

Auburn News

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Gatzke promoted to Highway Superintendent in Dudley

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — After spending most of 2024 leading the department, Acting Dudley Highway Superintendent Melvin “M.J.” Gatzke has officially been promoted to fill the position full time.

Gatzke was named the Acting Superintendent in March after the departure of Jeffrey Murray in January. His performance impressed the Highway Superintendent Search Committee who recommended his appointment in early November. The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the recommendation.

Gatzke has served the department for 14 years as a foreman, learning under the leadership of his predecessors before taking on the Acting Superintendent role. Dudley Chief of Police Marek Karłowicz, who served on the Superintendent Search Committee, said

Turn To **GATZKE** page **A11**



Courtesy

Dudley Middle School congratulates its Students of The Month: 5th Grade - Aniela Slanda, Nina Browning, Zachary Moisan, & Zayden White; 6th Grade - Malcom Goetz, Zachary Standing, & Kylie Ebbing; 7th Grade - Tiffany DePaula, Paul Chabot, & Jordan Ashton; 8th Grade - Michael Devine, Brody Dix, & Rose Cole.

As severe fire weather persists, Dudley extends outdoor fire restrictions

DUDLEY — With outdoor fuel sources extremely dry and no meaningful precipitation expected, Dudley Fire Chief Dean Kochanowski and municipal leaders are extending restrictions on any outdoor fires at least until Friday, Nov. 22.

“This has been an unprecedented fall fire season in Massachusetts,” said Chief Dean Kochanowski. “The current and expected weather conditions mean that any outdoor fire is likely to spread quickly and become difficult to control. In Dudley, those fires could easily spread to homes and other properties.”

Burning yard waste is already prohibited across Massachusetts through Jan. 15 and year-round in some communities under 310 CMR 7.07, the Open Burning regulation. The local fire restriction additionally restricts the outdoor use of fire pits, chimineas, candles, cooking/heating equipment, and other ignition sources under Section 10.10.2 of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code.

The Code grants fire

officials the authority to prohibit any and all open flames and other ignition sources under certain hazardous conditions, including extreme drought. About 200 Massachusetts municipalities have imposed these prohibitions.

Any requests for permits for outdoor fires, hot work such as cutting/grinding, and other activity will be decided in light of the ongoing fire risk.

All of Massachusetts, including Dudley, is facing an unprecedented fall wildfire season. While the state averages 15 to 20 fires a month in October and November each year, local fire departments have reported more than 500 fires since Oct. 1. These fires have burned more than 1,500 acres – rivalling average statewide totals for an entire year. Many of these fires have damaged homes and other properties, and they are taxing local and regional firefighting resources.

According to Chief Dean Kochanowski, the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, and the Department

of Conservation & Recreation’s Bureau of Forest Fire Control & Forestry, almost all of these fires start with human activity and can be prevented by limiting outdoor activity that involves open flames, sparks and embers, hot engines or gasoline from power equipment, and other ignition sources.

Kochanowski recommended the following fire prevention strategies during this period of severe fire risk:

- Follow local and state guidance on outdoor ignition sources. Remember that burning yard waste is prohibited statewide through January and in many communities year-round. Many cities and

towns have implemented temporary restrictions on any outdoor fires until conditions improve.

- Refrain from outdoor cooking and heating. Sparks and embers from chimineas, fire pits, and grills can easily ignite dry vegetation, debris, and overhanging branches.

- Use caution with lawnmowers, leaf blowers, all-terrain vehicles, and other power equipment. Hot engines, sparks, and spilled gasoline can ignite dry leaves and grass.

- Dispose of ashes from fireplaces and wood stoves in a metal can.

Turn To **RESTRICTIONS** page **A10**

Holiday spirit comes alive in Oxford

OXFORD — Oxford is alive with holiday spirit! The Oxford Fire Department and Community Center are excited to announce the 2024 Holiday Lights Parade and Bandstand Tree Lighting will be held Sunday, Dec. 1.

The Parade kicks off at 5 p.m. from Oxford’s North Fire Station, 656 Main St., North Oxford, and travels to the Town Common Bandstand at Joslin Park, 352 Main St. Join us on the Common and enjoy music, Jess’ Sweets & Treats cookies, hot chocolate (with the Oxford Police) and N&J Donut holes while you await the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus via the town’s ladder truck. They, along with costumed members of Oxford DPW, will be available for pictures after the lighting.

The Fire Department is still accepting parade float entries – forms are available at the Community Center and Town Hall, and on the Oxford Web site, oxfordma.us.

After festivities on the Common are completed, all are invited to walk over to 4 Sigourney St. to enjoy Mr. Biando’s holiday chocolate factory display.

Threads of Hope Closet opens at Webster UCC



WEBSTER — The Webster United Church of Christ, Federated congregation is thrilled to announce the Threads of Hope Closet is finally open! This amazing community outreach would not have been possible without a generous grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust, a generous donation from the Fels family, and the support and donations from the community.

The Closet opened officially on Oct. 24 with a ribbon cutting ceremony, which included many

supporters such as State Sen. Ryan Fattman (who gave the church a State Senate official Citation recognizing the ministry), as well as State Rep. Joseph McKenna, representatives of the Sheriff’s Department, Town Selectmen, and representatives of local churches and organizations. Marilyn Fels cut the ribbon to welcome everyone in the space. Needless to say, our gratitude extends first and foremost to our amazing, dedicated volunteers, who give of themselves tirelessly!

Our Threads of Hope closet is filled with free clothing, socks, underwear, winter boots, shoes, blankets, tarps, tents, sleeping bags, hand-warmers, hygiene products (including feminine hygiene and items for children), backpacks, etc. We are also working on opening free laundry facilities. The closet is open several times a week (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-11 a.m., Thursdays, 4-7 p.m., and the 1st Sunday of the month, noon to 3 p.m.).

We welcome any donations, especially winter items such as coats, boots, gloves, etc.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we are incredibly grateful to all who have been involved in our mission to the community, whether with the Threads of Hope closet, or with the Feed my Sheep free weekly meal ministry. We would love to extend an invitation to the community to give thanks together during our free Thanksgiving meal on Thursday, Nov. 28, at 2 p.m.

Early deadlines for Thanksgiving

The offices of the Auburn News will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

To ensure that our Nov. 29 edition arrives in subscribers’ mail boxes on schedule despite the holiday, the submission deadline for any press releases and letters to the Editor intended for publication that week has been moved up to Sunday, Nov. 24 at 4 p.m. Submissions can be e-mailed to Editor Brendan Berube at news@stonebridgepress.news.

The staff of the Auburn News thanks our readers for their cooperation with this scheduling change, and wishes one and all a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday.



November birthday celebrants and acts of kindness at Bay Path

CHARLTON — Donita Bytyqi of Grafton and Flory Muleka of Worcester, both members of the Practical Nursing (PN) Class of 2025 at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy celebrated their November birthdays through the acts of kindness of the rest of the PN Class of 2025 as coordinated by Nadeige Octavius, also of Worcester. Octavius recognized

that some practical nursing students struggle to find the balance not just of work-life but in their nursing journey, work-life-school balance. The struggle to check in mentally, physically, and emotionally be fully balanced while juggling home, work, and school is real. By celebrating birthdays and engaging in acts of celebration, the idea is to lessen the struggle. Octavius gladly stepped

up to help celebrate her peers. Her acts of kindness do not go unnoticed. According to research, "spreading kindness not only helps others feel better about themselves -- it can also boost the giver's health and happiness!" November 13th is World Kindness Day and the PN Class of 2025 shared simple ways they connected through kindness, even the smallest acts can create a ripple effect strengthening our connections to one another. Practicing kindness gives the PN Class of 2025, faculty, staff, and alumni of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy a powerful way to connect to each other, themselves, and their values.

"Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for a kindness," wrote Seneca.

Kindness is powerful, and it shapes lives in ways that one may not easily realize. Kindness is sharing in someone else's humanity. Kindness is choosing to act with care, even when it is difficult to. Sometimes, choosing kindness is a small, quiet choice. But kindness leaves an indelible mark.

Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director is grateful for the members of the PN Class of 2025 for sharing their kind gestures.

"Our student

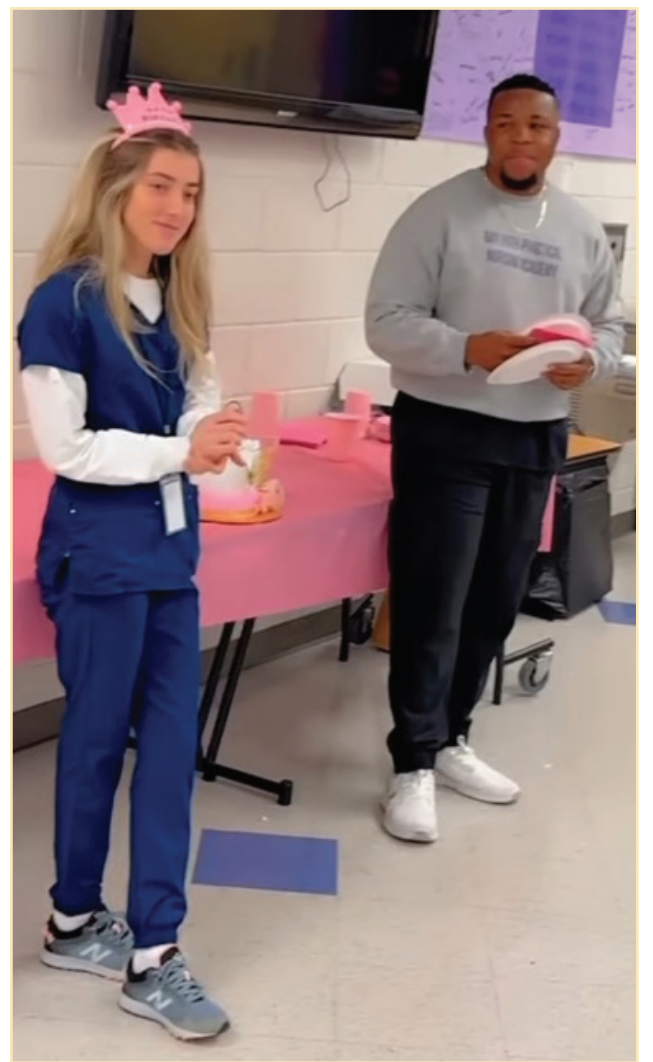
nurses continue to make the world a better place," she said. "Our faculty and staff not only produce competent and prudent nurses they are kind-hearted nurses. All acts of kindness, big and small, change the world, and kindness given to others is also a gift to oneself."

Here, members of the PN Class of 2025 share their acts of kindness. Kindness that they do every single day, even in the smallest ways.

"An act of kindness I did over the weekend, at work I was on a two on one, and I tidied up both patients' room, so they had a clean room to wake up to!" said Katelyn Smith

"Sharing an act of kindness from Donita. Last week she bought our clinical group dinner on Wednesday (pizza and soda) when she did not have to! It was exceedingly kind of her and very much appreciated," Johanna Marrero shared.

