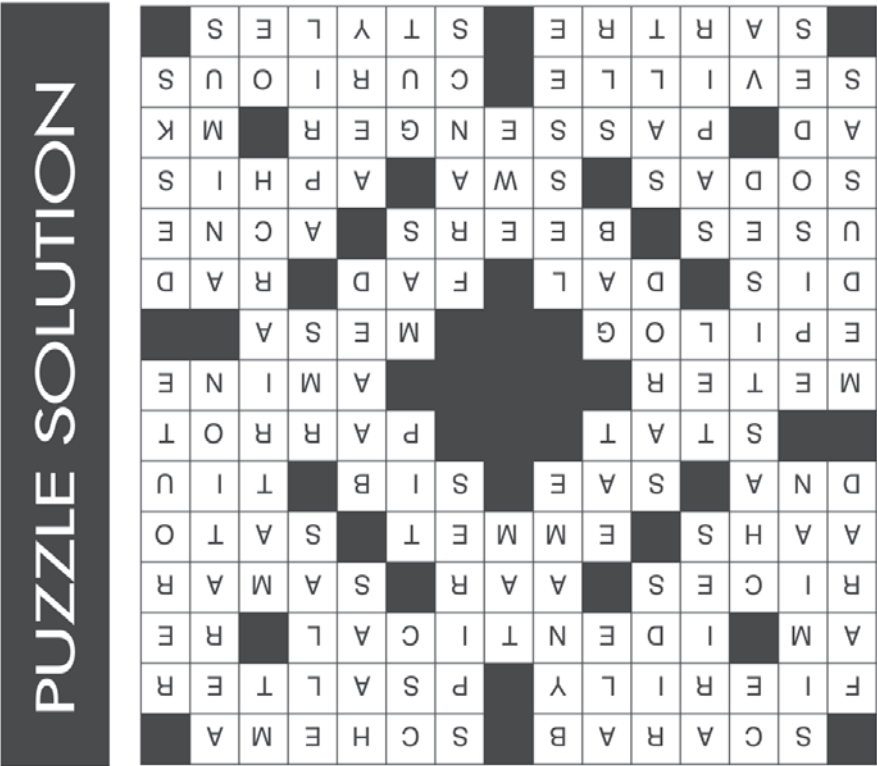
- 1. Large dung beetle
- 7. Representation of a plan
- 13. In a fervid way
- 14. The Book of Psalms
- 16. Morning
- 17. Exactly the same
- 19. About
- 20. Brown and basmati are two
- 22. Swiss river
- 23. Philippine island
- 25. Expressions of surprise
- 26. An ant
- 28. Common Japanese surname
- 29. Deoxyribonucleic acid
- 30. Car mechanics group
- 31. A person’s brother or sister
- 33. Ancient pharaoh
- 34. Quantitative fact
- 36. Vividly colored bird
- 38. Your home has one
- 40. Organic compound

CLUES DOWN

- 1. An ape or monkey
- 2. Chemical element
- 3. Zodiac sign
- 4. Removes
- 5. Brew
- 6. Nickname
- 7. Architectural structures
- 8. Trigonometric function
- 9. Postmodern architectural building in Vienna
- 10. Henderson and Fitzgerald are two
- 11. Mountain (abbr.)
- 12. Landscaping practice
- 13. Capacitance unit
- 15. Redirect
- 18. Hat for women
- 21. In a way, dressed down
- 24. Granny
- 26. Feed
- 27. Endpoint

- 41. Section at the end of a book
- 43. Flat tableland with steep edges
- 44. Criticize
- 45. Split pulses
- 47. Brief trend
- 48. Cool!
- 51. Purposes
- 53. Brews
- 55. Skin condition
- 56. Pops
- 58. American air travel company
- 59. Minute bug
- 60. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
- 61. One who rides in your car
- 64. One of the Gospels
- 65. City in southern Spain
- 67. Inquisitive
- 69. Jean Paul __, author
- 70. Pop singer Harry

- 30. Indian instrument
- 32. Bleated
- 35. Cablegram (abbr.)
- 37. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 38. Jellyfishes
- 39. Individual TV installments
- 42. Talk
- 43. More (Spanish)
- 46. Leaseholder
- 47. Monetary units
- 49. Hostility
- 50. Work stations
- 52. Linguistics giant
- 54. Female sheep
- 55. Calendar month
- 57. Seasoning
- 59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey
- 62. Single Lens Reflex
- 63. A way to remove
- 66. Virginia
- 68. Old English



WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Feb. 28 to March 8.

Sean R. Alger, age 30, of Webster was arrested on March 1 in connection with a warrant.

Sahr Mb Quinama, age 52, of Whitinsville was arrested on March 3 in connection with a warrant, and was also issued a summons for Possession of a Class B Drug.

Dickie F. Mills, age 51, of Southbridge was arrested on March 4 for Assault & Battery.

An adult male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 5 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon.

An adult male whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 5 for Assault on a Family or Household Member, Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, and Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon.

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No Facebook account is needed for this free program. Just point your browser to <https://www.facebook.com/crawfordlibrary> to access the video. Can't tune in at noon? Recordings of each week's storytime are available on the Facebook page beginning Wednesday afternoon.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT
First Friday of every month at 11:00AM
Join Deb Hudgins on Facebook for Music and Movement,

one of our most popular programs! Nothing gets kids on their feet and having fun quite like songs, dance and silly stories, and Miss Deb has been

No Facebook account is needed for this free program. Just point your browser to <https://www.facebook.com/crawfordlibrary> to access the video.

HANDS ON NATURE PRESENTS BACKYARD BIRDS
Monday March 22
6:00PM-7:30PM

Meet the birds in your backyard with this fun free program for kids.

Free; registration is required. Participants will receive a link to the Zoom meeting 24 hours before the event. Sponsored by the Hugh W. and Harriet K. Crawford Endowment.

TRACING YOUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTORS
Thursday March 25
6:00PM-7:45PM

Most of us are here today because someone, somewhere, left everything they knew for something unknown. Find out

how, find out why, find out more. This talk will give you the tools you need to identify the place of origin of your European ancestors. Margaret Fortier will cover how to start, what to watch out for, and how to use the whole family to find what you are looking for. Case studies tracing local immigrants will illustrate the method.

Free. Registration required. Participants will be emailed a zoom link 24 hours before the program. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

GROWING A SUMMER SALAD WITH BLACKSTONE VALLEY
Thursday April 8
6:00PM-7:30PM

Is there anything better than a fresh summer salad? Join Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens for this Zoom presentation where they will cover all the basics of growing your own lettuce, tomatoes, and cucumbers.

Free; registration required. Participants will be emailed a link to the Zoom meeting 24 hours before the event. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

DUDLEY POLICE LOG

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of Feb. 26 to March 5.

A 41-year-old female whose name has been withheld from publication was arrested on Feb. 26 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Resisting Arrest, and Assault on a Police Officer.

Desiree L. Moninski, age 54, of Dudley was arrested on Feb. 27 for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Resisting Arrest.

Cameron James White, age 20, of Marlborough was arrested on Feb. 28 for Forgery and/or Misuse of an RMV Document.

Sydney M. Royce, age 21, of Webster was arrested on March 3 for a Marked Lines Violation, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, and Speeding in Violation of a Special Regulation.

All We Know Is Local



StonebridgePress.com

Le Moyne College names Paul Davey to Dean's List

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Paul Davey, a First-Year Communications major from Oxford, has been named to the Le Moyne College Fall 2020 Dean's List. To make the list, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or above.

