SERVPRO
Fire & Water - Cleanup & Restoration™
Independently owned and operated

Faster to any size disaster™
SERVPRO® of Southern Worcester County
508-234-3399

Fire Water Mold Storm Disaster Commercial Biohazard

Auburn News

SEND YOUR NEWS AND PICS TO NEWS@STONEBRIDGEPRESS.NEWS

Friday, April 11, 2025

©2025, Issue #14

www.StonebridgePress.com



Courtesy

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as March Students of the Month at St. Joseph School — Pre-K 3-year-old: Emma Artuso; Pre-K 4-year-old: Zuzanna Bialik; Kindergarten: Jaxson Blain; Grade 1: Timmery Gibbons; Grade 2: Michaela Chege; Grade 3: Paulina Piascik; Grade 4: Cecilia Coan; Grade 5: Charles Smith; Grade 6: Sophia Surowaniec; Grade 7: Alexis Archambault; Grade 8: Gianna Pigeon. Students are awarded Student of the Month for their outstanding exemplification of Religion, Respect, and Responsibility. Keep up the great work!

Webster schools honor retirees for 65 years of services

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — The ongoing budget issues took a back seat to honoring two retiring teachers at the last School Committee meeting.

Between them, Deb Puishy and Elizabeth Baldyga have about 65 years of experience in the district, and Superintendent Monique Pierangeli praised both of them for their effort in various capacities with students and fellow staff.

"The number of students you would have touched … is nothing short of amazing and wonderful," Pierangeli said of Puishy, but said something similar for Baldyga. "… This is what I strive for – to have people come work in Webster, stay in Webster, have a career in Webster."

Linda Millet agreed, saying both women "excelled in every position they've been in. … I had the pleasure of working with both of them over the years." (Millet is a retired teacher, now on the committee.)

Regarding Puishy, the superintendent said she taught all grades from K-6, and was also an academic interventionist, reading specialist, and mentor to other teachers who started with an $11,000 a year salary. By contrast, Baldyga started as an ASL aide for Polish students, and eventually ended up working "in every building," doing summer programs, one-on-one and inclusion work, and more.

Pierangeli recalled her own kids with both women, and noted they "always treated everybody with kindness and respect."

After presenting them with gifts including their original contracts, Pierangeli shifted to talking about participating in a recent MSBA virtual assessment – a process by which the state agency fund-

Turn To **RETIREES** page **A14**

Oxford police seeking $273,000 override

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD – In a tightening economy, Oxford voters will probably be asked to approve not one, but two overrides at this year's Town Meeting and local election.

Last week, we wrote about the bigger one, $494,225 being sought by the schools. Soon afterward, the police department announced their own for $273,000. That amount of money amounts to $28 extra per year for the average home value.

Chief Mike Daniels said he's seeking funds to support three new officers, including a full-time School Resource Officer, based on a recent "workload analysis" conducted by MPI. He told the Finance Committee about that report on March 26. It actually recommended five officers based on Oxford's population, demographics, and call volume compared to 13 towns of similar size statewide, and reported that Oxford's in the bottom three for police budget and cost per resident.

He said he wants to "start slow and see what our activity is," and get public reaction to the new people, before adding any more.

The key ask is for the school officer, a need that has also been sought by the schools themselves, and he feels has been highlighted by a few recent incidents. In February, a middle school boy emailed him directly a photo from Snapchat of another kid in school flashing a gun and saying he was afraid to be in school. In January, middle schools kids were texting their parents about another boy with a knife and gun in his backpack, but police "were not alerted until about an hour later," Daniels said. (In both cases, the gun was an Airsoft BB gun.)

"It's not the schools' fault. They do the best they can, but are overworked," he added.

He told the Finance Committee the department already has two officers with SRO certification, and added when I talked to him that he'd like to also give that officer a community resource dog. He sees that officer as someone who can "act as a facilitator and mediator" between students' families and the district. He'd like to have a full-timer handle the middle and high schools because of their proximity to each other and the station, and a part-timer handle the elementary schools.

In general, "staffing needs to increase to maintain service and reduce burnout," he explained, noting the town sees a lot of issues in part because of I-395 and Route 12 being

Turn To **OVERRIDE** page **A14**

Camp Invention's fun, action-packed summer STEM program coming to Auburn

AUBURN — Camp Invention®, a nationally recognized, nonprofit summer enrichment program, is coming to the following locations:

Auburn Middle School the week of July 28 – Aug. 1
Our Lady of the Valley Regional School the week of June 16 - June 20

Regional program sponsors include Army Educational Outreach Program and Camp Invention Parent Donations.

A program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame® in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Camp Invention challenges children in grades K-6 to tap into their natural curiosity and use their creativity to solve problems. Through hands-on activities, Camp Invention promotes STEM learning; builds confidence, leadership, perseverance and resourcefulness; and encourages entrepreneurship - all in a fun and engaging environment.

Turn To **CAMP** page **A14**

Troop 273 hosts annual Scouting for Food Drive



BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Dudley's local Boy Scout Troop 273 continued their annual effort to give back around the Easter season through their 2025 Scouting for Food Drive event on April 5.

The yearly drive seeks to collect food and financial donations for the Webster Dudley Food Share while allowing the scouts to engage with their local community and learn the value if volunteerism. The 2025 event saw 1,325 food and personal care items and $395.97 collected for the cause.

Troop 273 Scout Master Diane Anderson said the drive is scheduled specifically to coincide with the Easter holiday which she noted is often overlooked

Turn To **FOOD DRIVE** page **A14**

RESIDENTIAL OIL TANK
INSTALLATION | REPLACEMENT | REMOVAL
Burnt dinner?
Order pizza.
Leaking oil tank?
Call Bond-Tite.
Regret nothing, replace it today
(508) 892-4378
bondtitetank.com
BOND-TITE TANK SERVICE

Expert warns against financial scams

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

STURBRIDGE — As Kevin Donohue knows all too well, scammers are everywhere, especially online.

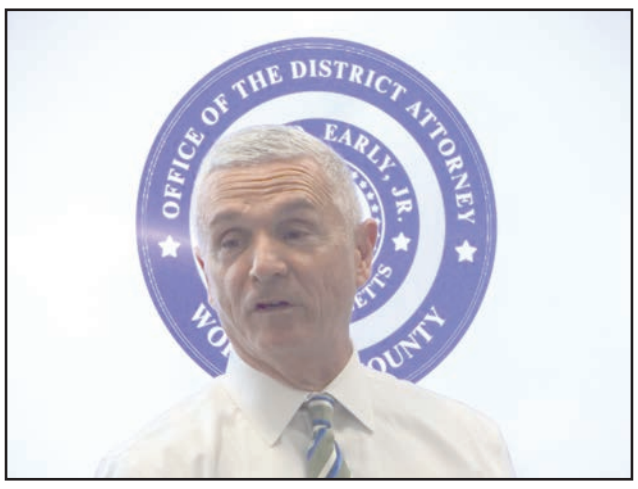
Sometimes, they even pretend they want to help you against scammers, or are the police, or want to give you free stuff — if you pay "taxes" beforehand. They also change all the time.

"A scam you learn about today may not be the same tomorrow," Donohue told about 20 people recently at the Senior Center. Donohue is a presenter for the District Attorney's office.