"I would like to call out not just one act of kindness done to me, but multiple acts of kindness this person has done. Nadeige has the greatest heart and always makes sure I am good. When we first started school, she would always cook for her four children and always made sure to bring some for me and Britney, even though she did not know Britney, she just knew she was my friend. Last week, my washer machine broke, so I had my laundry



bucket in my car. Nadeige saw it when we were at school, so she took it without telling me and washed my clothes and called me the next day to go to her house and pick it up. This time last year was when we met at work. Just a few days before my birthday. She found out through other coworkers that it was my birthday, so she threw a surprise birthday party for me with a cake and a big basket filled with a bunch of gifts. She will do anything to see people happy. Nadeige goes out of her way to help everyone she can. Just in 2 months in this school, more than half of the class can say she has done something to help them out with whatever it may be. I am more than blessed to have such a kind soul in my life, and I hope one day I will be able to do anything and everything in return for her," said Donita Bytyqi.

"Last year, during the month of December, I met a young woman with three small children in

my local grocery store. As I shopped, I watched as this young woman kept counting how much she was spending and explaining to her children this week we cannot buy some of the items her children had brought to the cart. Being in this same situation many years ago, I stayed behind her picking up the items that this young woman kept putting back on the shelves because she could not afford them, along with some essentials that I thought could help. I quickly used the self-checkout and waited for the family to go to their car. As she was loading the small number of groceries she could afford into a car, I walked over with my cart and said, 'Let me help you.' When I began giving her bags from my cart, she explained that those were not hers, I said 'Yes they are, I've been in your shoes, and I want to help,'" said Bobbiejo Smith.

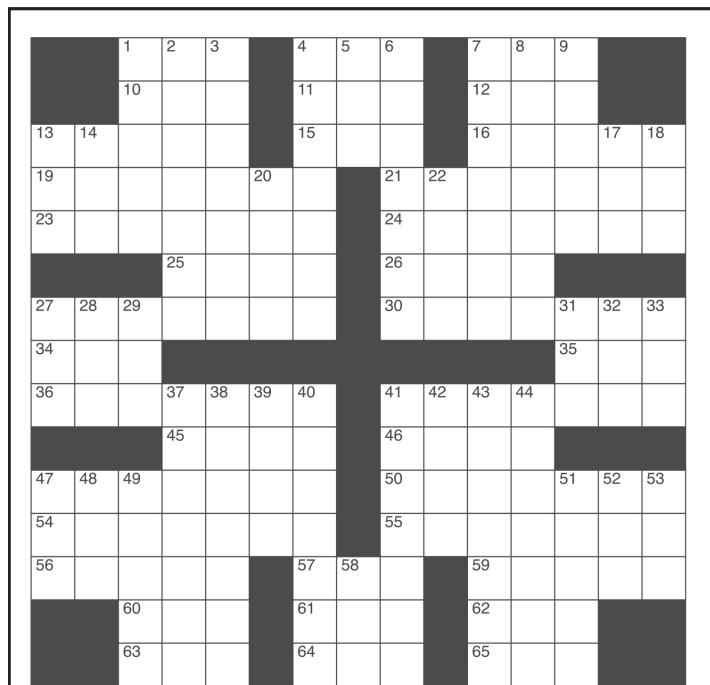
"I would like to share how Abigail white and Nadeige supported me when my car was repossessed. What they did really brought me to tears because we all are students and struggling financially but they choose to sacrifice to help me out. I am grateful and pray God bless them. Adelaide also picked me up, advised, and prayed for me. In the morning, she called to make sure I was okay," recalled Miriam Botuo.

Holiday jewelry sale at The Pearle

DUDLEY — The Pearle L. Crawford Library will hold a Holiday Jewelry Sale Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Browse through more than 1,000 amazing choices as you shop for your mom, sister, aunt, grandmother or anyone else who loves jewelry! Great for kids who want to pick out a special gift. Volunteers will be available to help young shoppers, and there will be a gift wrap station too! All items are \$2, \$3, or \$5, with proceeds going to the Friends of the Library.

The library is located at 40 Schofield Ave., Dudley.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Defunct airline
- 4. Beverage container
- 7. A team's best pitcher
- 10. Unit of liquid capacity
- 11. It comes before two
- 12. Male child
- 13. Type of wheat
- 15. One's mother
- 16. Upper side of an organism
- 19. United is one
- 21. Extraction process
- 23. A being with lesser divine status
- 24. People living together in a community
- 25. Luxury automaker
- 26. This (Spanish)
- 27. Semitic language
- 30. Period for a defined purpose
- 34. Wander aimlessly in search of pleasure
- 35. Up in the air (abbr.)
- 36. American marsupial
- 41. Decadent dessert
- 45. Aquatic plant
- 46. About aviation
- 47. Summer footwear
- 50. Rugged mountain ranges
- 54. With tin
- 55. Cut on the surface of a hard object
- 56. Wrapped in cloth
- 57. Defensive nuclear weapon
- 59. "American Idol" contestant Clay
- 60. Midway between east and southeast
- 61. Court decision "___ v. Wade"
- 62. Born of
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. Actress ___-Margaret
- 65. Not even

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Heat unit
- 2. ___ Faulkner, American writer
- 3. Guatemalan town
- 4. Of funny things
- 5. Actress ___ de Armas
- 6. Agents of one's downfall
- 7. Takes forcibly
- 8. Body lice
- 9. Large nest of a bird of prey
- 13. Unhappy
- 14. Popular holiday dessert
- 17. Habitual drunkard
- 18. Used of a number or amount not specified
- 20. Complications
- 22. Fail to win
- 27. Before the present
- 28. Musical genre
- 29. Flurry
- 31. 007's creator
- 32. Indiana Pacer Toppin
- 33. Midway between north and northeast
- 37. Feeling
- 38. Damage another's reputation
- 39. Mottled citrus fruit
- 40. Beauty product
- 41. They man first, second and third
- 42. Harness
- 43. Herb
- 44. Expressed concern
- 47. Mississippi scientific area (abbr.)
- 48. Consumed
- 49. Nostrils
- 51. Gathered fallen leaves
- 52. Express good wishes
- 53. Monetary unit of Brunei
- 58. Japanese Buddhist festival

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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REAL ESTATE

AUBURN
 \$355,000, 89 Southold Rd, Turning Pt Hm Buyers LLC, to Nguyen, Hong T, and Nguyen, Phung.

DUDLEY
 None

OXFORD
 \$360,000, 14 Carron Ln, Lam, Judy T, and Lam, Jacquelin R, to Perez, Michael A, and Perez, Jaime.
 \$345,000, 2 Harvard St, White, Ronald L, to Johnson, John G, and Johnson, Amanda.

WEBSTER
 None

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Courtesy

Center with black top hat is Brother Jonathan Neitz with the many Master Masons from the 24th Masonic District and the state to honor this "Worthy" brother's last official visit.

Masons honor service of District Deputy Grand Master

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

UXBRIDGE — On Thursday, Nov. 14, the District Deputy Grand Master (DDGM) of the 24th Masonic District, Brother Jonathan Neitz, had his last official meeting at the Solomon Temple Masonic Lodge in Uxbridge Ma. Master Mason from throughout the 24th Masonic District and the state traveled to Uxbridge to thank him for his service. Many delegates traveled from the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston were also in attendance to honor and thank this "Worthy of a Man."

The DDGM held this position for two years. A new DDGM is then elected from the Grand Masonic Lodge located in Boston. Brother Jonathan Neitz was responsible for seven lodges in his 24th Masonic District which included the towns of Auburn, Charlton, Temple Masonic Lodge in Uxbridge Ma. Master Mason from throughout the 24th Masonic District and the state traveled to Uxbridge to thank him for his service. Many delegates traveled from the Grand Masonic Lodge of Boston were also in attendance to honor and thank this "Worthy of a Man."

visits of his term, the Lodge holding this meeting is filled with Master Masons from other lodges from other districts who want to show their respect and gratitude for his service.

Simply put, Master Masons witnessed the rise of a "Worthy of a Man." As Master Masons we had the opportunity to witness and experience first-hand the results of "cause and effect" or simply put the ripple theory. As we go about our day-to-day life, we sometimes forget the small and large gestures we experience with others. The very simplest of things could mean the world to someone, especially during this

time of year. As Master Masons we always strive to make that "ripple" extend far beyond our pond. The light of Masonry shined bright in him as he traveled to other Masonic Lodges throughout the state, with the simplest of a handshake, well wishes, determination and participation in all the lodges endeavors.

This is what Freemasonry is all about. The comradery and friendships you build as a Master Mason will last the rest of your life. If you would like additional information about what we are all about go to www.massfreemasonry.org and read about Freemasonry. You can also find a Masonic Lodge located near you.

Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, December 7, 2024
9:00 am – 3:00pm

St Joseph's Church Hall
10 H Putnam Rd Ext., Charlton, Mass

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Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director attends Equity Leadership Conference

MARLBORO — The 2024 Fall Partners in Equity Leadership Conference was held at the Courtyard by Marriott Boston Marlborough. In attendance as guest, was Filipino American and Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN of Athol, formerly of Dudley and Douglas.



The keynote presentation by Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson was on deepening cultures of relevance and Strong Tier 1 instruction. Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson led a dynamic session to support leaders in gaining skills in understanding key roadmaps, best practices, and strategies to deepen Strong Tier 1 instruction through academic and behavioral strategies. Conference participants had a chance to learn roadmaps around enacting belonging, tools for leaders and teachers in monitoring increased relevance, and engage in break-out sessions to process learning.

Dr. Bolandrina's attendance was made memorable by the participation of her children Lilly and Max Bolandrina who performed with the Iskwelahang Pilipino (www.ipbahay.org) Dance Performance Group. The Bolandrina children are graduates of the Philippine cultural school in Boston. It was through the invitation of Alpha Sanford, MEd, CAGS, Director of Special Education and Student Services, Randolph Public Schools that Iskwelahang Pilipino came to share traditional dances from the Philippines. The Iskwelahang Pilipino Dance Performance Group performed four traditional dances, Sakuting, Pandango sa Wasiwas, Binasuan, and Tinikling, all from Luzon, the largest island in the Philippines.

Photo shows Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Director Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN and fellow Filipino American Irene Cala of DESE during a break at the conference.

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

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OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)
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Tuesday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875)
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Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: Christ Church
Routes 44 & 169 • Pomfret, CT
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Christchurchpomfret.org • 860.315.7780

Saturday, December 7th
(Snow Date: Saturday, December 14th)

In-Person Dair: 10:00am-1:00pm

Holiday Gifts, Yummy Treats & Much More!
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PAW of the WEEK

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PEARLE L. CRAWFORD LIBRARY

40 Schofield Ave., Dudley
508-949-8021
November is "Give Something, Get Something" at the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library.

This season we have several different ways to give back to the community.

Bring five non-perishable, unexpired food items to the Library. Donations will go to the Webster-Dudley food share.

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

Fulfill a heart wish off the Library Giving Tree; the Seven Hills Foundation collects these gifts. Stop in for complete details.

If you participate in our "Give Something, Get Something" campaign in November, you will receive a gift set of Living Proof Hair Care products donated by the Glimmer Project. Only while supplies last and one per person please. Read more about the Glimmer Project at <https://www.projectglimmer.org/about>.

Gentle Yoga
Mondays in November
10:00-11:00 AM

Join our new yoga instructor Patricia, for a traditional "on the mat" yoga class with chair yoga modifications. This truly is a one size fits all class. Patricia will be there to help with all your needs

Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class.

Movies @ The Pearle!!
Tuesdays in November at 1:00
November 26: Twisters
No registration required.

Crawford Library Book Group
Thursday, November 21
6:00-7:30
Book: Honor
Author: Thrity Umrigar
Books are available at the circulation desk for checkout one month prior to discussion.
No registration required.