Located in a suburban setting on a picturesque 160-acre campus in Syracuse, N.Y., Le Moyne College is one of only 28 Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States. Offering more than 30 majors, Le Moyne provides a values-based education that helps students explore their potential through academics, experience and service. In 2020, for the eighth consecutive year, Le Moyne was ranked by The Princeton Review as one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education, an honor achieved by only 15 percent of the colleges and universities in the nation. A Le Moyne education provides students with the intellectual skills necessary to succeed in the world and the will to use their abilities to promote a more just society.



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Paige Richard of Dudley named to the University of Hartford’s President’s Honors List

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — The University of Hartford is pleased to announce Paige Richard of Dudley has been named to its President’s Honors List for Fall 2020.

The President’s Honors List is made up of an extremely select group of students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher in the semester. This is the GPA that must be sustained over a full undergraduate career to qualify for a degree summa cum laude.

Spread across seven dynamic schools and colleges, the University of Hartford has been guiding the purpose and passion of students for over six decades. On our 350-acre campus alongside Connecticut’s capital city, approximately 5,000 undergraduate and 1,500 graduate students from 48 states and countries come together for a common purpose: to collaborate across different disciplines, diversify perspectives, and broaden worldviews. We’re a four-year private university focused on advancing the public good through meaningful connections within our communities. Our unique approach to comprehensive education gives us the critical perspectives that lead to impactful change, regionally and beyond. With degree programs spanning the arts, humanities, business, engineering and technology, education, and health professions, we focus on doing the work that matters. Visit www.hartford.edu for more information.

Let St. Andrew Bobola Parish provide your Easter dinner

DUDLEY — St. Andrew Bobola Parish, 54 West Main St., Dudley, can make your Easter table a bit more special!

On Saturday, March 27, the parish will be holding its second annual Easter Drive Thru Polish Food Sale from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. As you drive through, contactless frozen food orders will be taken at the back entrance of the church and then delivered directly to you as you sit in your car!! Pierogi (homemade cabbage or cheese) for \$18/dozen \$9/half dozen, small pierogi (blueberry, potato/cheese, cabbage/mushrooms) for \$7/dozen, goł bki \$3 each, smoked or double smoked kielbasa for \$12 and Bigos (kapusta) \$10/quart will all be available along with Babka (cheese or cherry cheese) and Strudel (poppy seed or prune) for \$10 each. Make your Easter so much more special...and let us do some of the cooking for you!

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Designing a wildlife-friendly landscape



Melinda Myers

Include habitat features in your garden and landscape that are needed to attract and sustain the wildlife you are trying to attract.

We love watching the bunnies hopping across the lawn or ground squirrels scurrying away with a cheek full of seeds. That is, until they dine on our favorite shrub or take just one bite out of each red ripe tomato in the garden. Finding a way to coexist is critical for wildlife struggling to survive and our enjoyment of nature and our landscapes.



GARDEN
MOMENTS
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MELINDA
MYERS

Work with nature to maintain a balance in your landscape. Invite hawks, owls, and fox to your backyard. Grow tall grasses and plants that provide cover for foxes. Include trees with good perches or install perch poles to attract and support

raptors.

And like any landscape endeavor, start with a plan. Make a sketch of your existing landscape. Identify existing plants and wildlife-friendly habitats. Make note of both the natural habitats and any supplemental food, water, and shelter you provide. Review and note various features in your landscape throughout the year.

Now decide what you want to accomplish in your landscape. What wildlife do you want to attract and have the space to support? Perhaps you want to attract more songbirds to your gardens or animals, like toads, that help manage pests in the garden.

Make sure your landscape provides the habitat features needed to attract and sustain these welcome residents. You will find lots of helpful resources on National Wildlife Federation, Audubon, Natural Resources Conservation Services, Department of Natural Resources, and University Extension websites.

Be patient and wait for a year to evaluate the results of your efforts. Then begin making any needed changes to meet your goals.


Developing a landscape for you to enjoy and one that supports wildlife takes time, but as a gardener this is not only part of the process but an exciting adventure.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything"* DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine and was commissioned by *Tree World Plant Care* for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

☂☂☂

Friday's Child

☂☂☂



Jondreus
Age 13

Hi! My name is Jondreus and I love science!

Jondreus is a caring boy of Caucasian and Hispanic descent who likes to be called Jon. Those who know him say that he is empathetic, committed, and a kind friend. Jon loves video games, science, playing outdoors, and swimming. When asked what he wants to be when he grows up, Jon states he wants to be a scientist, firefighter, or police officer. Jon's teachers describe him as goal-oriented, very bright, kind, caring, and a great student who gets A's and B's in his classes. He gets along well with his peers, foster parents, foster siblings, and all adults both in his school setting and personal life. All of his teachers and his guidance counselor have great things to say about him. He loves animals and would like to be in a home with pets.

Freed for adoption, Jon has an amazing amount of potential. He would thrive in a family of any constellation with older or no other children in the home. He would benefit from a family that could offer him stability, structure, and love. Jon is especially excited to potentially have a pet in his future home and a swimming pool in his backyard. His new family must be willing to support his relationship with his sister who lives in Western MA. Contact could be in the form of visits and other forms of media contact.

Who Can Adopt?

Can you provide the guidance, love and stability that a child needs? 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.

The process to adopt a child from foster care requires training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you, and if so, to help connect you with a child or sibling group that your family will be a good match for.

To learn more about adoption from foster care, call the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) at 617-964-6273 or visit www.mare-inc.org. The sooner you call, the sooner a waiting child will have a permanent place to call home.

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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Here comes the sun, and we say it's all right

After a long (but, we think, mild) winter, warmer, longer days are finally here. As the official first day of spring nears on March 20, we're noticing people have more of a pep in their step. A refreshing sight given the year 2020 delivered.

While each season has its own perks, there is something about spring that seems to surprise us each year. We re-acquaint ourselves with our yards as they slowly reveal themselves as the snowbanks melt away. Muddy grass has never been a kinder sight.

Over the past few weeks, the common chatter has been about baseball, spring-time fitness goals, gardening, hiking, you know the usual. This week we reminisced about old April Fool's Day pranks in the office. Tacks on seats, the soda bottle filled with water sitting on top of a door waiting to be opened in order to drench an unsuspecting individual, saran wrapped cars, fake lottery winnings, fake wedding proposals and lost wedding rings, to name a few. Stunts to make Larry, Moe and Curly proud.

With spring comes "spring fever." In modern times this is a semi-positive term, however back in colonial times, 'spring fever' referred to the poor quality of health everyone was in, after sustaining a winter without fresh vegetables and proper diet. Today's "spring fever" will have children restless, new romances transpire and people attacking their homes with dust cloths and Windex.

Experts say the changes that a person goes through during the springtime are due to hormonal changes in the body. During the winter months, the body secretes a large amount of melatonin, (the sleep hormone). The presence of more sunlight in spring sends the body a message to stop producing as much melatonin. This causes folks to be more awake. Add this to the uptick in your serotonin levels due to the sunlight and you will not only be awake but enthusiastic.

Interesting to note is that during the springtime the body becomes more susceptible to illnesses. Way back when, scurvy outbreaks always occurred during this time of year as did rubella and measles. Doctors note that in spring, gout, a condition that affects joints, peaks in individuals. Because there are more allergens in the air, you will see more cases of rosacea and other skin irritations on the rise.