But their pattern's usually the same. The scammer will use any information they have about you – there's a lot of it available online for most of us, and even more that's been stolen in various hacks – to make you feel at ease, seeking to pry crucial details they don't have from you, such as account and Social Security numbers, passwords, and other details that'll let them rob you.

"They know not everybody will fall for it, but only need a certain percentage," he said, later adding, "People always think it's targeted to me, but it's not. It's sent to thousands of people."

The crooks use what he termed "social engineering" to build trust with the information they already have. For example, they might have hacked your health record to pretend to be the hospital following up on a recent appointment or procedure. When you answer, they ask to verify what they have, then for details they don't have.



Gus Steeves

Kevin Donohue with the DA's office logo behind him.

"Never verify something for someone who calls you," Donohue said.

George Chenier admitted he fell for a hospital scam, saying he knew he should've hung up when the crooks identified themselves as "Harrington Memorial Hospital" rather than UMass-Harrington. A woman said she's concerned that Harrington (and other places) have gone paperless, wanting payments on credit cards or by phone. She said she won't pay that way "and had to fight to get a paper bill."

Regarding that point, one man noted, "I thought cash was legal tender for all debts, public or private." (He's right; our currency states that in print. In Massachusetts, a Constitutional amendment from the late 1970s specifically says all retailers must accept cash.)

Sometimes, the victims are those who believe themselves immune to scamming – even to the point of recognizing it's probably crooked, but ignoring their own alarm bells as Chenier did. They're far from alone. The Federal Trade Commission logs about 2.6 million fraud reports every year, and "whatever the number is, it's under-reported," Donohue said. Often, the victims are embarrassed and want to hide it, but he strongly urged them to speak up, tell friends and their community this happened. Invariably, they'll find others who have been scammed, too.

Their tactics are various. Some will pretend to be the police saying they can void an arrest warrant for a payment. Others claim your account has been hacked, sometimes with a "spoofed" phone number from a legitimate bank, and offer a chance to protect your money by transferring it to another account (often Bitcoin) they control, and then steal.

Occasionally, the scam call or letter is real. But Donohue advised everyone to assume its fake and never give personal information to someone who calls you. Instead, look up the company's real number and call them to check. (Don't call the caller ID number or the one on the letter.)

When he started with the DA's office, scams were mostly by phone, but they're mostly online now, particularly using links in email ("phishing") and text ("smishing") that go to sites that upload malware to your computer or phone. Such malware often aims to collect anything on the computer and send it to the criminals, hoping to collect passwords and account information.

When it comes to user names and passwords, Donohue warns, "Don't autosave them on your computer." (Many websites offer that as an option for "convenience," but that's vulnerable. One way to keep them safe is to write them down; online crooks can't hack paper. It's also generally recommended not to use the same password for multiple places and to change them periodically.)

Donohue discussed several other scam types. Those include the EZ Pass Scam, where people get a text claiming they have "overdue toll charges" (The state won't text you for that.) Another type is the "brushing scam," where people receive unsolicited packages that have no sender or return information, but a QR code with a note "scan this to see who sent it." That will load malware on your phone. Under state law, people can keep unsolicited packages, although they're usually not very valuable. Scam QR codes also appear in all kinds of public places – he cited parking meters as an example – and scammers can easily alter a legit one or print a scam one to stick over it.

"If the QR code is anywhere other than behind their desk, it's not safe," Donohue said. "As new tech comes out, scammers use it."

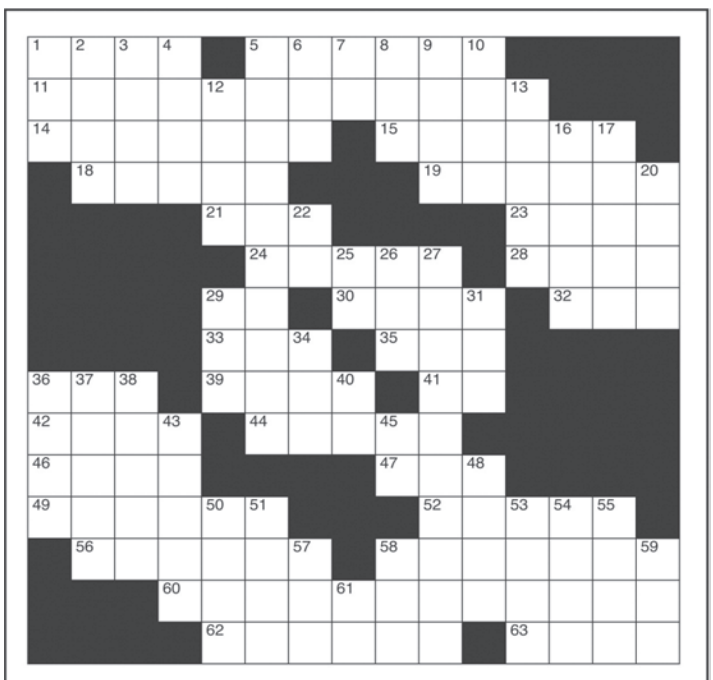
Even Alexa has become a scam avenue. Donohue said a few years ago, there were reports of a scammer hacking Alexa and convincing children he was Santa.

Technology has led to a split in scam success. While younger people fall victim to more of them (usually online), seniors get taken for larger sums of money, simply because they've saved and invested it for years.

"Anyone can fall for a scam," Donohue said. "If you do, don't keep it locked inside. Share it. … When you do, it's potentially helping others to block them from coming through."

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

Capstone
Planning Group
Wealthcare | Retirement | Income
www.thecapstone.group
Located at Cornerstone Bank
200 Charlton Road (Suite B), Sturbridge, MA
Visit our website to schedule your courtesy retirement checkup today!



CLUES ACROSS

1. Garden tool
5. A way to preserve
11. Gratitude
14. Domestic sheep
15. Simpler
18. Cavities containing liquid
19. Large fish-eating bird
21. Ocular protection index
23. Phil __, former CIA
24. Icelandic poems
28. Pop
29. Device
30. Actor Rudd
32. A pituitary hormone
33. Focus on an object
35. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
36. Young women's association
39. Not shallow
41. Doctor
42. Furniture
44. Hindu male religious teacher
46. Highly spiced stew
47. A way to communicate
49. Almost last
52. Astronomer Carl
56. Small horses
58. A slender tower with balconies
60. A disrespectful quality
62. Fully shaded inner regions
63. Short convulsive intake of breath

CLUES DOWN

1. Popular Sunday dinner option
2. Oil cartel
3. Agile
4. Greek goddess of discord
5. Genetically distinct variety
6. Indicates badly
7. Popular Mr. T character
8. Consumed
9. Chinese dynasty
10. NFL great Randy
12. Within
13. Palm trees
16. Fungal disease
17. Tall, slender-leaved plants
20. Affirmative! (slang)
22. A passport is one
25. Two outs in baseball (abbr.)
26. Swiss river
27. Deferential
29. Where a bachelor lives
31. Portable computer screen material
34. A crying noise of a bird
36. Sticky, amorphous substance
37. Starchy dish of dried tubers
38. Type of acid
40. Partner to "Ma"
43. 16 ounces
45. The Bay State
48. A well-defined track or path
50. Substitution
51. Defined period
53. Group of toughs
54. Region
55. Famed Scottish Loch
57. Blood relation
58. Not around
59. Recipe measurement
61. Father to Junior

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Wings of Song prepares for upcoming concerts

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — Capping a three-year exploration of the theme "Home," local community chorus Wings of Song is preparing for a pair of concerts next month.