Mahjong at the Pearle
Every Wednesday in November
10:00-12:30 Fels Community Room
The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy.
Everyone welcome!
No registration required.

Quilting Group
Wednesdays @ 1:30
Are you a quilter? Would you like to learn how to be one? All skill levels are welcome to this informal group. Bring your projects and join the fun!
No registration required.

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

Dungeons & Dragons Game
Thursdays, 6:00-7:30
Are you looking to play a game that contains action, adventure, and drama? Come play the world's number one role playing game. This program geared towards kid and teens that are looking to learn more about playing and some short adventures!

Storytimes at the Pearle
10:00-10:45
Tuesday-Pre-K Power (best for ages 3-5)
Wednesday-Toddler Time (best for ages 0-2.5)
Friday-Open Baby Play (best for ages 0-12 months-pre-walkers)
Registration not required, siblings always welcome!

Pokemon Club
Thursday, November 21
6:00-6:45
Do you love everything Pokemon? Join us for Pokemon club! Each month we will have exciting crafts and activities! Best for ages 6 and up.
Registration not required. This is not a drop off program.

GLADYS E. KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

2 Lake St., Webster
508-949-3880
Library Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.,
Wed: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fri: 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

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

Toy Swap Drop Off- Join in on No Clutter November and get ready for the holiday season by cleaning out your closets and toy rooms. Bring your unwanted toys and kids items in good condition throughout the month and come "shop" our selection on 12-3 and 12-4. All items are free and this program is open to anyone regardless of whether you dropped off items. Leftover toys will be made available in the children's room after the event and donated to local charities.

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

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

FRIENDS CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS: Hot Flashes --- December 12th at 6:30 PM

The Hot Flashes are an exciting and eclectic group fronted by three female vocalists who have made a name for themselves on the New England music scene showcasing their tight vocal harmonies and jazzy acoustic stylings. The Flashes are Amy Gallatin, who with her expressive soulful singing has made a name for herself both in North America and overseas, award-winning singer-songwriter/guitarist Gail Wade, and multi-instrumentalist Peggy Harvey, founding member of the legendary bluegrass group Traver Hollow. Backed by the solid chops of mandolinist JD Williams, Dobro veteran Roger Williams—both from Gallatin's band Stillwaters—and bassist John Urbanik, the instrumentation also includes the occasional clawhammer banjo. As a group these six veteran musicians meld their collective experiences, voices and instruments into a unique and rousing musical experience as the three women fuse their distinct voices into one soaring, harmonious musical element.

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

The Group will be discussing *The Wager* by David Grann. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcox@cwmares.org for inquiries.

COOKBOOK CLUB--- December 10th at 6:00 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

Journalist and author Ted Reinstein has reported all around New England for 25 years, telling the colorful stories of this historic yet ever-changing

corner of America. Now, he condenses his countless travels into a single, unique labor of love: a journey through the heart and soul of New England, meeting the most memorable people—and their unlikely stories—all along the way. People whose struggles, toughness, triumphs, and humor not only define the very essence of New England, but represent the timeless best of America as well.

THE NEST E FOR ALL—Introduction and information session--- November 21st at 12:00 PM

Come and learn out what E for All can do to help your small business or entrepreneurial venture. They will be here to provide information and answer questions about their services.

Children's and Young Adult Programming

Scavenger Hunt--- All Month Long

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

TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT-- All month long

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

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

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

Me and My Mini: November 31st at 10:00 AM

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

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

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

MINI BLOCK PARTY Tuesday November 26th at 3:30 PM

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

BUILD TUESDAYS - from 3:30-4:30 PM

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

OPEN PLAY TIME ADVENTURE--- Fridays at 10:00 AM

Kids 0 to 6 are invited to get their wiggles out with weekly obstacle course and fun.

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

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

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

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

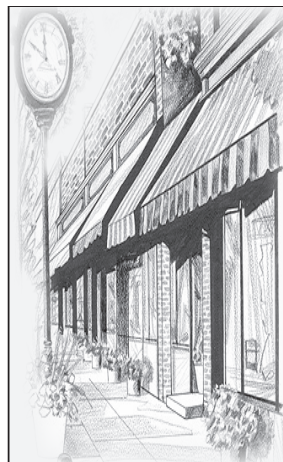
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WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

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

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

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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least forty-eight hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 11/26, Roast Turkey with gravy, cornbread stuffing, butternut squash. Wednesday, 11/27, Spaghetti and Meatballs, marinara sauce, green beans. Thursday, 11/28 and Friday, 11/29, Closed for Thanksgiving.

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

FUEL ASSISTANCE is returning to the Senior Center. Starting Thursday, November 7th, WCAC will be here every other Thursday from 9:30 am- 2:30 pm. Please call WCAC at 508-754-1176 to make an appointment.

OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

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

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

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

*The Oxford Senior Center will be closed on, Thursday, Nov. 28 & Friday, Nov. 29

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

Weekly Activities:

Mondays and Fridays @ 10:00 am – Cribbage

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

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

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

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

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

Thursdays @ 10:00 am – Dominoes

Monthly Activities:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Special Presentations:

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

BUS TRIP:

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

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

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

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

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

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

We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00

Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber donates gift cards to community food banks

WEBSTER — The Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber of Commerce this week donated \$2,000 in grocery gift cards to Webster Dudley Food Share and \$1,000 in grocery gift cards to the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf to support these local organizations in their mission to provide people in need this holiday season.

"There's a need out there, and we don't talk enough about it," said John Milas, chamber director. "This is all about helping our community. The number of people going to the food banks has been increasing with the rise in the cost of food."

This is the third year that the Chamber has been donating to the food banks in the form of gift cards. Previously, it donated turkeys at Thanksgiving. Milas noted that the gift card donations are now included in the Chamber's annual budget.

Webster Dudley Food Share is a non-profit organization that provides essential food to all Webster and Dudley residents in need. The Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf provides free emergency grocery assistance to any family living in Oxford and any registered members of an Oxford church.

About Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber of Commerce

The Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber of Commerce advocates for the interests of its local business members and is an affiliate of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. For more information, go to www.wdochamberma.com or call 508-943-9700.

pm! Popcorn is provided. No registration needed. There will be no movie on November 27th, Happy Thanksgiving! December 4th is Dolly Parton's Christmas on the Square, December 11th is That Darn Cat, and December 18th is Die Hard.

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

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

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

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

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

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

pitch meets on Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

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

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

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

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

Part-time 7D Van Drivers Needed!

We are seeking reliable and responsible **7D Van Drivers** to join our team in newly created positions. The ideal candidates will be committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our Club members while providing a positive transportation experience.

The Boys & Girls Club of Webster-Dudley is a nonprofit, charitable, educational organization recognized as a leading advocate for youth development, working to help youth of all backgrounds.

HOURS OF WORK: Part-time; 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM for the school year; 15-20 hours per week during school year. Hours may be available during school vacation weeks and summer.

Qualifications: High School diploma or GED; Valid MA driver's license with a clean driving record; **7D License (required); Van Driver – 1 Year (required);** Prior experience transporting children, ages 5 - 13 (preferred); Ability to pass a criminal background check and motor vehicle records check; Familiar with child safety requirements and proper use of safety belts; CPR and First Aid Certification (or willingness to obtain).

Responsibilities: Safely transport Club members after school between centers, schools or community locations; Ensure passengers are secured safely in the vehicle following child safety guidelines; Coordinate with supervisor regarding daily schedule and routes; Ensure timely pick-ups and drops off; Maintain a clean and organized van and report any maintenance needs immediately; Complete all required paperwork daily; Participate in state or Club required trainings on at least an annual basis.

Position contingent on passing a criminal offender record information check (CORI), national background check and an EEC fingerprint background check.

Email your resume to: Apply@bgcworcester.org include 7D-WD in subject line.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF WEBSTER - DUDLEY

OUR COMPREHENSIVE ORTHO CARE JUST GOT MORE COMPREHENSIVE.

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Orthopedic Surgeon
(DKH)



Douglass Weiss, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
(DKH)



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



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



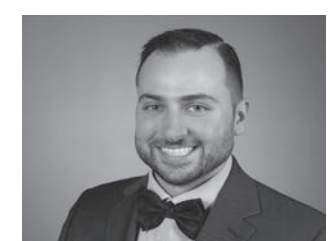
Michael P. Bradley, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
(Ortho RI)



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



David LaChance, NP-C
Orthopedic APP



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

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

Healthcare in motion.
daykimball.org/orthopedics



The Ortho Group
DAY KIMBALL HEALTH
35 Kennedy Drive Putnam CT 06260



Ortho Rhode Island



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BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Save Main Street: Shop local and keep our towns alive

In a world dominated by two-day shipping and digital convenience, it's easy to forget the personality of our communities, the small businesses that line our Main Streets. These aren't just shops; they're the heartbeats of our towns, and the places where neighbors gather. They are the framework of New England's charm, the pillars of local economies, and the custodians of our town's character. Without them, what remains?

The reality is stark: every time we opt for an online order instead of visiting a local shop, we make a choice about the future of our communities. Small businesses are facing a relentless uphill battle, competing not only with giant corporations but also with the shifting habits of modern consumers. And when these businesses close, they take more than their storefronts with them—they take jobs, vibrancy, and a sense of belonging.

Shopping locally isn't just about buying goods; it's about investing in the people around us. That cup of coffee from the corner café supports a family. That thrift store find funds local charities. That gift shop purchase puts money back into the local economy, where it's reinvested to improve schools, roads, and public services. Your dollar goes further when spent locally because it stays local.

But this requires a conscious effort. Yes, online shopping is convenient, but at what cost? Do we really want to trade ease for a future of shuttered windows and hollowed-out Main Streets? Do we want our children to grow up in communities where "downtown" is a relic of the past?

We have a choice. This holiday season and beyond, let's make an intentional effort to visit our local bookstores, bakeries, and boutiques. Explore the unique treasures of thrift shops. Say yes to the farmer's market, the family-owned hardware store, and the independent art gallery. These businesses are run by our neighbors—people who support our schools, sponsor our Little League teams, and show up when we need them most.

If we don't invest in them, who will? Let's work together to keep our towns alive, vibrant, and full of opportunity. Let's shop local—not because it's trendy, but because it's essential.

Our communities depend on it. Let's not let convenience rob us of connection. Together, we can ensure that our Main Streets remain places we're proud to call home.

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

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

Be rich toward God

To be "rich toward God." What does this mean? Take a moment and reflect on what this means – to be rich toward God.

We hear this beautiful phrase in the Gospel reading about the Rich Fool, someone who was not rich toward God. Jesus Christ says, "So is anyone who lays up treasure for themselves and is not rich toward God." Such a person is a FOOL!

Imagine Christ calling you a fool. That's a scary thought, something none of us would ever want to be called when we come face to face with our Lord. And thus, He warns us anyone who lays up treasure for themselves and are not rich toward God are fools!

Well, what does this mean? It's interesting how Jesus isn't afraid to talk bluntly to people about their relationship with their possessions and wealth and to show how this relationship with our material goods reveals what type of relationship we have with God Himself.

Do our wealth and money, our possessions and material goods, control us or do we control them? Are we seeking to get more and more, adopting the American mentality of success from a consumeristic perspective – the richer we are, the more successful we are; the more we have, the happier we'll be? Do we give to the greed of the world and fall prey to envy and jealousy when others have something we don't?