We encourage everyone to spend as much time outdoors this spring, including the days leading up to its official start. Get back to basics, back to nature, keep things simple and pick up an old hobby you have abandoned but have been meaning to reconnect with, life is meant to be fun.

LETTERS

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!

We think you're important enough to tell all our readers to turn to the Opinion pages and read your Letters to the Editor.

But first, you have to write us!

Mail your letters to the Webster Times, P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550.

Or e-mail your letters to the editor at news@stonebridgepress.news.

You'll need to provide your name and place of residence, along with a phone number, so we can verify the letter is yours.

We don't have a set limit, but if you keep it around 600 words or so, you're going to have a better chance at seeing all your words in print.

If you want to write a bit longer about a particular issue, maybe a guest Your Turn column is your cup of tea. If you do that, try to keep it between 700-800 words.

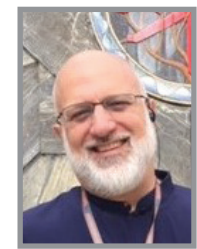
Remember, libelous remarks and/or personal attacks are a no-no and could lead to your letter not being published.

So, what are you waiting for? Start writing!

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

Facing death and judgment



BEYOND THE PEWS
• • • • •
By FR. LUKE A. VERONIS
SAINTS
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Recently, I spoke with a 62 year old woman who is dying. Several months ago, her doctors told her that she has six months to live due to a rare form of cancer. Of course, this woman is extremely sad at her prospects. Yet she is preparing herself for what may happen much sooner than she ever dreamed about. She is making her funeral arrangements. She called me up to talk about the funeral service. She's confronting the likelihood that she will die soon. Obviously, life takes on a radically new perspective when confronted with such reality.

Some people might think of some bucket list of superficial things they want to do before they die, yet she seems to be cherishing every moment she can spend with her children when they visit her, and with her family and close friends. She seems to be quite sober in her preparations for death.

For many people this scenario may seem too morbid to think about. Jesus Christ, however, places such a reality in front of His followers throughout the Gospels. Be prepared. Be ready. Stay vigilant in our preparation for our final encounter with God. This is why the Fathers of the Church had a saying to "keep death in front of you every day."

The Last Judgment, sometimes called the story of the Sheep and Goats, from Matthew 25 deals with the topic of preparing for our own end, and the judgment that comes with it. Jesus warns His followers that if we don't prepare for death, the judgment of God will come upon us in a sudden and unexpected way. Yet, Christ is trying to help us because he cautions us ahead of time what His judgment will be. It's like God telling us we will have a final exam, but first he tells us exactly what the questions will be.

"I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and in prison, and you came to visit me. For whatever you did to the least of my brothers or sisters, you did to me."

When we come face to face before God after our death, He will look over our lives and remind us how we have treated other people, how we have responded especially to those in need. Have we reached out with concrete acts of love, with random and conscious kindness, with disciplined charity, with joyful generosity – because when we reach out specifically to the marginalized of society, we are reaching out to Christ Himself.

As followers of Jesus, He calls us to love others with tangible acts of love, and not only to love those who love us or to love those we think "deserve" our kindness. The beauty of this parable is that the righteous who helped those in need didn't really think they were doing anything special, just as the condemned who didn't reach out

to those in need were shocked to hear Jesus say that they didn't take care of His needs. Who we offer our acts of love and kindness to shouldn't depend on what we think of the people in need. Christ calls us to be filled with His love and then to automatically share His love to whoever is hungry, or thirsty, or naked, or in need.

Let me repeat this. No where do we see God telling us to offer love to those we think deserve it. We don't need to analyze and determine whether we should help the other – our acts of love need to be spontaneous acts springing from a heart full of the love for God! We don't need to judge why one is in prison, why one is hungry, why one is naked. Maybe they made some mistakes or poor choices in their lives. One day they will give an account before Christ for themselves. We don't need to act as their judge.

"For the Christian believer, every human person is to be respected inasmuch as he or she bears the divine image within," says Archbishop Anastasios of Albania. "The obligation of every conscientious Christian is to demonstrate respect for the divinely derived dignity of every other person with sincere love, irrespective of what that person believes or if that person believes at all. The cultivation of such a conscience within the spaciousness and freedom of God's children remains the exceptional contribution of the Church."

Here lies the heart of the Gospel and all the teachings of Christ. We know that the greatest commandments are to love God and love one another, but today we realize that such love can never be simple theory. Instead, these two loves intersect with one another in concrete actions. In fact, through these actions we come to understand that love for God and love for the other are one and the same, precisely because God lives within each person.

"I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me to drink. I was naked and you clothed me. I was alone in prison and in the hospital, and you visited me. For whatever you did for one of these least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me."

Christ doesn't say, "You didn't solve the problems of world hunger," but simply "I was hungry and you fed me." Jesus didn't comment, "You couldn't heal my illnesses," but simply "I was sick and you visited me." He didn't complain, "I was in prison and you didn't free me." No, instead, He judges us because we didn't do what was within our ability – a simple visit.

May we all remember that life is brief and fragile, as my 62 year old is realizing. None of us know the day or time we will come face to face with Christ through our death, but we do know very clearly what He will ask us at our final judgment. "I was hungry and you fed me. I was thirsty and you gave me to drink. I was naked and you clothed me. I was alone in prison and in the hospital, and you visited me. For whatever you did for one of these least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me."

Let us go out and strive each day to see Jesus Christ in the least of our brothers and sisters and to reach out to them in love and compassion and mercy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The America we want to live in

To the Editor:

In Marcia Wagner's Webster Times Letter to the Editor on Feb. 26, she expressed her opinion on several issues, including police reform in Massachusetts, the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, and the place and importance of diversity in our school system. Unfortunately, she misrepresents the intention and origins of the BLM movement. The purpose of this letter is to correct the record.

It can be easy to fall victim to disinformation. First, Susan Rosenberg is wrongly identified by Ms. Wagner as one of the Founders of Black Lives Matter (BLM). She is not a founder of the organization nor has she any role in its day to day operations. Rosenberg is a member of the Board of Thousand Currents, the former fiscal conduit for BLM. Thousand Currents dissolved their contract with BLM in 2020 when the organization formalized a new relationship with the TIDES Foundation to perform the fiscal and administrative back office work.

Second, by writing "BLM's true agenda," Ms. Wagner insinuates something dark. Clearly, her intention was to convince us "naïve folks" that BLM has

a sinister intent, that is to perpetrate domestic terrorism. To challenge this assumption, David Sherman, an international security senior policy analyst at the New America think tank, told PolitiFact, "Black Lives Matter is not a terrorist organization nor a terrorist movement, and no responsible source would describe it as such." Further, POLITICO released intelligence reports from DHS, the FBI, and other law enforcement sources stating "The most significant terror-related threat facing the US today comes from violent extremists who are motivated by white supremacy and other far-right ideological causes."

Lastly, The Dudley Charlton School Committee is to be applauded for affirming the importance of diversity in its hiring practices. What their recent pledge means to us is a renewed commitment to actively recruit candidates of diverse backgrounds so that all children in our schools see people in authority who look like them. That is the America we want to live in.