The programs are set for Saturday and Sunday, May 17-18.

"Home, for many of us, is our only real sanctuary, our safe harbor, the place where we can be most fully ourselves, the place where all our beloved stuff is, the place where we're with the ones we love," read a statement promoting the event.

Last year, the chorus sang "Rough Seas, Safe Harbor," exploring what it means to be far from home for one or two years at a time, then to return home.

Now, in 2025, it's time for "Here Is My Home," a deep dive into what home has meant to Americans and to people around the world over the years.

In "Here Is My Home," Wings of Song will sing about yearning for home, waiting to finally go home, savoring the comforts and consolations of home, and being welcomed home.

Additional themes will include the call of home, cherishing our planetary home and environment, home as a community, home as a particular beloved geographical region, and home as a reunion with loved ones.

"The program won't touch on all the meanings of home, but it'll make a good start," the promotional statement read. "As always, there will be audience singalongs, including the concert's theme song, 'Here Is My Home,' and also 'Home, Sweet Home.' Expect tremendous variety, including some fine instrumental accompaniment."

On Saturday, May 17, at 7:30 p.m., the chorus will perform at St. Joachim Chapel (part of St. Anne – St. Patrick Parish at 16 Church St. in Fiskdale).

The next day, on May 18, a concert will take place at 3 p.m. at Elm Street Congregational Church (61 Elm St. in Southbridge).

Admission to both concerts is free, with a freewill offering collected during intermission.

Free refreshments will be served after each concert.

Both concert venues are fully accessible. Please arrive early to be sure of a seat.

TAX PREPARATION
Michael Jarominski
Certified Public Accountant
(508)864-3542
jarominskicpa@spectrum.net

www.StonebridgePress.com

ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

DUDLEY

Dudley Town Hall (508) 949-8000
Monday: 8:00 AM-6:30 PM (second floor offices), Tuesday-Thursday: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Friday: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM.
Dudley Police Department (943-4411)
Staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week
Dudley Fire Department (949-8040)
Monday-Sunday ..... 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OXFORD

Oxford Town Hall (508) 987-6027
Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours{

Monday, Tues., Thurs..... 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday ..... 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday ..... 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Oxford Police Department (987-0156)
For emergencies, call 911
Oxford Fire Department (987-6012)
Monday-Friday ..... 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WEBSTER

Webster Town Hall (508) 949-3850
Office Hours:
Monday ..... 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday ..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday ..... 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Webster Police Department (943-1212)
For emergencies, call 911
Webster Fire Department (949-3875)
Monday-Friday ..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday ..... 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

TO PLACE AN AD:
Mikaela Victor
(774) 200-7308
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news
LEGAL NOTICES:
(508) 909-4127
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES:
Kerri Peterson
(508) 909-4103
kerri@stonebridgepress.news
TO PRINT AN OBITUARY:
E-MAIL
obits@stonebridgepress.news
CALL: 508-909-4149
OR send to Webster Times
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550
TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:
E-MAIL: news@stonebridgepress.news
OR send to Webster Times
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550



PUBLISHED BY STONEBRIDGE PRESS

President and Publisher
Frank G. Chilinski
860-928-1818 ext. 103
frank@salmonpress.news

Business Manager
Ryan Corneau
860-928-1818 ext. 102
ryan@salmonpress.news

Operations Director
Jim DiNicola
508-764-6102
jim@stonebridgepress.news

Editor
Brendan Berube
508-909-4106
news@stonebridgepress.news

Production Manager
Julie Clarke
860-928-1818, ext. 305
julie@villagernewspapers.com

The Webster Times (USPS#024-928) (ISSN 1945-6611) is published weekly by Stonebridge Press, Inc., 25 Elm St., Southbridge, MA 01550. Periodical postage paid at Southbridge, MA and additional mailing office(s).. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Webster Times, P.O. B ox 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

School District showcases Curriculum Review Plan

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee hosted a presentation examining the future of curriculum at the end of March as the schools enter a new five-year plan.

Assistant Superintendent Kelly True revealed the district's new Curriculum Review Plan for 2025 through 2030 during a meeting of the school committee on March 26 which was broken into four phases: planning, articulating and developing, implementing and monitoring, and evaluation. The process will help determine enhancements to materials and teaching approaches that True said should help close deficits in different grade levels.

True described the five-year plan as a long-term investment in enhancing learning at all of Dudley and Charlton's schools.

"Once you have a new curriculum it takes about five years before you start looking at if there are tweaks that need to be made, if there's something new that needs to come out. The curriculum frameworks are updated every five years so it kind of goes along a similar rotation," True told the School Committee.

The plan presents the curriculum changes in a phased approached with no two course curriculums being changed at the same time within each individual level of education. For example, the elementary school plan proposes the implementation of new curriculum for pre-school in the 2025-2026, mathematics in 2027-2028, science in 2028-2029, and English/language arts in 2029-2030. Each school level has its own focus for each individual year with no two courses expected to be in the same stage of development at the same time. True explained that there are different priorities at different grade levels and that the plan is subject to change and evolve over time.

"It's not etched in stone. Things definitely can be moved around in it. This is what makes the most sense for right now with where we are and as things develop and we see, we might not be ready for new curriculum at a time where it says that we're going into the phases of looking at a curriculum, it might just be that we need some supplements or need some tweaks and don't need a whole new curriculum. That would be amazing. It's hard to say what will happen for each of these as they go along, but at least there's a plan for how we're going to look at it," said True.

Superintendent Steven Lamarche added that the plan is a tool to help the district progress towards its future. As the plan takes full shape that will include input from both the school committee and the public at large.

"We're trying to develop these long-range plans that can be incorporated. We are working on a draft district improvement plan that we want to bring the school committee and then after the school committee gives feedback on that we want to send it out to the masses and get more feedback on it, but these things have to be incorporated in that so we're really trying to get organized," said Lamarche.

Among other goals expressed during the presentation were intentions to bring fifth grade curriculum in line with the rest of the middle school. True is also working with Director of Pupil Personnel Services Heather Harriman on enhancements to the preschool curriculum and incorporating that process into professional development sessions and workshops. A copy of the current proposed Curriculum Review Plan is available as part of the packet for the March 26 School Committee meeting.

Schools brace for loss of federal funds

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — State officials announced last week that schools across the Commonwealth will be impacted by the Trump Administration's decision to terminate education grant funding.

Gov. Maura Healey joined officials statewide in condemning the Trump Administration's decision to terminate $106 million in grant funding meant to support K-12 education in Massachusetts.

"At a time when students are still struggling to recover from the pandemic, we need to be doing everything we can to address learning loss and the youth mental health crisis. Instead, President Trump suddenly ripped away more than $100 million in funding that is supposed to go right to Massachusetts students and schools," Healey said. "This action is jeopardizing mental health care and math tutoring for our students, as well as projects that are already underway to enhance school security and ensure that the air in our school buildings is clean."