Jesus calls this foolishness! Plain and simple! Foolishness to put our trust and hope in wealth and possessions. Foolishness to think this will make us happy and content. Foolishness to judge success by what we have! Foolishness to allow our wealth and possessions to feed our ego and make us self-centered people, simply looking for ways to become more comfortable and secure.

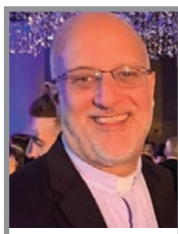
"What shall I do with all my wealth?" the rich man asked in the Gospel story? "I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones... I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry!'"

This sounds like a resounding successful life! How many of us admire and even envy the millionaires and billionaires of the world - the Elon Musks, the Jeff Bezos, the Mark Zuckerbergs, the Bill Gates?

And yet, Christ highlights a radically different message again and again throughout the Gospels. Don't be a fool! Be rich toward God. Don't let your possessions possess you but understand that we are but caretakers, or stewards, of all we possess. We have these possessions so that we can use them to bless others. Remember, we are Christ's ambassadors in this world. Thus, whatever we have, we use to glory His Name!

The Lord blesses us. He gives us our upbringing, our health, our intellect, our charisma, our work ethic, our opportunities to do well financially and to prosper. And then, He wants us to be rich toward God.

He doesn't bless us so that we can accumulate more and more. He doesn't bless us so that we can build bigger homes and acquire more toys to entertain ourselves with.



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

He reminds us to be rich toward God with all we have. To share generously. To give freely. To understand that all we have is a blessing we receive so that we can bless others. He wants us to discover the JOY OF GIVING!

Saint John Chrysostom reminds us that whatever money and possessions we have, they are ultimately the Lord's. It's not OUR hard earned money and possessions, but whatever finances we have accumulated are God's. And we are His stewards, acting as His ambassador in the world. We are called to use whatever gifts we have to glorify His Name. And we do that by sharing, by giving, by helping others in need.

Chrysostom reminds us that "the rich man is not one who has much but one who gives much, for what he gives remains his forever." This is what it means to be rich toward God – to use our riches to bless others, to give to others, to help others.

We can read different stories in the Gospels warning us of the dangers of greed and a self-centered life compared to Christ's call for us to be rich toward God. We read about the rich man who lived extravagantly while he didn't even notice or help the poor man Lazarus right outside his doorstep. We read about the Good Samaritan who went out of his way to help a stranger, a foreigner, even someone from the despised enemy tribe and freely gave whatever was needed to help the poor man half dead on his path.

Maybe Saint Paul helps us understand being rich toward God with his beautiful phrase "It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me." If Christ truly is inside me, ruling in my heart, my entire perspective and goal in life will be to love my neighbor, to help my neighbor, to share my blessings with others because that is what divine love does.

When we adopt this "mind of Christ," we then will understand what it means to be rich toward God. We will realize it is a joy to share and to give of what we have.

The Lord gives us all we have. He gives us the freedom to do choose what to do with the blessings He gives us. We can choose to honor God and be rich toward Him with all we have, or we can choose to be foolish with our possessions and try to acquire more and more.

God doesn't need our gifts. Yet, He wants us to discover the joy of loving others, the joy of freely sharing our blessings, the joy of giving freely. This is why Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Many people don't understand this because they don't understand the heart and spirit of our Lord. He's revealing to us a secret of life – to discover the blessedness and joy of sharing our gifts with others, starting with the Church, the Family of God, and then going beyond to the world at large.

Let us be rich toward God. Don't be a fool who tries to accumulate more and more, keeping it for yourself. Discover the joy of giving and the delight in being rich toward God. Remember the words of Saint John Chrysostom, "The rich person is not one who has much but one who gives much, for what he gives remains his forever."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Political observations, take 2

To the Editor:

First, let me dispel the false narrative that Trump won in a landslide. Final totals are not yet complete but he barely cracked the 50% mark of the popular vote (currently at 50.2 percent). His margin of victory is currently less than 2 percent. That is the lowest popular vote winning margin since Richard Nixon's victory in 1968! As far as the Electoral College goes, we still have no "landslide." A landslide is when you sweep 49 of 50 states like Reagan beat Mondale in 1984. Trump lost 18 states! Nearly nine million people that voted in 2020 did not vote this year. It was not a "red shift," it was a "blue abandonment."

Second, I seem to remember Republicans "scheming and plotting ways to block" Biden's legislation four years ago. The Republicans voted against every legislative accomplish-

ment that was passed except for the Infrastructure bill in which 87 percent of Republicans voted against. Yet, during this election cycle they proudly took credit for the investments in their communities.

I would like to think that I speak for many voters that think we should be working together to make things better for the bottom 90 percent of the population. But first we need to agree on the same set of facts to move forward. Sure, we will disagree on what needs to be done and how far we can go and compromise will be needed. But many Republicans (not all) prefer misinformation to the truth and facts and are not willing to compromise. That will make it difficult going forward.

BILL DONOVAN
NORTH OXFORD

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!

Email Us @



news@stonebridgepress.news



Auction news



There's been lots of auction news since my last update.

Beginning with an item from the 16th century, a pair of Ming Dynasty jars sold well above their estimate at auction recently. The "fish jars were made during the reign of the Jiajing Emperor, from 1522-1566," according to CNN. They were made with advancements in ceramics design and depict golden carps along with lotus and other plants. The jars were in a home in Wiesbaden, Germany, but were moved after the start of World War II and placed in a secure location. The jars far exceeded the £1 million (\$1.3 million USD) estimate selling for £9.6 million (\$12.5 million USD).

Some rare presidential memorabilia including artifacts from two of America's greatest presidents will hit the auction block later this month. A lock of George Washington's hair inside a locket is one of the pieces being offered. The locket was given to a family friend of Washington's and was documented as it passed down through the generations. It's estimated to sell for \$30,000 to \$40,000.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES
WAYNE TUISKULA

Another important artifact was recently discovered in a Florida museum, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. The museum manager found an old dusty shadowbox containing an American flag. The flag is dated April 14, 1865, the day after Abraham Lincoln's assassination. It was draped over Lincoln's coffin as his body traveled 1,654 miles to be buried in Springfield, Ohio. The flag was signed by New York physician Lewis Applegate, who went to school with one of the pallbearers. It's believed Applegate's school friend gave the flag to him. After Applegate signed the border, other owners followed suit which provided a documentation of ownership over the years. It has an auction estimate of \$800,000 to \$1.2 million.

Moving to an item from more recent times, a collection of "Star Trek" memorabilia from the popular 1960s television show had many items selling past their estimates and even saw an auction record broken. A vintage red velour duty uniform worn by Nichelle Nichols when she played Nyota Uhura had an estimate of \$3,000 and sold for \$114,300, according to mylanews.com. Captain Kirk's yellow velour tunic and Starfleet Command Bridge trousers worn by actor William Shatner in the first season sold for \$455,000, well above the \$65,000 estimate. A communicator and phaser used by William Shatner as Captain Kirk were considered "lost." The original owner "was a veteran of Hollywood's prop industry," according to ArtNet. Don Hillenbrand, a long-time collector and researcher compared the items to those that appear in early episodes and to a documentary book on the series. The effort paid off when the phaser, estimated at \$100,000, boldly went where no man has gone before, setting an auction record for a "Star Trek" prop at \$910,000.

We are currently cataloging for an online antiques auction in a Beacon Hill Boston estate and a large Civil War collection from a local estate. We are accepting consignments of all types for future auctions. Please visit our Web site, <https://centralmassauctions.com>, for links to upcoming events.

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

'Tis the season: is a donor advised fund right for you?

BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
PROGRAM MANAGER

LPL REGISTERED PRINCIPAL, THE
CAPSTONE PLANNING GROUP
LOCATED AT CORNERSTONE BANK

The months of November and December usher in two of America's biggest holidays – Thanksgiving and Christmas. Friends and relatives plan get-togethers, begin gift shopping, and children eagerly make lists for Santa Claus. For many Americans, these holidays also lead to increased feelings of gratitude and generosity. The term "Giving Season" is often used to describe this time of year; and up to 34 percent of annual online charitable donations occur within December alone.

According to the Giving USA 2023 Annual Report, Americans gave a total of \$557.16 billion in 2023 with the largest source coming from individuals (individuals gave \$374.40 billion or 67% of total).

If you are one of the millions of Americans that are charitably inclined, perhaps you've heard the term "Donor

Advised Funds" (DAFs). If you haven't heard of DAFs – or if you don't understand their potential benefit – please read on.

DAFs were created in the 1930s but they weren't formally recognized by the IRS code until 2006. Since then, they've become one of the fastest-growing vehicles for philanthropy, with grants from DAFs accounting for nearly 10 percent of all giving in the United States. Today there are approximately 1.9 million DAF accounts in the U.S.

Because most Americans don't have the financial means to create their own endowment or foundation, a DAF can easily function in a similar capacity and be set up for low minimums. Depending on the sponsor firm chosen, the minimum initial contribution often ranges between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

Simply put, a DAF allows any individual (or business) to open an account, receive an immediate up-front tax deduction, and rec-

ommend grants from the account over time. Donors have the flexibility to add to their DAF as frequently or infrequently as they like. They can recommend grants to their favorite charities whenever desired, all from the convenience of one streamlined account. Plus, the assets can be prudently invested to seek growth and years of potential giving.

Common scenarios when a DAF could be worth consideration:

- You are in a high tax bracket due to the sale of a business (or appreciated asset)
- You want to lower your Adjusted Gross Income and "bunch" several years of donations into one tax year
- You typically give to multiple charities and want to simplify the administrative process
- You want to create a DAF in memory of a specific loved one, family, or organization
- You already plan to bequest a portion of your estate to charity

Most donors name

their Donor Advised Fund after themselves or family members, for example: John and Jennifer Smith Fund, or Jones Family Charitable Fund. Others name their funds for a purpose, such as: Local Children's Health Fund. If the DAF is created on behalf of a business entity, it could even be named after the organization and accept employee donations.

Everyone's charitable and financial goals are unique, and there are additional rules and regulations regarding DAFs. As a result, you should consult with a knowledgeable Financial Planner and/or Tax Consultant. Together they should be able to answer your questions and assist in determining if a DAF is right for you. Working with a professional can help simplify the setup, administration, and ongoing investment management. Maintaining a DAF does involve a combination of annual fees (administrative + investments), but the total cost is often less than donating to charity via a credit card.

At The Capstone Planning Group, we utilize an independent business model and have the flexibility to help clients choose from a variety of DAF sponsors. We also have the freedom to create investment portfolios using stocks, bonds, ETFs and mutual funds from companies including (but not limited to): American Funds, Fidelity, Blackrock, Invesco, JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, PIMCO, State Street, Vanguard and many more

About The Capstone Planning Group

The Capstone Planning Group is an experienced wealth management team conveniently located at Cornerstone Bank. The team offers comprehensive financial planning, asset management, and insurance. To learn more about the team and schedule a courtesy consultation please visit www.thecapstone.group or call 508-764-0046

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Turkey Tips

Thanksgiving is arguably the most anticipated annual holiday, and the highlight of an annual Thanksgiving celebration is the fabulous feast, with a turkey served up as the crowning centerpiece of the both the table and the holiday. A large, golden brown bird, roasted to perfection and surrounded by a medley of delicious accompaniments has no culinary competition at the dining table.

With so much at stake (and so much to go wrong), it's no wonder we're obsessed about turning out a feast on par with the roasted beauties we recall from our childhoods. Thus, this week's column offers a guide to preparing a Thanksgiving turkey along with some fun facts about the holiday bird. Happy Thanksgiving!