DUDLEY DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

Be on the lookout for scams



CHIEF SCORNER
STEVE WOJNAR

A variety of financial fraud "scams" continue to occur in our area. People can be asked to send money to various locations or provide personal or bank information. These can take place in person, on-line, over the phone, or by mail. As a result, many have lost large sums of money. In recent weeks, several people, including me, have been called by someone posing as a power company or motor vehicle warranty official. I wanted to provide once again everyone with some information on these illegal activities.

Money and identity scams have been occurring for many years. Various types have taken place during this COVID-19 time. Those responsible prey on unsuspecting individuals, particularly seniors. Their goal is to obtain either quick cash or bank account numbers. Armed with this documentation, the criminal can commit identity theft and access your finances. Scammers can be well versed and prepared. Many do extensive on-line research, including checking obituaries, tax records, or other publicly available information prior to calling you. They may have the names of children, grandchildren, a deceased spouse, and a variety of other information, which they can use to intimidate or trick you.

In this instance, an automated message plays informing the person they have been overcharged by their power company and they are due a refund. Others tell people their vehicle warranty is up, and they are eligible for renewal. The goal is to get you to engage with one of their "representatives" and provide personal information or send money. They most likely have little of the information they called you about and will ask you to provide it to "confirm" their records. The caller tends to become rude if they are questioned. This is a hoax. If it is legitimate, the caller should already have all the information and be able to provide phone numbers, addresses, etc. to you to confirm their legitimacy. Do not trust any of this business over the phone. You can follow up with your power company or car dealership. In addition, Social Security scams are also prevalent, especially during tax season. People can be told their number has been compromised or blocked. Callers threaten you with arrest or other penalties unless you divulge personal information or send some form of payment. No one is ever threatened over the phone by the Social Security Administration and our department has never arrested anyone on behalf of this agency. Please exercise caution and seek out help from trusted people (family member, bank, police, etc.) before taking any actions. If you receive unexpected requests for money or other personal information, assume it is a scam. Be very cognizant of these occurrences and protect your personal information. Report anything suspicious to the proper authorities.

As the pandemic continues, we ask everyone to stay safe and continue to take the necessary precautions to protect yourselves. For those eligible, vaccination information can find it at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling 508-949-8036. We continue to serve the people of Dudley and work with the community to improve the quality of life for everyone. I thank the men and women from my department for their continued dedicated service to the Town during these trying times. Thanks also go out to the many Police Officers, Fire and Emergency Services members, public works, health care, government officials, and all other "essential" personnel for their continued hard work and service. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

Thanks again for your questions and comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department, 71 West Main St., Dudley, MA 01571 or email at swojnar@dudleypolice.com. Opinions expressed in this weekly column are those of Chief Wojnar only and unless clearly noted, do not reflect the ideas or opinions of any other organization or citizen.

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In Print and Online



Memories of fishing with Mel



Mike Daniels with a six-pound largemouth bass caught last Saturday in local waters. Nice fish!

The month of March will hopefully bring us some continued warm weather like we are experiencing this week. Mass. Fish & Wildlife will be stocking more than 500,000 trout in waters throughout the state starting any day now. More than 75 percent will be over 12 inches long. Ice conditions will become extremely dangerous in the days and weeks ahead, until total ice out. Most ponds and lakes rarely receive an allotment of trout before ice out, but if the waters are suitable for stocking, and the PH is correct, they could still receive trout.

This week's two pictures of large-mouth bass caught in local waters last

week are a good indicator that there are plenty of big bass out there for this year's fishing, by diehard bass anglers. Catching largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in New England, provide some exciting fishing for anglers with bass boats during derbies, or just fishing with friends and family. Although I am not a big freshwater bass fishing angler like I was in my younger years, I still enjoy the excitement of landing a large bass on a flyrod, or other light fishing tackle. I have been told by numerous anglers that freshwater bass fish, that the colder New England waters provide a longer fight from the bass, than in the warmer waters of Florida and other Southern states.

In my younger years, I fished Meadow Pond and Arcade Pond in Whitinsville for many species of freshwater fish. Our dad often took my brother Mel & me fishing on Meadow pond in a 12-foot rowboat at least once a week. The boat was kept in a portion of the pond called Kanes Cove. The Kane family lived right on the water just off of Border Street, and was accessible to anyone that wanted to go fishing. The boat was moored out from the shoreline approximately 150 feet, and our dad kept a throwline and a block of wood to retrieve the boat when we wanted to go fishing.

My brother Mel and I sat in the back of the boat trolling a double spinner and worm combination, as our dad slowly rowed the boat. I can remember my brother Mel shouting to my dad to stop the boat, as he was stuck on



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

RALPH TRUE

the bottom! Suddenly, a huge bass broke the water, and the fight was on. Back then a steel rod and a level wind reel loaded with a Dacron fishing line, was all that we had for fishing gear. Landing the fish took some time, but he did manage to land the fish. That was the start of my brother's fascination with fishing, and he became hooked on fishing big time, even more so through his adult life.

Meadow Pond and the Arcade Pond also offered some great Calico Bass (crappie) fishing, using a fly rod and a Micky Finn streamer fly. A bridge on the Meadow Pond Road (Main Street) was removed a number of years ago, but was a great place to fish for crappie. The water was crystal clear back in the day, and you could watch the crappie chasing the fly as it was retrieved just under the surface of the water. I can remember bringing home a stringer of them for my dad to clean & make a great fish chowder. Oftentimes, we caught yellow perch and bluegills to add to the pot. I sure do miss his fish chowder!

This past weekend, this writer was informed by a local sportsman, about a deer that had fallen through the ice in the West River. He was drawn to the deer carcass by a large Bald Eagle that was feeding on the deer. Sightings of Bald Eagles are at an all-time high throughout the state, and in the valley area. The informant tried to get a picture of the Eagle, but it left the area before he got ready to snap the photo. I am sure he will be back to dine



Jim Nickelson with a huge seven pound, two ounce largemouth bass ,also caught last weekend while ice fishing local waters.

on the deer carcass in the coming days and weeks. Maybe he will get another chance to snap a photo!

March is the month for the Saltwater Fishing Show in Providence, R.I., but because of Covid, this year's show has been canceled, as were most other Fishing & Sportsmen's shows. Looking over the latest in fishing equipment, meeting old friends, and telling big lies about all of our fish we caught last year has been put on hold. Just wait until next year!

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Spring has (Almost) Sprung: Ode to the Botanical Signs of Spring

New Englanders have long searched for signs of spring after a long, cold winter, and few promises of warm weather are more welcome than the annual arrival of early spring buds. From fuzzy pussy willows to blazing golden forsythia, nature ushers in the season with an abundance of color, texture and beauty that has inspired artist and poets for centuries. Such common “backyard blooms” are simple pleasures that evoke sentiment from both novice and experienced gardeners. Plentiful and easy to grow, these nostalgic perennials are gaining a new appreciation for the simple beauty the early spring blooms bring to the landscape.

Forsythia: As March arrives, so does Forsythia. Bursts of yellow blooms along country roads and splashes of gold color in New England yards bring a welcome change to the dreary winter landscape. Forsythia bushes are a mainstay of the Northeast, and these beloved flowers never cease to impress. While Forsythia is in bloom for only about two weeks, its early presence is so appreciated that it remains a popular plant, with its leafy shrub providing privacy throughout the rest of the growing season.

Arguably, the Forsythia signals the arrival of spring more than any other botanical cue. Named after the English horticulturist William Forsythe (1737-1804), the flowering plant is hailed for its hardiness and fast growth. The yellow bloomer, which is a member of the olive family, is native to China and Southeastern Europe.