In the years since pandemic shutdowns and hybrid learning severely disrupted education systems from 2020-'21, school officials nationwide have seen a rise in behavioral and mental health struggles for students at all levels.

Looking ahead, state officials warn that the loss of federal funding could have lasting negative effects on students.

"Massachusetts has been making important progress helping students recover from the pandemic, but President Trump is trying to take us backwards," Healey said.

Although the state is scrambling to find stopgaps, officials said the loss of federal funds will prevent students from accessing several planned programs and mental health supports.

"The federal government and states should be working together to invest in capital projects that improve the learning environments for our students and support their education and well-being," said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll. "Massachusetts does not have the resources to replace all of the funding that President Trump is terminating. These are more devastating terminations that impact our students and schools today and well into the future."

Federal funding was intended to support a host of statewide efforts to address the impacts of the pandemic on learning, with a focus on literacy, math, and science.

"We are not back yet from the pandemic. We know that many students in Massachusetts and across the country are still experiencing pandemic-related learning loss and mental health challenges," said Secretary of Education Dr. Patrick Tutwiler, who visited several local schools this past fall, including East Brookfield Elementary School. "The federal government had repeatedly reaffirmed these extensions in acknowledgement of continued supply chain issues, labor shortages, and to ensure continuity in learning acceleration efforts. Projects funded by these grants are underway. The Trump Administration's outrageous and cruel decision, in which we received notice of a new arbitrary deadline, will have real harm to our students and their learning and wellbeing."

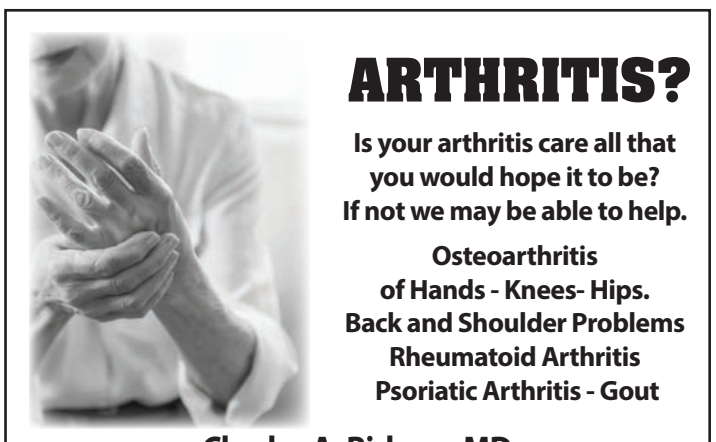
Officials said the funding was slated to address critical gaps by supporting mental health services; math tutoring; and the purchases of instructional materials with a focus on science.

Additionally, funds would have supported building upgrades across 20 school districts to improve air quality through HVAC installations. Moreover, some projects were planned to enhance security in schools, including the purchasing of cameras, door alarms, and emergency response technologies.

Further funds were committed to supporting professional development programs for educators. These include the state's Learning Acceleration Network, as well as five regional licensure centers that help emergency teacher license holders obtain provisional or initial licensure to stay employed in Massachusetts public schools.

"Trump's decision to cut off money already promised to school districts will have drastic negative effects on Massachusetts communities," said Senate President Karen Spilka. "This administration clearly does not care about damaging our education system or hurting our children, leaving local officials scrambling to pick up the pieces when they should be fully focused on supporting our schools. It's all part of the federal administration's unconscionable hacksaw approach to governing."











Gladys E. Kelly Public Library

2 Lake St., Webster
508-949-3880
Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
The Library will be closed on Friday, April 18 and Monday, April 21.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!
Want to receive updates about our upcoming events? Sign up for email alerts by visiting our website or contacting our Adult Services Librarian Jessica Fontaine at jfontaine@cwmars.org

Adult Programming
YOGA – Saturdays 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.

REC FARMERS MARKET – Tuesdays 4:00-5:30PM
Pop-up Farmers Market located in our Community Room. The REC is running the market and the accept SNAP, cash, and credit.

FRIENDS' CONCERT SERIES: Petty – Celebrating the Music of Tom Petty – Thursday, April 10th at 6:30PM
This high energy set will showcase music from Petty's solo albums and many more hits from the band's career. Our group features Douglas High School assistant music director Sam Masoud on keyboard/harmonica/vocals, BVT senior Jaden Roddick on bass, BVM executive director Mark Mandeville on rhythm guitar/vocals, Sutton High School junior Charlie Randell on drums, and Grafton Middle School music director James Briand on lead guitar/vocals.

LIBRARY FOR ALL: Chair Yoga – Monday, April 14th 10:00-11:00AM
Join Jess for a one hour Chair Yoga class as part of our Library for All Program. Leave class feeling refreshed and calm. No experience necessary. This class is for teens and adults of all abilities and their caregivers. Please call ahead if special accommodations or requirements are needed.

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS: ESL Classes – Monday, April 14th at 6:00PM
The Literacy Cafe is a free weekly English conversation class offered by Literacy Volunteers of South Central Massachusetts (LVSCM). This class is free to attend and is open to all adults. No pre-registration is required.

THE NEST: Local Business Success Stories – Rose Room Café – Monday, April 14th at 6:00PM
Starting Small, Dreaming Big: Jess Sabine from The Rose Room discusses how the chain reaction of connecting with people and building community created forward momentum in her business. Topics include: the difference between hospitality and service, finding the right team members to help on your journey, alignment with your goals, feeling the fear and doing it anyway. This is the story of gaining experiences, starting before you're ready, and striving to be 1% better every day.

ARTIST'S RECEPTION: Steve Gerling – Tuesday, April 15th at 6:00PM
Join us in celebrating Steve Gerling's art display. It will be on display from April 1st-May 15th.

Programming for All Ages
Puzz Fest – Thursday, April 17th 5:00-7:00PM
Assemble your team (up to 5 people!) and join us in the Community Room to see which team can complete their puzzle first. We'll have popcorn to keep you fueled as you tackle your 500 piece jigsaw. All teams will get to keep their puzzle. Registration is required.

Children's and Young Adult Programming
Scavenger Hunt---- All Month Long
What's more exciting than a scavenger hunt? Come upstairs to the Children's room to pick up a list of things to find all around the library. Once you've completed the scavenger hunt, check in with the Children's Librarian to redeem a prize.

TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT--- All month long
Take and Make craft kids are 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.

PLAY-DOH PLAYTIME – Mondays at 10:00AM
Drop-in to our Children's Program Room every Monday morning to play, make, and build with our collection of colorful Play-Doh, sculpting tows, and various sets. This is a fun, sensory playtime to foster creativity and exploration. Perfect for ages 2-6. Siblings are welcome.

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!

TODDLER PLAYTIME--- Tuesdays at 10:00 AM
Kids 0 to 6 are invited to get their wiggles out with weekly obstacle course and fun.

STEM BEGINNINGS: Young Scientists – Wednesdays at 10AM
Children, ages 3-6, with a parent/caregiver will learn STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) concepts through hands-on activities, story time, challenges and simple experiments in this weekly STEM series. Registration required through the YFCP website.