Many a novice cook has been intimidated by the mere thought of preparing a turkey for dinner, nonetheless for a Thanksgiving feast. The good news is turkeys are not difficult to cook, and all it takes is a little advance preparation to ensure a turkey success:

* Not sure how big a bird to cook? A general rule of thumb is to allow one pound of uncooked turkey per person from an 8 to 12 pound turkey. Larger birds have a larger proportion of meat to bones, so three quarters of a pound per person should serve well when purchasing heavier birds.



TAKE
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* Like all protein foods, should be thawed in the refrigerator, never at room temperature. When foods are thawed at room temperature, surface bacteria can rapidly multiply to dangerous levels at temperatures of 40 degrees F and above. The National Turkey Federation offers the following guidelines to properly defrosting frozen turkeys: For safety and superior quality, leave turkey in the original packaging and place in a shallow pan. Thaw, in the refrigerator, using the simple formula: whole turkeys thaw at a rate of 4 to 5 pounds per 24 hours. Example: A 15-pound frozen bird will take 3 to 4 full days to thaw in the refrigerator. To speed thawing, keep turkey in the original tightly sealed bag and place in a clean and sanitized sink or pan. Submerge in cold water and change the cold water every 30 minutes. The turkey will take about 30 minutes per pound to thaw. Refrigerate (at 40 degrees F or below) or cook the turkey when it is thawed. Do not refreeze uncooked, defrosted turkey.

** Stuffing is a delicious requisite for most Thanksgiving meals, but

it's important not to stuff a turkey until just before it is placed in the oven for roasting. If preparing the stuffing ahead-of-time, wet and dry ingredients should be refrigerated separately and combined right before stuffing the turkey. The turkey should be stuffed loosely, with about three quarters of a cup of stuffing per pound of turkey. It's also important to test the internal temperature of the stuffing as well as the turkey. The internal temperature in the center of the stuffing should register 160 to 165 degrees F.

* Many a Thanksgiving meal has been delayed due to underestimating the time it takes to cook a turkey. Since turkey is low in fat and high in protein, the meat is sensitive to extreme heat and prolonged cooking. Loosely place an aluminum foil tent over the turkey breast during the first 1 to 1½ hours of roasting, then remove to allow the turkey to brown. A turkey should be cooked just until it is done. The best way to determine the level of doneness is with a food thermometer. Even if you subscribe to the "20 minute per pound rule" you should also use a thermometer to ensure the bird is fully cooked. For whole turkey, place the food thermometer in the deepest part of the thigh, but not touching the bone. The internal temperature of the turkey should measure 180 degrees F in the thigh and 170 degrees F in the breast. Juices

should run clear and the drumsticks should be soft and move easily at the joint.

** *Brine is a popular prep to ensure juicy meat and crisp skin, but it can be a hassle. Try this super easy method that makes brining a breeze.

Note: Add some herbs and spices, it also infuses the turkey with additional flavor. Choose a bucket or container large enough to cover the bird with brine. To each gallon of fresh, cool water; add one cup of Kosher salt and one half cup of white or brown sugar. Pour the mixture over the turkey and refrigerate for at least 12 hours. If you want to flavor your turkey, add spices such as black peppercorns, dried thyme, garlic cloves or bay leaves to the brine. When the brining process is complete, rinse the bird well and pat dry. If you want a crispy skin, allow the turkey to air dry overnight in the refrigerator. Stuff and roast the turkey as usual. Another secret to delicious turkey is a simple spice rub, which adds not only incredible flavor to the bird, but a rich color as well. Note: If using dried spices, half the amount required. Mix together in a small bowl, three tablespoons each: chopped fresh rosemary, chopped fresh thyme, and chopped fresh tarragon; one tablespoon ground black pepper; two teaspoons salt. Pat turkey dry with paper towels and place

on rack set in a roasting pan. Tie legs together loosely to hold shape of turkey. Brush turkey with a little olive oil. Rub herb mix all over turkey. Roast as usual.

Did you know?

* The average price of a whole turkey is expected to increase by just 8% in 2024, jumping from \$27.9 in 2023 to \$30.15

* Half of all whole turkeys sold in the United States are consumed on Thanksgiving

* A frozen turkey keeps up to a year, but usually loses some flavor, according to the folks at Butterball.

* Even a "pre basted bird" can benefit from hand basting. Basting gives your bird color, crisps the skin and helps hold in juices. Rub the bird with a few tablespoons of softened butter and pour two cups of turkey broth, chicken broth or water into your roasting pan. Baste every half hour or so. And be sure to baste quickly, because the oven temperature will reduce every time you open the oven door.

* Some seasoned chef's recommend rubbing the inside of the turkey with a cut lemon before stuffing.

* A turkey will carve more easily if you let it sit for 20 minutes to allow juices to set.

* According to the Center of Science in the Public Interest (CSPI), the Thanksgiving turkey can be safely eaten for just four days after cooking.

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

Do you have a helpful hint or handy tip that has worked for you? Do you have a question regarding household or garden matters? If so, why not share them with readers of Stonebridge Press newspapers? Send questions and/or hints to: Take the Hint!, C/o the Southbridge Evening News, PO Box 950; Southbridge, MA 01550. Or E-mail KDRR@aol.com. Hints are entered into a drawing for dinner for two at the historic Publick House Inn.

Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber donates gift cards to community food banks

WEBSTER — The Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber of Commerce this week donated \$2,000 in grocery gift cards to Webster Dudley Food Share and \$1,000 in grocery gift cards to the Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf to support these local organizations in their mission to provide people in need this holiday season.

"There's a need out there, and we don't talk enough about it," said John Milas, chamber director. "This is all about helping our community. The number of people going to the food banks has been increasing with the rise in the cost of food."

This is the third year that the Chamber has been donating to the food banks in the form of gift cards. Previously, it donated turkeys at Thanksgiving. Milas noted that the

gift card donations are now included in the Chamber's annual budget.

Webster Dudley Food Share is a non-profit organization that provides essential food to all Webster and Dudley residents in need. The Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf provides free emergency grocery assistance to any family living in Oxford and any registered members of an Oxford church.

About Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber of Commerce

The Webster-Dudley-Oxford Chamber of Commerce advocates for the interests of its local business members and is an affiliate of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. For more information, go to www.wdochamberma.com or call 508-943-9700.

QCC's Community Impact Award goes to ACE volunteer

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College has announced Ayman Abdelgadir as the recipient of its most recent Community Impact Awards. Abdelgadir received the award in response to his work with African Community Education (ACE), an organization that aims to empower African refugee and immigrant youth through educational, leadership and cultural programming.

Abdelgadir has been volunteering with ACE since 2009, becoming the volunteer and mentoring coordinator in 2019. His role includes recruiting volunteers and mentors for ACE's programs to assist with academic support, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and career development. He

is also the head coach of the ACE youth soccer team.

"I take pride in working with all newcomers to the community and helping them flourish to their full potential. It brings me tremendous joy to see both the youth and adults continuously reach new milestones and build a successful future," said Abdelgadir.

The Community Impact Award is a project developed by QCC's Director of Community Engagement Sean Harris in 2023. An award is given out during each athletic season to highlight individuals and/or organizations in Central Massachusetts who do impactful work with young people from underserved communities.

"I garnered feedback from our student-athletes

and Ayman's name came up repeatedly from his work with the ACE soccer team. Not only that, but also his reputation precedes him in local community organizations. Everyone has high regard for Ayman," Harris said.

Abdelgadir was born in Sudan and raised in Worcester, receiving two graduate degrees from Clark University. He appreciated QCC's recognition of community development organizations and praised progress made by the many groups in the city.

"I share this award with every staff member at ACE and the other organizations in Worcester that are doing phenomenal work. In this field, we don't compete with each other, we work together," said Abdelgadir.

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Courtesy

Veterans Day was the memorial celebration for Marine L. Cpl. Norman Napierata of Dudley, who

was killed in Vietnam in 1966. He is buried in St. Joseph Cemetery, Webster. Deacon Kevin Deignan blessed the Napierata graves, prayed for all our soldiers, and then recited the 65 names of family members who have served their country. "Taps" was played by two second cousins of Norman, Lucas Curran of Clinton and Hayden Towne of Sutton.

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OBITUARIES

Henry P. Gawle, 107



WEBSTER – Henry P. Gawle, 107, died Monday, November 11, 2024 at the Rose Monahan Hospice Home in Worcester after a short illness. His wife of 64 years, Eleanor E. (Finnegan) Gawle, died in 2014.

He leaves 4 children, Karen A. Moseley and her husband William of Woodstock, CT, James P. Gawle and his wife Georgia of Webster, David N. Gawle of West Springfield, and Suzanne A. Hagstrom and her husband Brian of Woodstock, CT; 14 grandchildren, Jeremy, Ann, Sara, Marc, Ryan, Eric, Jennifer, Amanda, Jonathan, Jesse, Myra, Joshua, Hannah and Jeremiah; 8 great-grandchildren; a brother, Al Gawle and his wife Colleen of Port Townsend, WA; a lifelong friend Jim Dzedzic of Webster; and many nephews and nieces.

He was born on January 14, 1917 in Grafton, one of the 14 children of Peter and Anna (Laincz) Gawle and was a lifelong resident of Webster. He graduated from Bartlett High School in 1935 and completed 2 years of study at the Worcester School of Business.

He was a World War II Army veteran, serving in Guam, the Philippines and

Okinawa and was awarded a bronze star. He belonged to the VFW and the PAV.

Mr. Gawle's family established Point Breeze Restaurant in 1929. He owned and operated it from 1949 to 1989 when he retired.

Mr. Gawle was a communicant of Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Dudley and a life member of the Auburn Lodge of Elks #2118. He enjoyed ice fishing, cooking and taking walks. His family was his treasure.

The funeral will be held on Friday, November 22, at 10:30 AM in Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 24 Dudley Hill Road, Dudley (please meet at the church). Burial will be in Mount Zion Cemetery with military honors provided by the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council. The family will greet family and friends at the church beginning at 10:00 AM on Friday, prior to the Mass. Donations in his name may be made to either the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council, 4 Veterans Way, Webster, MA 01570 or to the Rose Monahan Hospice Home, 10 Judith Road, Worcester, MA 01602. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster.

www.websterfunerals.com

Lorraine Dion, 93



Lorraine Dion, died peacefully on November 9, 2024 at her home in Thompson CT at the young age of 93. Lorraine was born on August 23, 1931 in Webster, MA. She is the daughter of the late Czeslaw and Alexandra (Krupinski) Stolarczyk. She was married to the late Raymond Dion until his death in 2010.

She is survived by her son: Michael Dion, wife Debby of Lakeville, MA; her daughter Jane Dion, wife Cindi Perugini of Portland, CT; and son-in-law, Joseph Holewa of Charlton MA. She is predeceased by her daughter Judy Holewa and great grandchild Sloane Marie Rickaby in 2024. Lorraine is predeceased by all her siblings: three sisters: Stasia Jaszczur, Joan Plasse, Theresa Courtemanche, and four brothers: Chester, John, Victor and Vincent Stolarczyk. She leaves nieces and nephews.

Lorraine leaves 7 grandchildren Caitlin Rickaby (Michael), Brian Kiley (Katie Dragon), Danielle Bossi (Patrick), Chris Dion, Nicole Higgins (Joey), Laura Holewa and Colleen Holewa. Lorraine also leaves 3 great grandchildren Dante, Maverick and Matthew. Lorraine had many "grand pups" and "great grand pups" who will miss visiting her to receive a cookie.