Forsythia Folklore: Since it's not uncommon for snow to fly after the Forsythia has bloomed, it's not surprising the early spring plant has earned its way into American garden folklore.

“Three snows after the Forsythia blooms” was an oft repeated phrase by farmers of yore. The old weather forecasting method reminds us that although the blazing yellow Forsythia may be in full bloom, the New England winter is not yet over.

Forsythia, with its bright golden flowers and ability to thrive (and survive) harsh weather conditions, has been hailed and celebrated throughout the years. The Forsythia boasts several namesake festivals and celebrations held annually throughout the country; the most prominent Forsythia Festival held each year the second weekend in March in Forsyth Georgia.

Rooting Forsythia: Forsythia is easy to propagate. In fact, many gardeners report good results by simply cutting a branch on a slant and inserting the fresh cut end into a few inches of prepared soil.

Another option is to place fresh cutting into water to root. Leave in a cool, dark area until roots form. Once roots grow, plant outside in well watered soil.

Pussy Willows: Native to the Northeast, the tiny, furry grey buds of the pussy willow plant have long served as a welcome sign of spring. Long stalks of branches bearing “kitten toes” spring up in wetlands across New England, to be plucked and displayed in vases

as a reminder warmer weather is on its way. A childhood favorite, the velvety grey buds are a sentimental reminder of a simpler time, when the sprigs of willows discovered in the woods, or along a pond's edge proved an unexpected, yet delightful find. The simple form of the pussy willow continues to amaze today, as artists both past and present have replicated the lofty twigs in oils and ink, and naturalists gather the catkins to create long lasting bouquets.

Pussy willows do more than decorate a dismal wintry landscape, as they are very beneficial to wildlife. Wild birds, particularly cardinals and finches, consume the flower buds, and densely growing pussy willow shrubs offer nesting and shelter for a variety of native birds. Bees rely on the early season blooms of the pussy willow for pollen, and some species of butterfly larvae feed on the pussy willow's leaves.

Deer, beaver, grouse and squirrels all include willow in their diets, and the leaves of the pussy willow provide much needed vitamins and nutrients including hefty doses of Vitamin C and zinc.

Pussy Willow Folklore: As adorable as it is unusual, it's not surprising the fuzzy pussy willow has a place in folklore. According to an old Polish tale, a litter of kittens had been chasing butterflies at the river's edge and one by one fell into the moving waters. The mother cat, unable to save her kittens began crying out. The willow trees, located on the banks of the river swept their long branches into the water – to which the kittens clung on tightly and were



TAKE THE HINT

KAREN TRAINOR

pussy willows a place in Ukraine tradition. It is said just before Easter, families go into the woods to pick pussy willows with the intention of beating out the long cold winter. Reciting a childhood rhyme family members playfully strike each other with the long, pussy willow branches, an act which symbolizes the strength to break away from the winter season to welcome spring and new beginnings.

Propagating Pussy Willows: Pussy willows are moisture loving plants can be found wild along wetlands. The plant is a favorite remedy to remedy poor drainage areas and are useful for controlling soil erosion. Their tall branches are also used for privacy or borders, but most people enjoy the pleasures of pussy willow in bloom simply to display as a centerpiece.

Propagating pussy willows is not difficult and usually results in success. An easy way to plant pussy willows in the spring season is simply to cut a foot long branch of new growth and insert it into moist soil. Sink it into the ground at least three inches and allow a few nodes to remain above ground. With luck, roots will form within a couple of weeks. The trick is to make sure the cutting is from a male pussy willow (males change color and are often larger; female branches remain dull and grey). Keep in mind that roots

are aggressive so be sure to plant them away from anything you do not want them to invade such as sewer systems, etc.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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



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OBITUARIES

Jane H. Ryan, 86



WEBSTER – Jane H. Ryan, 86, formerly of Webster, died Tuesday, March 2, 2021 in Beaumont Nursing Home, Northbridge after a period of declining health. She leaves her cousin, Rae Hynes; many friends and former colleagues. She was born on May 8, 1934 in Webster, the daughter of Heaton L. and Mildred H. (Hynes) Ryan. She lived in Webster most of her life and graduated from Bartlett High School in 1952. She attended the College of New Rochelle for one year, then transferred to Boston University, earning her Bachelor's Degree in Education in 1957. Miss Ryan taught third grade at Park

Ave Elementary School for 40 years retiring in 1997. After retirement she was a substitute teacher and tutor in the district. Her mission statement for her classes was “To make every child no matter what his or her ability might be feel wanted and a part of the class and to make learning such a positive and exciting experience that he or she truly wants to attend school each day”. She was a member of Saint Louis Church. Her graveside service was held on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 11:00 AM in Mount Zion Cemetery, Webster. There are no calling hours. Donations in her memory may be made to Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center, 85 Beaumont Dr., Northbridge, Ma 01534. Arrangements are under the direction of Scanlon Funeral Service, 38 East Main Street.

Sharon A. Denham, 67



WEBSTER – Sharon A. (Goulet) Denham, 67, died Monday, February 22, 2021 in her home after a period of declining health. She leaves behind her best friend and companion of almost 25 years, Bruce A. Casey; 2 sons, Gary A. Denham, Jr. and his companion Tina of North Grosvenordale, CT, and Jason Denham and his companion Jen Kotarba of Putnam, CT; 2 grandchildren, Justin Denham and his wife Sierra Denham of Putnam, CT and Julissa Denham and her fiancé Brandon Rochette, Sr. of Webster; 3 great-grandchildren, Jaxon, Liam, and Brandon, Jr.; 3 brothers, Paul Goulet, Jr. of North Grosvenordale, CT, Anthony Goulet and Ted Goulet and his husband Tom Hansen, all of Worcester; and many nieces and nephews. A sis-

ter, Joan L. Denham, died last year. She was born in Worcester on July 10, 1953, the daughter of Paul Goulet, Sr. and Grace A. (Stranieri) Goulet and was raised there. She lived in Webster for 46 years and attended Bartlett High School. Sharon was a cook and home maker and dedicated her life to her family, with a special love for the grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved her frequent shopping trips. Her last employment prior to retiring was a cook at the Coffee Mug in Auburn, Ma. Sharon always loved to cook, share and provide for those in need without hesitation. She opened her heart and home to others. A private funeral service will be held at a later date in Notre Dame Mausoleum, Hope Avenue, Worcester. There are no calling hours. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street.

Rita Mary Wolkowicz, 92



FORT WORTH, TX / DUDLEY, MA – Rita Mary (Dudek) Wolkowicz, 92, formerly of Dudley, died Sunday, February 28, 2021 at Medical City Alliance, Fort Worth, Texas after a brief illness. Rita leaves her faithful and loving husband of 69 years, John J. Wolkowicz; her loving and caring sons, John A. of Vero Beach, FL, Dr. Paul E. of Birmingham, AL, and David E. and loving granddaughter, Eliza Grace of Charlton, MA; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Rita was preceded in death by her three brothers, Walter, Matthew and Edward, and her two sisters, Ann and Florence.

Rita was born on January 24, 1929 at home in Dudley, a daughter to Albert and Mary (Pitlak) Dudek.

Rita attended Bartlett High and

David Hall School and lived in Dudley until she retired in 1990 from her data processing position at Rand-Whitney, Worcester, MA.

In retirement, Rita lived a healthy and prayerful life, first in St Cloud, FL and then moving in 2006 to Fort Worth, TX.