ME AND MY MINI – Thursdays at 10:00AM
A creative movement group for ages 0 through 2.5. Get groovy to upbeat music with fun props and a story.

TEEN AND TWEEN VIDEO GAME TIME – Thursdays 3:00-4:30PM
Kids and teens are invited to play games on our Nintendo Switch.

MESSY ART STORYTIME– Fridays at 10:00AM
Come explore different art mediums through stories and fun creations! This program is perfect for ages 2-5 and will have your little one creating messy art weekly. Please wear art-appropriate clothing.

BEGINNER ORIGAMI- Fridays at 3:45PM
Are you interested in making origami, but you don't know where to start? You can start here. And if you do know how to make some origami, feel free to come make some as well. For kids of all ages.

SQUEEGEE ART – Thursday, April 10th at 5:00PM
You are invited to make cool abstract art using a squeegee! This program offers children ages 8-14 the opportunity to let their imagination fly and create their own masterpiece to be put on display. Please wear art-appropriate clothing.

KIM THE LEGO LADY – Tuesday, April 15th 4:00-5:00PM
Do you love building, creating, and having fun with LEGO? Look no further! Kim the Lego Lady is here and we want YOU to be part of our LEGO CLUB adventure. Join us for interactive building challenges, new skills, and create fabulous imaginative builds. For ages 5-11. Registration is required

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.
THE SENIOR CENTER WILL BE CLOSED ON APRIL 18 AND 21 FOR GOOD FRIDAY AND PATRIOT'S DAY RESPECTIVELY.
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 two business days in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A $3.00 donation for 65 and up, and $5 for 55- 64 is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 4/15, Salisbury steak, garlic mashed potatoes, Tuscany vegetables, fresh fruit. Wednesday, 4/16, American chop suey, roasted California veggies, baked apples, Lorna Doone cookies. Thursday, 4/17, Maple glazed ham, sour cream and chive mashed potatoes, carrots, chocolate cake. Friday, 4/18 CLOSED FOR GOOD FRIDAY
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.
Come on down to the Bomba Beauty Salon at the Webster Senior Center! Call 508-341-8724 for an appointment. Bomba Beauty Salon is open for walk in appointments on Wednesdays from 10:00 am- 1:00 pm, and Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays by appointment only from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm. Please call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.
We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided. No registration needed. The movie for April 16th is The Lost Girls, April 23rd is Annie, and April 30th is 6 Underground.
One Thursday of every month we will be open until 7:00pm for a night of entertainment. On May 8th, step back in time and groove to the classics with Dan Kirouac! Get ready to dance the night away with unforgettable beats of the 60's and 70's.
COA Meetings are the first Monday of the month, and are open to the public. The next meeting will be Monday, May 5th.
Friend's Meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 7th.
Join us for a Spring Fling Party hosted by the Friends of the Webster Senior Center on Monday, April 14th! Steve Lyon will be performing live music for all to enjoy. Party is from 1 PM to 2:30 PM
Forget Me Not Café- On April 25th, the Friends of the Webster Senior Center will be hosting their Forget Me Not memory café! Join us for live music by Now and Then, from 1 PM to 2:30 PM
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.
Knitting/Crochet group meets on Mondays from 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.
We are partnering up with the Charlton and Southbridge Senior Centers and the Overlook to offer a Day in Maine with a Clambake on Sunday, July 20, 2025. This trip includes a stop for freshly baked breads at When Pigs Fly, and a visit to Nubble Lighthouse. Your bake includes New England clam chowder, freshly dug Maine clams, mussels, Maine lobster, corn on the cob, red bliss potatoes, and blueberry crumb cake with your choice of coffee, iced tea, or lemonade. In place of lobster, there is BBQ chicken, or a vegetarian option. After your clambake, if time allows, you will stop at Stonewall Kitchen for jams and jellies, and Yummie's candy store. The price for this trip is $109.00 per person and includes transportation, clambake, driver, and escort gratuities. There is a $25 registration fee, and the last day to sign up is June 20, 2025. If you have questions please contact Webster Senior Center 508-949-3845.

Save the date for Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Library Book Sale

WEBSTER — The Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly 2025 Annual Book Sale will be held Thursday, May 15 from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m.; Friday, May 16 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.; and Saturday, May 17 from 9 until 11 a.m.
You will find a wonderful selection of adult and children's books. Paperbacks are 50 cents, hard copy $1, and large coffee table books $3.
Clearance Sale on Saturday, MAY 17 only — a bag of books for $5!
Also for sale: games, jigsaw puzzles, CDs and DVDs.
Come to the Gladys E. Kelly Library Annual Book Sale and pick up book bargains for your summer reading!



Community Connection

Morin JEWELERS
Fine Jewelry & Gifts
The Jewelry store where you buy with confidence
WE BUY GOLD
Specializing in Custom Designs
All types of Jewelry Repairs
MASTER IJO JEWELERS™
BRILLIANCE YOU DESERVE®
409 Main St. Southbridge, MA
morinjewelers.com • 508-764-7250
Located at CVS Plaza

Charlton Oil Company Propane
508-248-9797
Don't Pay Too Much for Propane
PROPANE PRICE PER GAL
0-50 ..... $5.70
50-75 ..... $3.40
75-150 ..... $3.05
150-300 ..... $2.75
PROPANE PRICE PER GAL
300-500 ..... $2.55
500 PLUS $2.40
Duel Fuel $3.75
Drop off Tanks $3.00
Tanks Filled to 80%
Driver Discretion
DON'T PAY TOO MUCH FOR OIL!
•Monday price 4/7/25 was $3.15 per gallon*
100 gallon minimum
ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE AT www.charltonoil.com
"Call Us First!"
*prices subject to change

Crooked Creek Farm
East Brookfield, Massachusetts
Stock up now!
Retail Cuts, Quarter, & Half sides of Beef Available!
To purchase your meat packages
CALL/TEXT: (774) 200-7308
www.CrookedCreekFarmMA.com
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY!
Find Us on Social Media

Webster police log

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests from March 16-29.

Kenneth Santo Delvalie, age 35, of New London, Conn. was arrested on March 16 in connection with multiple warrants.

Jacob Andrew Swiatlowski, age 37, of Webster was arrested on March 17 in connection with a warrant.

Daniel Joseph Burke, age 57, of Bridgeport, Conn. was arrested on March 17 in connection with a warrant. Kauleen M. Bardier, age 46, of Millbury was arrested during the same incident for Shoplifting By Concealing Merchandise, Shoplifting by Asportation, and in connection with a warrant.

Reldy Colon Rodriguez, age 24, of Webster was arrested on March 17 in connection with a warrant.

Aliyah Estevez, age 21, of Webster was arrested on March 19 in connection with a warrant.

Ralph Perry Turner, age 65, of Dudley was arrested on March 20 in connection with a warrant.

Alisha D. Watson, age 33, of Webster was arrested on March 20 in connection with multiple warrants.

A 36-year-old male from Webster received a summons in lieu of arrest on March 20 for Assault & Battery on a person over the age of 60 and/or disabled.

Freddy A. Suero, age 38, of Webster was arrested on March 21 for Operating Under the Influence (liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

Johnny Feliciano Rivera, age 56, of Webster was arrested on March 22 for Failure to Register as a Level 2 or 3 Sex Offender.