She retired in 1995 from Hubbard Hospital as an Administrative Assistant

in the Physical Therapy Department. Lorraine, known to her family as "Grandma or Gma", loved her family above everything else and was the "glue" connecting all of us to family goings-on. She and Ray enjoyed traveling together and occasionally "going south" to the casinos. Lorraine kept her brain as sharp as a tack by mastering crossword games, and in her late 80's, learning online word puzzles and scrolling/commenting on Facebook. She was very creative with arts and crafts, making many Christmas items, ceramics, and even a "Grandma O'Keeffe" painting. She was a parishioner of St Joseph's Church in Charlton where she enjoyed a sense of community and connection to her faith.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Joseph's Church, 10 H Putnam Rd. Extension in Charlton, MA Saturday November 23 at 10 AM. Prayers to follow at the columbarium at St. Joseph Garden Of Peace Cemetery, Webster, MA. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at www.stjude.org. Bartel Funeral Home 33 Schofield Ave. Dudley is assisting the family.

www.bartelfuneralhome.com

Rodney P. Fountain, 60



OXFORD – Rodney P. Fountain, 60, of Federal Hill Road, passed away on Friday, November 15, 2024, at St. Vincent Hospital in Worcester. He leaves behind his beloved daughter, Dominique T. Fountain of Brookfield, and her mother, Jennifer DeFilippo of Ludlow; his cherished grandson, Nicholas M. Gianakis of Brookfield; two sisters, Judith Bryniarski and Melissa V. Christian, both of Dudley; and many nieces and nephews. Rodney was predeceased by three brothers, Joseph P. Fountain Jr., Dennis A. Fountain, and Mark A. Fountain; and a sister, Cynthia L. Marable.

Born and raised in Oxford, Rodney was the son of the late Joseph P. and Shirley R. (Beauregard) Fountain. A lifelong resident of the community, he worked for Gaftek Corporation in New Hampshire for five years and was a skilled heavy equipment operator for many years.

Rodney was known for his love of pool, earning the reputation of a "pool shark" among friends. He enjoyed fishing, mowing the lawn, and taking leisurely drives around town. A hard-working man with a big heart, Rodney especially cherished time spent with his daughter and grandson.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to UMass Memorial Health, c/o Cancer Research, One Biotech, Suite 301, 365 Plantation St., Worcester, MA 01605.

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

Dream of holidays

As the holiday season heats up and the smell of roasted turkey and pumpkin pie fills the air, it's easy to get caught up in the magic of the season—and just as easy to let your dreams slip into the background.

POSITIVELY
SPEAKING

TOBY
MOORE

you're chasing your dreams in the first place. Let the joy of giving inspire you to give your all in pursuit of your goals.

and jot down your biggest aspirations. Putting them on paper makes them more real.

Visualize success: As you sip on cider or watch the leaves fall, close your eyes and imagine achieving your goals. What does it look like? How will it feel?

Share your passion: Talk about your dreams with family and friends who support you. Their encouragement can spark new ideas or give you a much-needed boost.

Set a small goal before the New Year: Don't wait for January 1 to start fresh. Take one small, actionable step toward your goal now.

The holidays are the perfect reminder that life combines work and play, effort and joy, dreaming and doing. As you prepare your Thanksgiving plans—whether it's organizing a menu, tidying up the house, or coordinating with loved ones—take a moment to prepare for your goals.

Just like a well-thought-out meal comes together with care and attention, your dreams need thoughtful planning and action to thrive. Let the spirit of the season inspire you to dream bigger and work harder.

Gratitude and ambition go hand in hand. Some might argue that being happy with what you have might stifle your drive to achieve more. But think of an athlete who cherishes every victory while relentlessly training for the next one.

Here's to chasing your dreams as fiercely as you chase seconds on pumpkin pie!

Even history's greatest dreamers didn't take the holidays off when their vision was on the line. In the winter of 1879, Thomas Edison worked tirelessly at his lab in Menlo Park, perfecting the electric light bulb. His assistants reported working through snowstorms and late into the night by lamplight. The breakthrough came on New Year's Eve when his bulb successfully burned for over 13 hours, proving it was commercially viable.

Edison later said, "Genius is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration." His dedication reminds us that even in the season of comfort, a little extra effort can lead to monumental breakthroughs.

Of course, no one wants to become a workaholic. Ebenezer Scrooge learned the hard way that all work and no play leads to misery, though his ghostly intervention came at Christmastime. Thanksgiving reminds us of balance. Gratitude is as much about appreciating where you are as it is about striving for more.

Here are a few ways to stay motivated while savoring the season:

Reflect: Take a moment to look back—not to beat yourself up, but to celebrate the progress you've made. Even small steps matter.

Write down your dreams: Grab a notebook

Between family gatherings, festive celebrations, and endless to-do lists, the holidays can feel like both a time of joy and a reminder of what you haven't yet achieved. But what if this season could be the spark to reignite your fire for your dreams?

The holidays are distracting. There's shopping to do, meals to prepare, and social media posts showing everyone else's highlight reels. That can leave you comparing your progress to others and wondering if you've fallen behind. But here's the thing—the holidays aren't about competing; they're about connection, reflection, and renewal. And that goes for your dreams, too.

Think about the power of this time of year. Latch onto the holiday spirit, express gratitude, reflect on where you've been, and just as importantly, set your sights on where you're headed.

What about that book you're writing, the weight you're losing, or the business you started that hasn't quite taken off yet? Now is not the time to hold back. Wake up a little earlier, stay up a little later—don't let your dreams take a holiday break only to resurface as New Year's resolutions. Keep the fire burning!

Let the warmth of the season fuel your ambitions. Let the love and laughter of family remind you why

Holiday cacti add weeks of color and enjoyment

Add weeks of colorful flowers and decades of enjoyment to your indoor plant collection with holiday cacti. Dress one up with a decorative basket, container, or foil wrap and give it to a favorite gardener or holiday hostess. You'll find a variety for sale at your local garden center or florist.

The plant sold as a Christmas cactus may in fact be a Thanksgiving cactus. The true Christmas cactus blooms later and has small segments with rounded edges. The Thanksgiving cactus, though often sold as the Christmas cactus, has toothed or jagged segments and typically blooms earlier. To add to the confusion, there are hybrids of the two that bloom in between these.

Fortunately, their growing requirements and care are essentially the same so the plants will do fine no matter the name on the label. Keep your flowering holiday cactus in a cool bright location to extend its bloom time for as long as four to eight weeks. Avoid hot and cold air drafts, moisture stress, and other environmental changes to reduce the risk of bud and flower drop.

These holiday cacti are epiphytes that naturally grow on trees in the rainforests of Brazil. They all prefer bright indirect light, high humidity, and thorough watering when the top few inches of soil begin to dry. Don't overwater, but don't let the soil dry completely. Water a bit more often when the plant is in bloom.

Grow them in an organic well-drained potting mix for best results. Water thoroughly and pour off any excess water that collects in the saucer to avoid root rot. Reduce maintenance and improve the growing conditions with the help of gravel trays.



Melinda Myers

The Thanksgiving cactus has toothed or jagged segments and typically blooms earlier than the Christmas cactus.

Place a layer of pebbles, decorative stones, or marbles in the saucer or bot-



GARDEN
MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA
MYERS

tom of the foil wrap or basket. The pot will be elevated above any excess water collecting in the pebbles. As this water evaporates it increases the humidity around the plant.

Fertilize with a dilute solution of flowering houseplant fertilizer once it finishes blooming and throughout spring and summer as needed. Grow your cactus in a north-facing window or back from an east- or west-facing window where it receives bright indirect light throughout the year. Too much sun turns the leaf segments dark red.

Don't be anxious to move these plants to a bigger container. They prefer to be somewhat pot-bound and can remain in the same pot for years.

Encourage a new flush of flowers with cooler night temperatures around 55 to 60 degrees

and slightly drier soil. An uninterrupted dark period will also help promote flowering.

Next fall, start the dark treatment in early October to get holiday flowers. Cover the plants or move them to a location free of artificial light, indoors or outside, each night for 14 hours and provide bright, indirect sunlight each day. Any interruption in the dark period from outdoor, street, or reading lights can delay or prevent flowering.

Make this the year you add holiday cacti to your indoor plant collection and consider purchasing a few for friends and family. These easy-care flowering beauties will brighten indoor holiday décor and everyone's mood.

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

Send all obituary notices to
Stonebridge Press, PO Box 90,
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to obits@stonebridgepress.news

RESTRICTIONS

continued from page A1

douse them with water, and cover them with a tight-fitting lid. These ashes can remain hot enough to ignite combustibles long after the fire goes out: never dump them outdoors or in the

trash.

- Extinguish smoking materials in a sturdy ashtray with water or sand. Never toss cigarette butts, matches, or other smoking materials over the edge of a balcony, stub them out on stairs or railings, or toss them in dry vegetation or debris.

"The faster we hear about a fire, the better chance we have of safely extinguishing it," said

Kochanowski. "If you see smoke or flames, please call 9-1-1 right away so we can protect you, your neighbors, and our community."

GATZKE
continued from page A1

Gatzke stood out as the most capable candidate for the job. "M.J. has met all the qualifications on the job description. I think he's done a great job filling in for the year or so that we've had a vacancy. I believe the whole board made a decision that M.J. deserves the opportunity to become the permanent Superintendent of the Highway Department," said Karłowicz. Selectmen praised Gatzke for keeping the Highway Department

operating effectively and efficiently even with limited resources and a small staff in 2024. Board of Selectmen Chair Steve Sullivan commended Gatzke for a job well done so far and everything he will bring the department in the years to come. "In one way or another we've all said in the past when we say 'Highway Department' it doesn't even do justice - They're more than just highway workers and M.J. has worked his way up the ranks," Sullivan said of the new appointee. Gatzke was softspoken in accepting the appointment. He said his goal is



Courtesy

M.J. Gatzke joins the Dudley Board of Selectmen for a photo after being appointed Highway Superintendent, a position he has filled as Acting Superintendent for much of 2024.

to keep the department moving in a positive direction. "Hopefully, I do what everybody expects me to do. I've been doing it for

the last basically almost a year so far and everything's been going pretty well so hopefully everything will be pretty good," he said.

The Board of Selectmen approved the appointment effective Nov. 4, the date of the meeting where Gatzke was presented for consideration.



M.J. Gatzke is sworn in as Dudley's new Highways Superintendent.

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LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P3900EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:
Kathleen Margaret McCarthy
Also known as: **Kathleen McCarthy**
Date of Death: 09/20/2024

To all interested persons:

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

Bridget M McCarthy of Litchfield NH requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Bridget M McCarthy of Litchfield NH be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/17/2024**

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

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: November 13, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 22, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P3780EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:
Jean M. Fitzgerald
Date of Death: 07/11/2023

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Rebecca Amaral of Fitchburg MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:
Rebecca Amaral of Fitchburg MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/03/2024**

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

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WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy,

First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 05, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 22, 2024

The Attorney General's decision on Warrant Article 24 (General by-law) of the Annual Town Meeting held on May 20, 2024, has been issued. Article 24 has been Disapproved in its entirety. The entire text of this decision and by-law is posted in the following five places in accordance with G.L. c. 40 § 32: Dudley Municipal Complex, Pearle Crawford Memorial Library, Mason Road School, Dudley District Court House and Shepherd Hill High School. Attest: Lori A. Smith, Dudley Town Clerk
November 15, 2024
November 22, 2024

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Levester L. Burrell to Mackinac Savings Bank, FSB, dated October 8, 2014 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 52901, Page 298, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 11:00 AM on December 2, 2024, on the mortgaged premises located at 45 Mill Street, Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage,

TO WIT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Parcel II

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

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

THENCE South 58 degrees 01' 45" East along the southerly side of Pine Street a distance of sixty (60) feet to an iron pipe;

THENCE South 31 degrees 35' 15" West along land of LaParde, a distance of one hundred twenty-four and eighty-one hundredths (124.81) feet;

THENCE North 58 degrees 226' 15" West along land of LaParde a distance of sixty (60) feet;

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

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

For mortgagor's(s)' title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 52901, Page 295. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encum-

brances is made in the deed.