Rita will be missed but remembered as a good wife, mother and grandmother, with strong faith in GOD, who prayed for us all.

May GOD Bless Rita's holy soul for eternity. Amen.

A funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, March 13, at 10:00 AM in Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street, Webster (please meet at the church). Burial will be in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. There are no calling hours. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street Webster.

www.websterfunerals.com

Antique reproductions and fakes



Antiques have been copied for years. For example, in 1876, the Centennial Exposition took place in Philadelphia. Americans were interested in their history and cabinet makers produced many quality reproductions of pieces from the previous century. Often, the goal with reproductions is to create copies of furniture or other antiques for people who couldn't afford to pay what an original would cost. Other times though, the goal is to deceive an unsuspecting buyer.

When I started selling antiques over 30 years ago, a friend informed me that he was running a golf auction. I was new at the antique business and bought some cast iron doorstops of a man and woman golfer that I thought would be a good fit. My friend who was running the auction informed me that the doorstops were reproductions. Someone had artificially aged them by exposing them to weather and hitting them with chains. Even when accurately described as reproductions in his golf auction catalog, the pair sold for well over \$200 and I was able to make a small profit, despite my mistake.

Around 15 years ago, I was helping a friend set up his booth at the Brimfield Antique Show. We finished early that night and walked around to see what other dealers were offering for sale. My friend specialized in



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
• • • • •
WAYNE TUISKULA

antique furniture and saw a barrister's bookcase that was reasonably priced. Barrister's (or stacking) bookcases are rectangular sections that fit on top of each other. The glass fronts lift upward and slide inward at the top. When my friend examined the bookcase more closely, he found a "Made in Malaysia" sticker in the back.

Around the same time, we auctioned a great collection of Tiffany Studios desk accessories for a client who had collected them for many years. Fortunately, the collector sold the collection when they did. Many copies have been made in Asia since we sold the collection. The flood of reproductions has caused the price of originals to drop considerably.

There are so many reproductions that it may be easier to list antiques that haven't been reproduced than things that have. A search of Wayfair's Web site of antique reproductions lists: telephones, tea sets, telescopes, bottle openers, scrimshaw boxes, toilet paper holders, statues, and furniture. There are hundreds more. I should point out that they are doing nothing illegal or unethical by selling these. They are merely offering decorative pieces to people who want them.

On the other hand, U.S. Customs seized 36 fake guitars that were shipped from China, according to a February NBC Washington report. Many of the guitars were Gibson Les Paul copies. A

Gibson Ace Frehley had a suggested retail value of \$9,000. The total suggested retail value for all the guitars was \$158,692. Guitar.com reported that the bogus guitars were en route to buyers in 21 states and Australia.

If you are a collector, here are some things that you can do to make sure you are buying legitimate pieces. Buy from a reputable dealer. Learn as much about the items you collect. Before I became a full-time auctioneer, I spent a lot of free time in local antique shops. If I saw the same item in multiple shops I looked closely and found it was typically either a reproduction or a recent warehouse find. Sometimes, it can be obvious that what you are looking at is a reproduction. If you see "copy of," reproduction," or a modern "Made in China" label on a piece, you don't have to look any further.

We will soon auction another group of antique, vintage, and contemporary model trains, die-cast cars, and other toys online. We also picked up a large collection of sports and non-sports cards that will be sold by online auction. We are also still accepting quality consignments of valuable items like jewelry, coins, art, and better collectibles for our May multi-estate auction. See our website for details: <https://centralmassauctions.com>

Contact us at: Wayne Tuiskula Auctioneer/ Appraiser Central Mass Auctions for Antique Auctions, Estate Sales and Appraisal Services www.centralmassauctions.com (508-612- 6111) info@centralmassauctions.com

Disappointment? Join the club

So, I get an email last night from a reader of this column ...

"You always write about optimism, now that you have cancer, what do you think?"

What do I think?

Let me begin with this ... If you want to avoid disappointment, don't do anything. Do not try to live your dreams. Stop reaching for the stars. Never build a business or try to compete. Don't apply for the promotion. Refuse to take a risk. Don't try to beat cancer. And above all ... never fall in love. If you want to avoid disappointment, its easy, just be the anti-Nike and Just 'Don't' Do It.' Problem solved, right? Not hardly ...

The best of life is available for those who go for it.

The rewards of life go to those who risk, and when you risk, you will often be disappointed. I've suffered more emotionally crushing moments in my

life than I can recount. It's all part of the game. You win some, you lose some and some are rained out. Some disappointments are minor, and you move on quickly, while some stay with you for an exceptionally long time. So yes, I've suffered great disappointment, while also enjoying great success. You can't have one without the other.

By coincidence, previously, on a day where I got the call from another reader about disappointment, I personally suffered a major disappointment.

About an hour before the call, I suffered a business setback that was stunning. It was something I didn't expect, and the disappointment lingered for an exceptionally long time. I was pursuing an opportunity that I was convinced was a sure thing, and had been working on it for months. I felt assured by the client that they were



POSITIVELY SPEAKING

GARY W. MOORE

eager to take advantage of my proposal. It was a great program, and there was every reason that the group I was courting should have said yes. When I was told no, it was like a punch to my gut. I was given no reason for the refusal other than "we just think we'll pass at this time." When I came home from the meeting with my tail between my legs, my wife consoled me for a few minutes then said, "Get on the tractor and mow the grass" ... and I did.

The grass doesn't stop growing because I'm disappointed.

Life goes on. I had to pick myself up off the floor, get on the tractor and get cutting, and for me, the tractor is a great

place to plan (or plant) my next move.

So, you are disappointed? Join the club. You are not alone. You were laid off from your company or your spouse left you. Your team didn't win the big game and your diet isn't working as fast as you'd like. Your son or daughter was cut from the team or didn't get into the college you'd hoped. There are different levels of disappointments and different people feel them to different degrees. But the fact is that we all suffer disappointment, but here's the key ...

It's not important that you were knocked down. All that matters is that you get back up again.

It is all a matter of personal resilience. As my dad always said to me, "You gotta keep on keepin' on." So, I was deeply disappointed that morning. At 11:20 a.m., I felt like I was punched hard by a friend, but by 3 p.m. the same day, I was plan-

ning my next move. The pain of the morning was eclipsed by the optimism of the afternoon. I was still hurt and disappointed, but I made a choice to leave my unfulfilled dream of the morning behind and embrace the future of my next idea. I made the choice to move on.

Always fish with more than one pole.

The more baited hooks you have in the water at one time, the more chances you have of landing the big fish. Be creative. Have more than one idea, project, or proposal. Pursue more than one job. Apply to multiple schools. Never rely on a single outcome and never allow the disappointment of one day, stop you from taking a chance on the next. Keep going. Keep trying and never give up.

There are only two things you can control in life ...

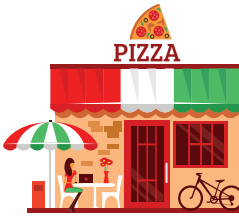
So back to the reader question. Having can-

cer has not changed my attitude or optimism. I'm focused on living a happy and optimistic life. I believe I can beat this cancer and am working to do so.

You can't control the weather ... or how others feel about you ... or the decisions others make that influence your future. You can control your attitude and your attitude will drive how you respond to the inevitable disappointments ... and you can also control your effort. Be optimistic and work hard. Next time you won't be disappointed.