Christopher Michael Cedrone, age 49, of Webster was arrested on March 22 on Probable Cause From Another Agency.

Paul Robert Summa, age 39, of Webster was arrested on March 23 for Trespassing.

Jurnee Maylee Bonnick, age 22, of Carteret, N.J. was arrested on March 23 in connection with a warrant.

Abdel Cheikh, age 24, of Shrewsbury was arrested on March 24 in connection with a warrant.

Lloyd Price, age 58, of Webster was arrested on March 24 for leaving a Firearm Unattended, Possession of Ammunition Without FID Card, leaving Ammunition Unattended, Possession of a Class B Drug (subsequent offense), and Possession of a Firearm Without FID Card.

Asa W. Hunter, age 44, and Timothy S. McCarthy, age 59, of Webster were arrested on March 24 in connection with warrants.

Carlos Gonzalez, age 46, of Webster was arrested on March 24 for Violation of a Harassment Prevention Order.

Jessica Christian Kenyon, age 44, of Dudley was arrested on March 25 for Operating Under the Influence (liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

A male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 26 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Jason P. Lincoln, age 34, of Ashland was arrested on March 26 in connection with multiple warrants.

Troy Daluke Morvan, age 29, of Worcester was arrested on March 26 in connection with a warrant.

Lloyd Price, age 58, of Webster was arrested on March 29 in connection with a warrant.

Alabama woman arrested for driving erratically

DUDLEY — On Friday, April 4 at approximately 6:46 a.m., detail officers were reporting for duty at the Dudley Police station when they observed a Ford Mustang operating recklessly in the parking lot. It appeared that the Mustang would accelerate and drive towards unoccupied police cruisers and then come to an abrupt stop. The operator of the Mustang continued to do this multiple times.

Officer Dylan Reney attempted to contact the operator, but as he pulled up, the operator began to accelerate away from him. Reney activated his cruiser blue lights to conduct a stop. The operator drove in circles around the parking lot, while Reney was behind it. Sgt. Chandler Boyd attempted to stop the operator, but at this point, the operator sped towards the one-way entrance of the parking lot.

Officers pursued the operator into the Town of Webster. The operator avoided the first stop sticks in Webster. Webster police were able to deploy a second set of stop sticks, but the vehicle continued into the town of Douglas. Douglas police set up another set of stop sticks on Route 16 and the vehicle eventually pulled into a parking lot. The operator, 65-year-old Rebecca Roden of Hancebille, Ala., was taken into custody without incident. She was brought back to the Dudley Police Headquarters where she was booked for Failure to Stop for Police, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, Operating Under the Influence (drugs), a Marked Lanes Violation, and driving at a rate of speed greater than was reasonable and proper.

Roden was transported to Dudley District Court for arraignment.

Dudley police log

DUDLEY — The Dudley Police Department reported the following arrests during the month of March.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 4 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was taken into protective custody on March 6 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Resisting Arrest.

Quinn Scott Cashman, age 21, of Dudley was arrested on March 7 for Operating Under the Influence (liquor), Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and operating a motor vehicle with No Inspection Sticker.

Denise Marie Ellis, age 66, of Dudley was arrested on March 9 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 12 for Violation of a Harassment Prevention Order.

Luis Alberto Navarro, age 32, of Southbridge was arrested on March 12 in connection with an out of agency warrant.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 15 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Kristopher Eric Couture, age 26, of Webster was arrested on March 22 for operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Operating Under the Influence (liquor), and Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

Kibibi A. Simpson, age 45, of Dudley was arrested on March 27 in connection with a warrant.

An individual whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on March 28 for Assault & Battery on a Pregnant Victim, Assault & Battery on a Child with Injury, Strangulation or Suffocation, and Strangulation or Suffocation of a Pregnant Victim.

Auburn Historical Society examines building of the Wachusett Reservoir and Routes 70, 110, 140

AUBURN — On April 17, the Auburn Historical Society & Museum will host Paul Morone as he continues to tell the story of Wachusett Reservoir. It will be held at the Auburn Sportsman's Club at 50 Elm St. at 6:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

There were State highways, county roads, town roads, private roads… all the way down to cow paths. It all depended on who paid to build and maintain them, an important distinction. Local roads were usually contained within a given town whereas the county roads connected adjacent town centers and the (numbered) state highways ran for miles through whole counties connecting large population centers. The Wachusett Reservoir would submerge about 17 miles of local roads and disrupt traffic and commerce. Provisions had to be made to keep the towns connected, without interruption, and the cost of replacing the roads had to be included within the project.

This gigantic puzzle was unraveled and the highways we know today, Routes 70, 110 and 140 north and south, came into being. Locals might scratch their heads over how to get around without them.

This program is made possible by the Auburn Historical Society & Museum, 41 South St. The museum is open Tuesday and Saturday mornings 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and may be reached at auburnmuseum@verizon.net or 508-832-6856, www.auburnhistoricalmuseum.org or follow us on Facebook at Auburn Historical.

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

Real Estate

AUBURN

$677,500, 888 Southbridge St, Pallotta Ft, and Pallotta, Christopher D, to 888 Southbridge St LLC.

$600,000, 10 Deerfield Cir, Mcgovern, Jane I, to Schwartz, Eric D, and Franko, Laura C.

$482,500, 116 Boyce St, Levesque, Jeanette M, to Hobbs, Jayson S, and Luhmann, Denise M.

$375,000, 8 Manor Rd, Lynn J Mcconville Irt, and Mcconville, Mark J, to Vu, Nhat T.

$303,000, 650 Oxford St S, Grici, Bruce J, and Nationstar Mortgage LLC, to Patel, Apurvakumar.

DUDLEY

None

OXFORD

$440,000, 118 Main St, Nala Rt, and Davis, Edward C, to Goulette, Dominic A, and Goulette, Arnaud T.

$330,000, 41 Pine Ridge Dr, Cooper Robert M Est, and Ruth, Danielle M, to D& e Investments LLC.

$309,042, Fort Hill Rd #1, Wright, Norma J, to Bueno, Charles, and Bueno, Sthefany.

$309,042, Rhonda Rheault Dr #17R, Wright, Norma J, to Bueno, Charles, and Bueno, Sthefany.

$309,042, Rhonda Rheault Dr #18R, Wright, Norma J, to Bueno, Charles, and Bueno, Sthefany.

$309,042, Rhonda Rheault Dr #19R, Wright, Norma J, to Bueno, Charles, and Bueno, Sthefany.

$309,042, Rhonda Rheault Dr #20R, Wright, Norma J, to Bueno, Charles, and Bueno, Sthefany.

$309,042, Rhonda Rheault Dr #21R, Wright, Norma J, to Bueno, Charles, and Bueno, Sthefany.

WEBSTER

$525,000, 18 Whitcomb St, Wta Properties LLC, to Haddad, Joseph G.

$488,000, 2 Dominique Dr, Carrier, Sylwia, and Ricard, Kenneth A, to Legasey, Tracy, and Johnson, Stephen.

$435,000, 13 Nelson St, Rob Judson Contracting In, to Rurengo, Isaac, and Kihara, Damaris.