TERMS OF SALE:

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

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

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

Present holder of said mortgage

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

150 California St.

Newton, MA 02458

(617)558-0500

26235

November 8, 2024

November 15, 2024

November 22, 2024

The Dudley Historical Commission

is in receipt of an application for a demolition permit

**For 87 West Main St. (Garage),
Dudley, MA 01571**

A public hearing will be held as per section 12.04.00 of the Dudley MA Demolition Delay Bylaw, at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571 on **Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 6:40pm, in Room 315**. A representative of the property owner must attend.

Within forty five (45) days of the Commission's receipt of a copy of the application for a demolition permit, the Commission shall hold a public hearing on such application, and shall make a determination as to whether the structure is a significant structure under one or more criteria set forth in sections 12.05.00a, and 12.05.00b. The Commission shall give written notice of the time and place of the hearing, not less than seven (7) days prior to the hearing, to the owner by certified mail, and by posting and by publication once in a local newspaper. The Commission may conduct a site visit prior to the hearing.

Respectfully,

David Proulz, Secretary

Dudley Historical Commission

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO24P3772EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

Estate Of:

Mary Regina Barrette

Also known as: **Mary R Barrette**

Date of Death: 03/01/2024

To all interested persons:

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

Anne M. Robieniczak of Danielson CT requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that:

Anne M. Robieniczak of Danielson CT be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Personal Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/03/2024**

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

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Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: November 12, 2024

Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
November 22, 2024

(SEAL)

**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
Docket 24 SM 003885
ORDER OF NOTICE**

To:

**Colleen A. Petrone
Elizabeth A. Petrone**

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

Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 1 Wysocki Drive, Unit No. 9 in Phase II of the Stonegate Condominium, given by Colleen A. Petrone and Elizabeth A. Petrone to "MERS", Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a separate corporation that is acting solely as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, "Lender"; and its successors and assigns, dated May 30, 2018, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 58876, Page 181, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 12/16/2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 11/1/2024

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

November 21, 2024

The Dudley Historical Commission

is in receipt of an application for a demolition permit

**For 249 Dudley Southbridge Road
(Building), Dudley, MA 01571**

A public hearing will be held as per section 12.04.00 of the Dudley MA Demolition Delay Bylaw, at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA 01571 on **Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 7:10pm, in Room 315**. A representative of the property owner must attend.

Within forty five (45) days of the Commission's receipt of a copy of the application for a demolition permit, the Commission shall hold a public hearing on such application, and shall make a determination as to whether the structure is a significant structure under one or more criteria set forth in sections 12.05.00a, and 12.05.00b. The Commission shall give written notice of the time and place of the hearing, not less than seven (7) days prior to the hearing, to the owner by certified mail, and by posting and by publication once in a local newspaper. The Commission may conduct a site visit prior to the hearing.

Respectfully,

David Proulz, Secretary

Dudley Historical Commission

November 22, 2024

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Courtesy

The Webster/Dudley Veterans Council teamed up with several community partners to hold a Veterans Day commemoration program. USAF veteran Andrew Kozlowski served as the Master of Ceremonies, while fellow USAF veteran Jim Morrison was the Grand Marshal. Retired USAF Colonel Bruce Finley served as the guest speaker. "Appreciation is extended to all contributors who ensured the success of this year's Veterans Day observance," read a statement released by event leaders.



Courtesy

The Dudley Youth Soccer U10 team had a very successful season, finishing first in their division as Champions. Top to bottom as pictured: Coach Rachel DiDonato, Rafael Rabski, Coach Chris Melendez, Oltian Bektashi, Dominic DiDonato, Aayden Maina, Cole Hains, Christopher Mello, Will Lebeau, Jaxon Melendez, Kaiden Swift, and Jameson Howard-Donlin.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 557 School Street, Webster, MA 01570

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

ises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit: *the land in said Webster, together with the buildings thereon, and all the privileges and appurtenances connected therewith, and situated on the easterly side of School Street, and bounded and described as follows, to wit: BEGINNING at a spike driven into the sidewalk on the easterly line of School Street at its intersection with the northerly line of Fourth Street, so-called, and being the southwesterly angle of the tract hereby conveyed; THENCE easterly one-hundred and thirty-one (131) feet by said Fourth Street to an iron pipe driven into the ground at other land of Brandes Estate; THENCE northerly sixty-six (66) feet by said other land of said Estate to an iron pipe driven into the ground at land of Mrs. Edward Hagner; THENCE westerly one-hundred and thirty-one (131) feet by land of said Wagner to a drill-hole in the sidewalk on the easterly line of said School*

Street; THENCE southerly sixty-six (66) feet by said School Street to the point of beginning. BEING the same premises described in a deed from Helen Woznicki to Samuel G. Wylie et ux, dated April 4, 1931, and recorded Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 2540, Page 4. The above described premises are subject to a Life Estate as described in a deed from the grantor to Samuel B. Wylie dated this same date and recorded herewith For title reference see Deed recorded in Book 7359, Page 75.

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

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

TERMS OF SALE: Said premises will be sold and conveyed

subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

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



Courtesy



On Friday, Nov. 8, the fifth graders at Dudley Middle School welcomed veterans from the community for the annual Bring a Veteran to School Day. Approximately 30 veterans, who were relatives and friends of students, joined in the celebration. The seventh and eighth grade chorus and band put on an incredible performance for the veterans. The fifth grade students interviewed veterans in small groups asking about their experiences, what they learned from their service, and looking through their artifacts. The day concluded with a homemade lunch for the veterans and their student sponsors. The fifth grade team thanks everyone for their support of this important day of honoring the veterans.



Courtesy

THE REUNION WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU!

Mark your calendars, Auburn High Class of 1965! It's time to relive those unforgettable memories at our upcoming reunion. Help us create a trip down memory lane! The Class of 1965 of Auburn High School will be celebrating their 60th Reunion on Thursday, Sept. 25. Plans at the moment include a luncheon to be held at J. Anthony's in Auburn from noon to 3 p.m. For further information please email Terri Walker at merciertheresa1131@gmail.com. (Or check your email or Junk Mail—emails were sent out in September 2024.)

“Come hang out in the goat pen”

FARMWORK OFFERS HEALING FOR DISABILITIES

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Many families these days are seeking ways to help loved ones with disabilities.

Last week, a handful of people at the Dudley Grange learned of an option that long predates many of the disabilities themselves — agriculture, particularly the calming and other effects of working with animals.

For Jennifer Kearney and Beth Cogoli of Oakham's Family Farm Education Center, one of the biggest attractions is the idea of having “play dates” in a safe setting.

“That's particularly important if you have a child with an intellectual or developmental difference,” Kearney said. “It can be a lot of stress to go out in public and do something. But here, literally no one cares [what they do]. There are no rules; just go and have fun.”

Cogoli agreed, saying that became most notable during Covid, when so many public places were closed. Families needed places to meet friends outdoors, and their farm started accommodating them. She recalled asking some “Do you guys want to come hang out in the goat pen?” and many did. The animals didn't care whether the kids wore masks.

Play is a crucial part of learning in their setting. They said they allow all ages and all kinds of disabilities to play with/care for the animals, but have programs geared generally for younger people. Among the organizations they've hosted are Seven Hills (which Kearney used to work for), the Stetson School,

Making Opportunities Count, various school field trips, homeschool groups and many one-on-one service providers and caretakers. Some of those groups have actually helped build the farm — Stetson School residents, for example, built their barn, woodshed and are now clearing a pasture.

They noted a key goal is teaching job and life skills — that can range from the obvious (resume and interview skills) to the very basic (how to control one's balance around animals and self-regulation), depending on what their participant needs. That includes holding and birthing baby animals, cooking pies, tapping maple trees, shearing sheep, selling herbs, wielding axes and even tractor-driving.

“We're very careful, but we teach everything,” Kearney said. “... Nothing is off limits. There's dignity in risk.”

During the process, many of their participants end up getting “a lot of sensory therapy” from the textures of things, sounds of water, the physical act of lifting and carrying animals and objects, and “especially with the younger kids, some tolerance, being gentle, and being patient,” Cogoli said.

One example of the latter was the fact their people tapped their first six maple trees this spring. After processing, they got about a cupful of syrup from it. But that was a learning experience — they've already planned to tap 60 trees next year, Kearney said.

“Everything we do is educational,” she said, noting later they have no age restrictions for the various activities.

In response to an audience question about teaching speaking skills, Cogoli said they do that, too “but maybe not in the most common way.” She has found many of their participants sponta-

neously teach each other about the animals they work with, what they're doing today, and related issues.

“We charge nothing, ever. It's all by donation,” Kearney added. “... Part of our goal is to make it accessible.”

As a mother of four kids (two with special needs), Cogoli has seen how important that is. She said she and many similar parents get some state aid, but it's nothing like a full-time income, so they often cannot afford the cost of events other parents can take their kids to.

Being next to 414 acres of wildlife management land, their farm also sees a wide range of non-domesticated visitors, or, as Kearney put it, “volunteers we never asked for.” For several years, they've been visited by a black bear named Shelley and her “entourage” — “she goes nose to nose with our goats. She's been there as long as we have and never bothered anyone.”

She also cited “a beautiful owl that's been with us three years now,” “a lot of rat snakes,” the usual menagerie of coyotes, foxes and bobcats, and even a probable mountain lion who “took a turkey off our property” and ate it without leaving a trail. (They didn't see the lion, but showed a photo taken by someone living nearby of one that's been reportedly hunting the area from as far away as Rindge, New Hampshire.)

Another unusual species is the black squirrel, which they noted is “very aggressive. They'll kill other squirrels.” Kearney said that's a relatively recent transplant to our area, allegedly brought by a man who liked them while visiting another country.

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

bankHometown promotes Zaleski to senior assistant branch manager



Laurie Zaleski

AUBURN — bankHometown recently promoted Laurie Zaleski to senior assistant branch manager of its 569 Southbridge St., Auburn office.

Zaleski, of Charlton,

was previously assistant branch manager in Auburn. She has nearly 35 years of banking experience and has earned certificates from numerous banking courses and seminars.

About bankHometown Founded in 1889, bankHometown is headquartered in Oxford, Massachusetts. We have \$1.4 billion in assets and offer a complete line of consumer and business deposit and lending products and services through 16 branches located throughout Central Massachusetts and north-east Connecticut. We're proud to fulfill our community banking mission—providing individualized financial support, a suite of comprehensive products and services,

and smart banking technology—all to ensure our customers can unlock their potential and build a successful future.