Gary W. Moore is a freelance columnist, speaker, and author of three books including the award-winning, critically acclaimed, "Playing with the Enemy." Follow Gary on Twitter @ GaryWMoore721 and at www.garywmoore.com.

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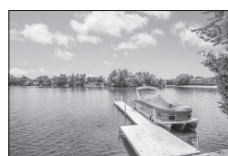


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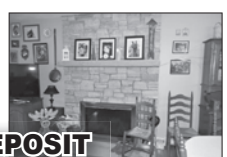


WEBSTER LAKE – 7 Cedar Drive! Middle Pond! 8 Rm English Tudor across the street from w/Direct Waterfront Lot – Full Lake Access! Offering the Option of an In-Law Apartment or Plenty of Room for Family & Friends! Entry Foyer enters from 3 Sides w/locked door access into the house, stairway to the lower level In-law and the convenience of a Half Bath! The 1st Floor features Appliance Kit w/Breakfast Bar, Open Floor Plan – Frplcd Beamed Cathedral Ceiling Great Rm (Dining & Living Rms), Comfortable Bdrm & Hall Full Bath w/Laundry! Upstairs to the Spacious Master w/Master Bath & Slider to Lake View Deck! Additional Bdrm w/Built-ins! Lower Level with 2nd Kitchen, Open Dining & Living Area w/Brick Hearth, Full Bath & Possible (4th) Bdrm! Central Air! Huge Carport! Detached 3 Car Garage! Lakefront Lot w/Deck, Concrete Patio & Boat Dock! Take Advantage of the Low Interest Rates & make this House Your Home! Summer's Just Around the Corner! **\$489,900.00**

WEBSTER – 6 Nicholas Circle! 8+ Rm Center Hall Colonial! 1.22 Acres! Sought After Neighborhood! Great Commuter Location Accessible to Many Major Routes! Spacious Stainless Steel Appliance Cabinet Packed Eat-in Kitchen & Formal Dining Rm! 23 x 24 Frplcd Family Rm w/Cathedral Ceiling & Slider to the Huge Deck! Front to Back Living Rm! 1/2 Bath w/Laundry Closet! The 2nd Floor You'll Find the Comfortable 12X17 Master w/Walk-in Closet & Full Bath w/Linen Closet! 2 Additional Bedrooms plus an Office/Nursery/Bedroom all w/Ample Closets! 2nd Full Bath off the Hall w/Linen Closet! 2.5 Total Baths! Lower Level Ideal for Storage or Future Expansion! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers w/Dble Door Entry to the Basement for Moving Larger Items aka Boys Toys! 2 Z Oil Heat, 2 AC, Separate Oil Water Heater! Irrigation! Don't Delay! **\$418,900.00**

WEBSTER – 31 Park Street! 3 Family! 6/6/6 Rooms! 3/3/3 Bedrooms! 1/1/1 Bathrooms! Each Unit is nearly 1,300' Featuring Spacious Kitchens, Living Rooms & 3 Good Size Bedrooms! Remodeled 10 Yrs Ago! Updated Electric! Tile Flrs Throughout! LPGas Heat & Hot Electric Heat! **\$284,900.00**

WEBSTER – 44 Sunny Ave! Sought After Neighborhood! 7 Room 1,632' Colonial! 1st Flr Features Open Flr Plan, Kit w/IsL, Din Area, Fam Rm, Frplcd Liv Rm, 1.5 Baths! 2nd Flr w/3 Bedrooms & Bathrm! 2.5 Baths Total! Tile Flrs Throughout! LPGas Heat & Hot Water! Town Services! **\$289,900.00**



WEBSTER – 69 Minebrook Rd! Conveniently Located 7 Rm Split Entry! 1.04 Acre Lot! House set well off the Road for added Privacy! Open Floor Plan! Eat-in Appliance Kit w/Island & Seating, Tile Flr, Tile Backsplash & Ceiling Fan! Din Rm w/Hrwd Flrs & Slider to the Deck Overlooking the Private Backyard! Frplcd Liv Rm w/Hrwd Flr! Ideal for Entertaining! Master Bdrm w/2 Dble Closets, Ceiling Fan & Master Bath w/Marble Tile Flr & Shower Surround! Hrwd Stairs, the Finished Lower Level Fan Rm w/Recessed Lighting, Stone & Tile Hearth w/Woodstove, 1/2 Bath w/Tile Flr, Laundry Rm w/Sink & Tile Flr, Utility Rm w/Storage! 2 Car Garage w/Electric Openers & Door to Backyard! Oil Heat! Steel "T" Beam Construction! Shed! Won't Last!! **\$349,900.00**

WEBSTER LAKE – 11 Henry Road! Bates Point - Middle Pond + Panoramic Views + Western Exposure = Beautiful Sunsets! Never 2 the Same! 3,184' 9 Room Fully Furnished Colonial Built from the Ground Up as a New Home in 2005! This Home Features 4 Bedrooms, 2 of which are Master Suites, 1 of which Overlooks the Lake, 4.5 Bathrooms, 2 of which have Separate Showers & Whirlpool Tubs, 3 of which have Double Granite Vanities, 2 Complete Granite/Stainless Kitchens! The First Floor Open Floor Plan with Hardwood Floors Features an Eat-in Kitchen with LP Gas Jenn-Air Range, Double Drawer Dishwasher & Trash Compactor! Spacious Formal Dining Room with Crown Moldings & Chair Rails! Lake Facing Great Room/Living Room with Gas Fireplace, Wet Bar with Bottle Cooler, Surround Sound & Slider to Composite Deck! Half Bath with Laundry Closet! The Second Floor with 4 Bedrooms! Comfortable Front 16x16 and Back 17x17 Masters with Tray Ceilings, Recessed Lighting, Ceiling Fans, Surround Sound & Full Tile/Granite Bathrooms! Full Hall Bath for the other 2 Bedrooms! Fully Finished Walk-out Lower Level with Full Summer Kitchen, Family Room with Gas Fireplace, Surround Sound, Slider to Paver Patio & Full Bath! Buderus 3 Zone Oil Heat! 3 Zone Air Conditioning! Central Vac! Security! 2 Car Heated Garage! Boat Dock! **\$1,099,900.00**

CHARLTON – 74 Daniels Road! Completely Renovated 9 Rm, 4 Bdrm, 2.5 Bath Gambrel w/Attached In-Law Apt! Picturesque 3.39 Acres! Deeded Water Rights to South Charlton Reservoir! Extensive Updates! House w/New Roof, Siding, Kit, Bthrms, Windows, Int Doors, Electrical, Flooring, R60 Insulation in Attic, Water Heater, Well Pump & More! In-Law w/Open Flr Plan, Kit, Bdrm w/Walk-in Closet, Full Bath w/Laundry! Both Fully Appliance! 2 New Driveways, Irrigation, AG Pool! Shed! Security! Generator Hookup! **\$489,900.00**

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assisted sale **\$325,000.**

WEBSTER - 103 UPPER GORE RD



SORRY, SOLD!
Home "Sweet" Home! TOTALLY Renovated! New Roof - Updated Electrical - New Heating System!! Bedroom, 1.5 Bath - 2 Story Conventional Home. Dead-End St. Rare find, Large Lot .77 Acre - Inside - Neutral Palette of Complimentary Paint Colors throughout the Entire House! Loads of Character
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Oxford - 4 Leicester St - Approx. 8.47 ACRES! River Frontage Possible to be Subdivided!
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Webster - Upper Gore w/View of the Lake! 1+ Acre! Artesian Well, Septic Design & Conservation - DONE.
\$115,000.