$415,000, 350 Thompson Rd, Gerard J & J Bernier Irt, and Bernier, John G, to Glynn, Liam, and Fresh, Emily.

$311,000, 38 Harris St, Wasielewski Leonard R Est, and Wasielewski, Karen, to Unic Holdings LLC.

$280,000, 22 Morris St, Adams Sr John J Est, and Adams, Shannon L, to Slaght Homes LLC.

WE DON'T JUST WORK IN YOUR COMMUNITY
WE ARE YOUR COMMUNITY

At Day Kimball Health, our mission is meeting the health needs of our community. And with the hospital, four healthcare centers and medical group offices conveniently located in Danielson, Dayville, Plainfield, and Putnam, we pride ourselves on achieving the highest national standards. That's Day Kimball Health.

Healthcare in motion.

DKH DAY KIMBALL HEALTH

daykimball.org



Stonebridge Press

A Stonebridge Press Weekly Newspaper
25 Elm Street, Southbridge MA 01550
Tel. (508) 764-4325• Fax (508) 764-8015
www.StonebridgePress.com

Frank G. Chilinski
Stonebridge Press President and Publisher

Brendan Berube
Editor

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*

Editorial

Identity politics is exhausting, and misses the point

Somewhere along the way, we were convinced that being politically aware means picking a side and sticking to it no matter what. Red team, blue team. Us vs. them. You're either all in or you're out. Here's the thing no one wants to admit unless you're an elected official, no one actually cares what "side" you're on.

Your neighbor doesn't care if you vote left or right — they care if you help them dig out after a snowstorm. Your community doesn't benefit from your party loyalty, it benefits when you show up, vote on the issues that matter, and take action that improves real lives.

This performative, party-first mindset we've fallen into is exhausting. Frankly, it's childish. Political parties were never supposed to be tribal identities, they were supposed to be tools. Temporary alliances to move policies forward. Instead, we've turned them into something resembling sports teams, where people root for their side no matter how bad the playbook gets.

What if we stripped away the party labels altogether? What if we voted on the issues themselves instead of accepting whatever bundle of policies a party wraps in its packaging? Most people don't fit neatly into one ideological box and pretending we do has only divided us more.

We should be holding elected officials accountable, not treating them like mascots. We should be debating ideas, not defending party lines like we're in some playground argument. And we should stop letting political branding override personal thinking.

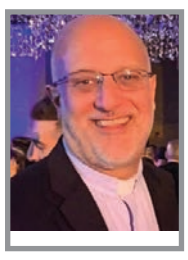
Want to be a true patriot? Read up, show up and stop picking sides as though we're all choosing a dodgeball team. Vote like it's about the issues. Because it is. And like your own future, and that of the generations that will follow you, depends on it. Because it does.

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.

Lasting Divine joy



Beyond the Pews

By Fr. Luke A. Veronis
Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Webster

"The joy of the Lord is my strength" (Nehemiah 8:10)

What is this "joy of the Lord" and how can we carry such joy throughout our lives? Joy is not simply a feeling of happiness and pleasure that we discover on our own, but it is a sacred gift we receive from living a healthy relationship with the Source of all Joy, Jesus Christ Himself. Divine Joy is not simply a fleeting sentimental feeling that comes and goes depending on our exterior circumstances but it is a deep inner security in God – knowing that He is always with us and we are never alone even in the midst of whatever darkness the world may bring.

Joy is knowing that God is ultimately in control even when life seems like such a mystery and things happen around us we don't understand. It is knowing that God is victorious despite any suffering we may face. As we say in a Sunday morning prayer, "Through the cross joy has come into the world."

Divine Joy is the assurance we have realizing that God is with us and if we stay with Him regardless circumstances that surround us, that inner joy of happiness in our soul and delight in our heart will never go away.

On this upcoming Palm Sunday, we relive Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and sense the joy that the crowds express. "Hosanna to God in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." Hosanna is an expression of praise, adoration and joy that the crowds consciously use to welcome Jesus into the holy city.

The crowds heard about this Prophet Jesus from Nazareth who was a miracle-worker, and his most recent unbelievable miracle was raising a man back to life who had been dead in a tomb for four days.

Some of the crowd surely heard his teachings and realized this was a man who preached with divine authority in a way quite different from all other religious leaders of his day. The crowds dreamed about a Messiah, an anointed leader who would guide Israel back to freedom and political greatness, ushering in an era of peace, justice, prosperity and goodness. The religious leaders of the day were scandalized by such talk and demanded that Jesus silence his followers from using such dangerous, politically-charged phrases. Yet, Christ simply responded, "Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babes comes perfect praise… I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones themselves would immediately cry out."

The crowds not only expressed, but deeply felt, a sense of joy at the coming of Christ. They believed He would change their reality and fill them with eternal happiness.

Yet, what happened? How did the joy and hope of Palm Sunday quickly turn into the darkness and confusion of the Passion of Christ which we remember on Holy Thursday and Good Friday. The crowd's euphoria quickly turned to anger. Did the joy and hope of the crowds dissipate so quickly because their joy was superficial or maybe because they didn't understand what true divine joy is?

In the Orthodox Church on Palm Sunday, we read Saint Paul's letter to the Philippians in conjunction with the Gospel story about Palm Sunday. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice," the Apostle Paul advises the Christians in Philippi. This small letter in the New Testament is often called Paul's Letter of Joy because he uses the term joy or rejoice 18 times in four chapters! What makes this letter all the more shocking, though, is that the Apostle wrote this letter when he himself languished in prison, uncertain about his future. And he was writing to Christians who faced dangerous persecution in the first century. Despite these uncertain realities, however, Saint Paul expresses deep rooted joy in God and reveals how he found peaceful contentment despite whatever difficulties he faced in life. The divine joy he discovered was not a fleeting feeling depending on outer circumstances but a foundational gift of God directing his entire life.

How did Paul feel the joy of the Lord even though his future was uncertain and he faced possible martyrdom? How could he encourage the Christians in Philippi to "rejoice in the Lord" even though they faced persecution? Well, he discovered that the secret of a life in Christ means we remember that "the Lord is near. Do not worry about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" Gratitude and prayer, together with an assurance that God is near replaces all anxiety and worry regardless of whatever circumstances we face.

He goes on to confess, "I have learned in whatever state I am to be content. I know what it is to have little and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content. For I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Possessing divine joy does not mean our joy will not be tested. The inner joy that comes with the knowledge and experience of God surely does not mean that we will not face challenges and difficulties, dark and confusing days ahead where we may not feel the presence of God.. The crowds express thrilling joy and hope on Palm Sunday, yet this joy will be tested in the following days when we enter into the passion of our Lord. For too many people, they get lost in the darkness of betrayal, rejection, denial, abandonment and what appears to be the victory of darkness and evil. We even hear Jesus cry out, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" as an anguished prayer. Yet in the mist of such utter darkness and the mystery of suffering and death itself, joy prevails. "Through the Cross, joy comes into the world."

For those who faithfully stay with the Lord, divine joy can never be extinguished by any darkness. It is always brilliantly preserved. The Risen Christ Jesus affirms that nothing can ever take away the Joy of the Lord that is within us; this joy will always prevail over whatever darkness we face in the world precisely because He promises that "I will be with you always, even to the end of the age."