Through our sponsorship and charitable giving program, The Giving Tree, bankHometown and the Hometown Bank Community Foundation support non-profit organizations and causes throughout Worcester and Windham Counties. In 2023 alone, The Giving Tree donated nearly \$400,000 and over the last decade has donated more than \$2.7 million. bankHometown is proud to be named a Corporate Citizenship Award winner by Boston Business Journal for the past five years. For more information, visit bankhometown.com.

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Dudley Woman's Club has fun, fun, fun!

DUDLEY — The November Dudley Woman's Club meeting was fun, fun, fun! We welcomed Alex Diaz Salisbury, who shared many tips and tricks for turning grocery store flowers and discount store items into beautiful holiday centerpieces. His demonstration was both educational and entertaining! The DWC donated \$200 in Salisbury's name to his local charity of choice: The Webster-Dudley Boys & Girls Club.



We also welcomed our holiday season favorite Lesa Patrock, who once again is working to sponsor more than 400 children through the YOU Inc. Adopt-a-Child for Christmas Program. In this program, children separated from their biological families select three items for their Christmas wish list and Lesa finds people to fill those wishes. The DWC adopted five children and donated dozens of gift bags to be used to wrap the gifts.

To round out the good cheer at this Nov. 14 meeting, we welcomed five new club members. Our nearly 60 members hail from Dudley, Webster, Southbridge, Charlton, Uxbridge, Putnam, Woodstock, Thompson, North Grosvenordale and Millbury.

To learn more about the DWC, please visit www.dudley-womansclub.org.

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Dudley and Webster hold Veterans Day parade



Veterans perform a three-volley salute honoring the veterans who have left us before recognizing those still around today.



A trumpeter plays "Taps" to honor the veterans who have passed away.



The Grand Marshall of Dudley and Webster's 2024 Veterans Day Parade Sgt. James Morrison of the U.S. Air Force, speaks to the audience before the parade takes off sharing stories of the veterans who inspired him to join the armed forces.

DUDLEY/WEBSTER — The towns of Dudley and Webster came together for their annual Veterans Day festivities on Nov. 11 with a parade through both towns and ceremonies at veterans memorials in both communities. The parade started and ended with local veterans presenting the national anthem, three-volley salutes, speeches about the significance of being a veterans, and recognizing all who have served to maintain the freedoms of the United States.



The Stars and Stripes leads the way as the parade steps off from Dudley's Municipal Complex.

BARTLETT HIGH SCHOOL RELEASES HONOR ROLL

WEBSTER — Bartlett High School has released its honor roll for the first quarter of the 2024-2025 school year.

Grade 12
High Honor: Evelina Bagdonavičiute, Avery Gifford
Honor: Jibril Abshir, Savannah Bjork, Jayden Casey, Keiliany Claudio Reyes, Hope Cooper, Urmiben Dabhi, Sydney Fuller, Justin Illarraza, Natalee Kelly, Lexani Lewis, Ariannalys Lopez, Evangeline Mayotte, Janluca Mercedes Morales, Andreas Motalvo, Adam Phillips, Gabriella Troy, Odelis Valentin, Dakota Vaudreuil, Maya Wetherbee

Grade 11
High Honor: Nathan Cole, Eryk Piwowarczyk
Honor: Elijah Castro, Chloe Drisco, Niel Duszlak, Omar Medina Perez,

Travis Russell, Lawrence Smith, Luigi Villegas

Grade 10
High Honor: Zainab Abshir, Daysha Collins, Cheyenne Grundel, Libby Kokoszka, Darlene Macario, Megan Milligan, Morgan Minor, Irellyn Pottle, Carmen Ruiz Acosta
Honor: Lilian Avalos Castillo, Jayden Azu, Caden Case, Nathan Casper, Callie Castro, Anjeliz Mercado, Dhyey Patel, Michael Stawiecki, Cassidy White, Tyler Whiting

Grade 9
High Honor: Elijah Mckenna, Angela Sarfo
Honor: Zualianice Benito Torres, Kyle Boma, Matthew Czernicki, Natalia DosSantos, Calee Gardner, August Henning, Jordan Miller, Darius Nixon, Don Ta, Julia Urato

OXFORD HIGH SCHOOL RELEASES HONOR ROLL

OXFORD — Oxford High School would like to announce their Honor Roll for Quarter 1 of the 2024-2025 school year.

High Honors
Seniors: Morgan Banfill, Kayla Belmore, Rebeca Brito-Correia, Nicole Brzozowska, Kellen Clarkson, Kayla Dodge, Hailey Filipkowski, Isabella Geragonis, Zoey Gould, Marta Hellstrom, Nhu Huynh, Lidiya Jacques, Jacob Lanciault, Emma Martin, Erin Mulcahy, Kaitlyn Ojerholm, Alexander Paradise, Aidan Vanarsdalen
Juniors: Justine Anderson, Gianna Snow Boucher, Cassidy Burke, Delaney Burke, Jaelynn Caracciolo, Anna Costa Heroux, Michaela Dwyer, Sarah Fonseca, Chloe Gabis, Veronica Griffin, Gwen Gustafson, Alexander Hamilton, Matthew Hilman, Rosy Krantz, Andrew Nieber, Emma Reis, Ava Vincent, Vanessa Walker, Ethan White
Sophomores: Shayla Boliver, Marie Cosentino, Abigail Davis, Leeya Hernandez, Kate Mayo
Freshman: Sabrina Adamiak, Khloe Anderson, Haniya Awais, Lillian Burke, Laura Grenier, Olivia Hammond, Noel Jandrow, Ella Kasprzycki, Brooke Nitti, Torin Stone, Mia Urbaz, Keagan Vanarsdalen
Seniors: Muniba Awais, Mikaela Baraklilis, Sophia Cornacchioli, Nathan Davis, Antony Delorge-Rheume, Chloe

Dumas, Edward Edison, Julia Esposito, Jonathan Grenier, Sneh Harris, Sophia Hernandez, Ella Kirkpatrick, Valerie Magill, Annie Maynard, Hunter McQuillan, Calvin Nfodjo, Jalysa Ovalle, Sarah Parker, Domenic Ricard, Bianca Sprague, Maya Staltare
Juniors: Hailey Angell, Rachel Arndt, Sarah Arndt, Zack Bond, Keegan Comeau, Conner Dawe, Anastasia Ford, Abigail Kimball, Ava Liberis, Addislen Monsen, Kaius Monson, Samuel Paradise, Leonardo Peterson, Nolan Remington, Paige Reynolds, Thalyta Souza, Hannah Taranto, Abigail Worster
Sophomores: Michelle Annancy, Ava Benway, Sofia Boucher, Makalieghe Boyle-Muniz, Audri Chalifoux, Grace Crouch, Cameron Davis, Zaria Edison, Carlos Leon Rosario, Daymyin Lopez, Leighya McDowell, Huckleberry McQuillan, Riley Moody, Braden Stone, Taliah Valentin
Freshman: Gwenth Auger, Travis Beaudette, Maximos Boulmetis, Kaeli Cordova Del Cid, George Durand, Davi Fracalossi, Benjamin Francis, Myles Francis, Calleigh Furtado, Tatiangelys Hernandez Barreto, Keith Kirkpatrick, Zachary MacDonald, Selah Mateo, Leah Newkirk, Aaron Oveka, Lacey Parker, Devyn Quarshie, Adam Sliwoski, Krystiana Sobocinski, Lucas Staniunas, Jenna Tessier, Caiden Valipour

DA partners with Autism Resource Center to expand adaptive swim class offerings for neurodivergent children



Courtesy

From left: Lainie Petrou from the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, Logi Nathan from the British Swim School of Blackstone Valley, Julie LeBeau of the Autism Resource Center, Janine LaPrade, swim instructor at Worcester Fitness, Kristen Cariglia, Director of the Autism Resource Center, Kelly Sampson of the Worcester JCC, Eileen Shea from the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, and Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr.

WORCESTER — Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr. recently partnered with the Autism Resource Center to help expand adaptive swim program offerings to more families of neurodivergent children across Worcester County.

The classes include basic swim skills, as well as water safety training. They also include a home safety workshop for parents/caregivers to provide information and resources to protect against elopement.

"We know that children with Autism Spectrum Disorder are 160 times more likely to drown than their peers without adequate water safety instruction," said Early. "We want to prevent such tragedies. These swim classes will help children be safe, help give parents some peace of mind, and also allow children to have fun in an environment adapted to their needs."

The Autism Resource Center first began setting up the Adaptive Swim Program last year with the support of the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism.

"The Swim and Safety Program is truly about prevention and accessibility. Our goal is to provide swim lessons to

as many children and young adults with autism as possible," said Kristen Cariglia, Director of the Autism Resource Center. "By training more Water Safety Instructors across our region to increase the number of adaptive lessons and funding for participants, children are able to participate in these potentially lifesaving lessons in close to home. We are beyond thrilled to be partnering with the Worcester County District Attorney's office. With their support, we are able to make these lessons accessible to double the number of children and train more swim instructors to provide them."

Through the funding provided by the District Attorney's Office, the program has been training additional instructors and expanding to new locations across Worcester County. Classes are currently offered at Worcester Fitness, the Worcester JCC, British Swim School of Milford and Orchard Hill Athletic Club in Lancaster. There are plans to add additional classes soon.

"Providing water safety skills to the community is at the forefront of preventing drowning incidents," said Janine LaPrade, the adaptive swim class instructor at

Worcester Fitness. "Many times, accessibility is a substantial roadblock to acquiring these survival techniques. The partnership created by the District Attorney's office, the Autism Resource center, and swim academy sites of Worcester County will increase the number of trained instructors, the number of sites providing lessons, as well as an increase in families served all in hopes of reducing the tragic accidents that can occur, especially within this population."

The District Attorney's office provided \$10,000 to help cover the cost of swimming fees and additional staff training needed to expand the adaptive swim program. The prevention program money was funded through the office's Drug Forfeiture Community Reinvestment Program, which uses money seized from drug crimes to provide funds for community initiatives in Worcester County as a crime prevention and intervention tool.

These swim classes are open to the entire community and registration is free. Contact the Autism Resource Center at www.autismresourcecentral.org/swim for additional information and registration.

Worcester Academy Play Ensemble brings sneak preview of "Matilda" to Park Ave



WEBSTER — On Wednesday, Nov. 6, Worcester Academy Play Ensemble visited Park Avenue Elementary to perform bits from their new play "Matilda" that opened the following weekend.

"The acting and singing is amazing," said Mr. Aronian, who is the Dean of Students at the school. "It's like going to the Hanover Theatre."

The Worcester Academy cast and screenwriting is all put together by David Plante (Worcester Academy Faculty Member and Performance Center Director) and Lucy Tew (Worcester Academy Faculty Member and Arts Program Director).

"The work these guys put in is incredible," said a third grade teacher at Park Ave. "The voices and choreography were brilliant."

The student started out by singing a few different songs from the musical and then, in the middle of the performance, allowed students to ask some questions; the questions were very thoughtful. The teachers prior to the event had engaged the students with some information about the story line to Matilda. The fourth grade Student Leadership team was responsible for the entire set design on stage; it resembled a classroom you would find in a school with giant letters falling in the background - The

students worked really hard. A huge thank you to the kitchen and custodial staff for being flexible throughout the planning of the event.

Worcester Academy is a private school located in the heart of Worcester and houses middle school and high school students. Worcester Academy works hard to develop cultural competence and global perspective through their diverse community. The Worcester Academy community offers every student the opportunity to experience the vitality, diversity, and excitement of a city rich in heritage, culture, and the Arts.