Webster - Cooper Road 2 Buildable Lots! Water & Sewer Access. Zoned Lake Res!
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Douglas-Mount Daniels 2.5 Acres abuts Douglas State Forest!
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WEBSTER - 29 WEST AVE.



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\$295,000.

WOODSTOCK - 33 DEER MEADOW LANE



SORRY, SOLD!
Beautiful 2,422 Sq Ft Colonial! 4 Bedroom! 3 Bath! Fireplace, 2 Car garage! So much more!
assisted sale **\$415,000**

DUDLEY - 22 ROBERTS ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!
Lovely 3 bedroom Ranch! Single door 2 car garage with storage! Eat-in kitchen. Fieldstone Fireplaced Living Room! 3 bedrooms, hardwood floors, Remodeled bathroom! Lower Level fieldstone walls/ fireplace! In-ground pool! - 3.58 ACRES includes extra lot.
\$312,000.

WEBSTER - 20 KINGSBURY



SORRY, SOLD!
NEW TO THE MARKET! Custom Sprawling Split 2800+ SF! Central Air! Kitchen, Dining Room, Cathedral Ceiling Living Room, 3 Bedrooms! Granite Counters & New Flooring! New Boiler - Hot Water Tank - Oil Tank! FULL finished Lower Level w/ Full Bath & Laundry! THERE'S MORE! 2 Car Garage, renovated to include Hydro Heat, AC & 1/2 Bath! Great for Fitness Studio, Game Room or Home School! Over 1.4 Acres!
\$360,000.

WEBSTER - 52 CUDWORTH ROAD



SORRY, SOLD!
1.99 ACRE INDUSTRIAL ZONED LOT! GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE & WORK FROM HOME! Amazing 1790 Antique Colonial! Undergone major updates & renovations, maintaining Antique Charm! Great Room graced by an Open Hearth Stone Fireplace! Soaring Cathedral Ceilings!
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On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Webster Lake - 100 Lakeside Ave



WEBSTER LAKE! PANORAMIC VIEWS! BEAUTIFUL SUNSETS! Extraordinary Waterfront Contemporary! Architect designed with Lake Living in mind. Custom Built with Attention to High Quality & Detail. Outstanding open concept, water view from almost every room. Nicely situated on a .25 acre level peninsula, 180'+/- prime lake frontage! Enhanced by a all natural shoreline! All you need to live is located on the 1st floor. Grand 2 story foyer, cozy fireplace living room, gourmet kitchen, lake facing dining / formal dining room, media room & spacious 1st floor guest BR Suite w/ private bath. Incredible 2nd floor fireplace lake-facing corner master suite w/luxurious private bath, 3 more 2nd floor BRs & full bath! Something Special! **Remember, Timing is Everything!**
\$1,075,000.

Lake Shirley - 647 Reservoir Rd



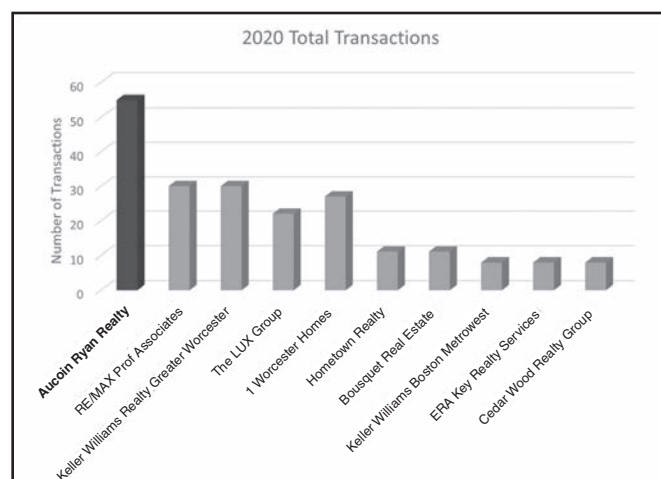
SORRY, SOLD!
Lakefront! Lake Shirley! Modern Flare on a Lakefront Colonial! 1st level Formal large entry foyer, living room, gas fireplace, chef kitchen, Impala black granite, center island, 3 season porch, overlooking the lake. 1st FL bedroom suite w/ shower and jacuzzi tub. 2nd floor Master Suite! Lower level Summer kitchen, full bath, game room. Crown moulding & hardwood floors throughout, wired sound system, radiant floors. oversize 2 car garage. Additional Guest House!
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# of Homes Sold	6	10	▲
Avg Days on Market	42	29	▼
Month Supply Inv.	.86	.34	▼


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Median Price	\$238,950	\$249,500	▲
Market Volume	\$2,025,300	\$3,598,500	▲
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URI STUDENTS NAMED TO DEAN S LIST

KINGSTON, R.I. — The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce the Fall 2020 Dean's List. The students represent nearly all of Rhode Island's cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries. The following students were named to Dean's List:

Shannon Bombardier of Webster
Sylwia Czyz of Dudley
Alex Jankowski of Webster
James Kaye of Webster
Kate LeBlanc of Oxford
Carly Leighton of Webster
Megan Marrier of Webster
Alexandria O'Brien of Dudley
Alana Parrott of Webster
Ashlin Peters of Webster

Jess Rachholz of Dudley
Mike Toner of Webster
Myles Wagner of Dudley

To be included on the Dean's List, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

As a public Land Grant University in a highly competitive region in the United States, URI carefully monitors and manages its tuition and fee rates to remain one of the most affordable universities in the Northeast for both

in-state and out-of-state students. An estimated 90% of undergraduate students receive annual financial aid and institutional support

The University's total fall 2020 enrollment of 17,649 students comprises 15,393 full- and part-time undergraduate students, including 748 pharmacy six-year professional practice, and 2,256 full- and part-time graduate students. About 52% of the total student body is from Rhode Island and 48% are from out of state or foreign countries. The student body includes students from 48 U.S. states and territories, and 67 nations.

The University of Rhode Island's pioneering research in ocean, environmental and health sciences extends the University's influence well beyond its coastal borders, while its interdis-

plinary courses provide students with unique opportunities and experiences,

Over the last ten years, the University has completed more than \$710 million in capital projects, including new construction, and renovation and rehabilitation of existing buildings across its four campuses. The University's campus locations, include the main campus, located on 1,248 acres in rural Kingston, the Graduate School of Oceanography, located on 165 acres on Narragansett Bay, the W. Alton Jones Campus in West Greenwich, a 1,200-acre nature preserve, the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Education and Professional Studies and the Rhode Island Nursing Education Center, both in the capital city of Providence, R.I.



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St. Andrew Bobola Church hosting calendar money raffle

DUDLEY — St. Andrew Bobola Church, 54 West Main St., Dudley, will sponsor a calendar money raffle for the month of April 2021. Buying a raffle entry gives you up to 30 opportunities to win any on of the daily monetary prizes. The prize pool for the month totals \$1775 and the last week in April is big – each day's drawing is \$100 or more! So it is never too late to enter! Pick up entry sheets at (and also make returns to) the Rectory by April 1 for the maximum chances to win. Additional calendar entry sheets are available from parishioners or after Masses in the church! For more information, please call the Rectory (508-943-5633), or Paula (508-248-4237). We appreciate your support of our parish fundraiser — and good luck!



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