One of the greatest accusations against Christians was made by the French philosopher and atheist Friedrich Nietzsche, when he stated that Christians had no joy; that Christianity is a joyless religion. He seemed to accuse Christians of believing in God but not enjoying life. The theologian, Alexander Schmemann, responded "Christianity without Joy is incomprehensible… It is only as joy that the Church was victorious in the world."

Thus, as we celebrate Palm Sunday and Christ's triumphant entry of joy into Jerusalem, and as we prepare to journey in Holy Week through the darkness and evil of the Passion of Christ, let us learn an important lesson for life. Divine joy will never depend on whatever circumstances we face in life. Divine joy is something we carry deep within, that no exterior trial can ever eliminate. Divine joy comes from the living and dynamic relationship we have with the Risen Lord. Never let any darkness, challenge or sorrow make us forget the joy of the Risen Christ. "The joy of the Lord is my strength!"

Auburn Elks hosting annual Kids' Safety Day

AUBURN — Bring your children and grandchildren to a free morning of fun as the Auburn Lodge of Elks hosts its annual Kids' Safety Day Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m.-noon.

Join us for a morning of fun and safety education! Children will learn important safety skills while enjoying hands-on activities and exciting demonstrations, and receive a free bike helmet while supplies last!

Activities include:

-Bicycle safety – bring your bicycle and learn the rules of the road!

-Youth fingerprinting – keep your child's information secure.

-Water safety – Presented by the YMCA.

-Meet Mikah! – Millbury PD's community resource dog.

-Emergency Services Meet & Greet – Visit with Auburn Police, Auburn Fire & Rescue, and the Worcester County Sheriff's Department Mobile Command.

-Teddy Bear Clinic – Bring your favorite stuffed animal for a check-up!

-On-site car seat checks – Ensure your child's car seat is installed correctly!

-And so much more!

Be a waterwise gardener

Too much or not enough water, and never when your garden needs it. This is a common complaint of gardeners no matter where they live. Make a few changes in your plant selection and garden care to help manage water use while growing healthy plants.



Garden Moments

Melinda Myers

All plants need sufficient moisture after planting and for several months to a year or two to develop a robust root system. Those labeled as drought tolerant are better able to tolerate periods of drought once established. Always water the area surrounding new plantings thoroughly when the top few inches of soil are crumbly and moist. Gradually reduce the frequency, and once the plants are established, you'll need to water less often.

Moisture-loving plants are good choices for areas receiving sufficient and consistent moisture throughout the growing season to meet their needs. In locations where this is not the case, consider grouping moisture-loving plants together so you use less water and can concentrate watering efforts to just one or two locations in your landscape.

Fluctuating periods of excessive and insufficient rainfall add to the challenge. Many native plants, once established, tolerate periods of wet and dry soil and can be found on lists of rain garden plants suited to your area.

Keep water in the garden, out of the storm sewers, and reduce the risk of flooding while improving your garden. Adding several inches of compost to the top 8 to 12 inches of soil increases the soil's ability to absorb and retain water. It also improves drainage in heavy soils.

Top dress existing gardens by spreading an inch of compost over the soil surface. Soil organisms will help move it into the soil to improve plant growth. Lend nature a hand by using an auger bit on a drill to aerate compacted soil. This pushes some compost into the top four to six inches of soil.

Mulching the soil with leaves, evergreen needles, or other organic matter also helps. This task has many benefits, including conserving moisture, reducing the risk of erosion and compaction, suppressing weeds, and as the mulch decomposes, improving the soil. A one-to-three-inch layer over the soil surface is all you need. The finer the mulch material, the thinner the layer of mulch that is needed.

Collect rainwater in rain barrels or cisterns when it is plentiful and store it until needed. Use this to water ornamental containers and plantings. Always check with your municipality first, since some restrict this practice while others offer rebates or rain barrels at a discounted price.

You won't need to worry about mosquitoes breeding inside your rain barrel if you place an organic mosquito control product like Mosquito Dunks®(SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) in rain barrels and other water features. Mosquito Dunks provide 30 days of control, are natural and organic, and won't harm pets, fish, wildlife, or children.

Periods of heavy rainfall create another challenge. Covering the soil with plants and mulch helps protect your soil from compaction and erosion that often happens during these events. Planting trees, shrubs, and groundcovers will slow the flow of rainwater, increase the amount of water that stays in your landscape for plants to use, and help filter dust and pollutants out of rainwater before it enters groundwater.

Rain gardens are another strategy for managing water in your yard. These are designed to capture excessive rainfall, drain within 24 to 36 hours, tolerate dry and wet periods, and filter pollutants from the rainwater before it enters the groundwater.

Start by incorporating one or more of these strategies to help manage rainwater in your landscape. Continue to monitor success, adapt as needed, and include more options to help you successfully garden even during periods of excessive or limited rainfall.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the 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 TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.



Melinda Myers

Leaf mulch conserves moisture, reduces the risk of erosion and compaction, suppresses weeds, and improves the soil as it decomposes.

A time-machine and a litany of disasters

BY CHRISTOPHER MALLON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAM MANAGER

LPL REGISTERED PRINCIPAL, THE CAPSTONE PLANNING GROUP

LOCATED AT CORNERSTONE BANK

In light of current market volatility and uncertainty around tariffs, many investors are naturally worried about their portfolio and questioning the outlook for stocks. We are, after all, emotional creatures, and this is especially true when it comes to investing.

Imagine, for a moment, we build a time machine and decide to go back in time to study investor behavior throughout a litany of disasters.

First, we travel back to May 9, 1940. Sadly, we see that Germany just defeated France and WWII is ramping up. Global tension and fear is rampant. The stock market drops over 18 percent in less than a month. It won't be long before the Attack on Pearl Harbor takes place, effectively pulling the United States into WWII. The stock market drops another 7 percent over a five-day period. It justifiably feels like the world is ending.

We decide it's time to move on, so we hop back in our time machine and enter June 23, 1950. It's the outbreak of Korean War. Within a month, the first U.S. ground troops arrive in South Korea. The stock market is down over 11 percent. With war fresh in their minds, American's are naturally scared. Investing money is the last thing anyone wants to do.

Enough with the wars. Let's check out Oct. 16, 1987. We now witness the historic "Black Monday Crash," when the stock market plunges over 22 percent in just one day. We watch panicked investors pull their money from the market and run for the proverbial safety of cash. Given the circumstances, we understand their reaction.

Intrigued by the crash of '87, we decide to revisit an even worse financial crash… the Financial Crisis of 2008. We watch as the subprime dominos begin to fall. Lehman Brothers collapses, AIG is nearing bankruptcy, Wall Street firms and even some banks are begging to be rescued. The housing market is crashing. The stock market? Down a massive 38 percent for the year. We ask a few folks how they're feeling. One gentleman responds, "I'll never go back into the stock market… ever." We try to tell him, "Wait! Don't panic! The market will actually recover and go on to make new highs!". He tells us we're wrong and walks away.

We have just one more stop to complete our study, and so we travel to Feb. 19 of 2020. It's the start of Covid-19, and the entire global economy is being shut down. The fear, uncertainty, and panic are palatable. The stock market drops a whopping -33% in roughly one month. People are fighting over toilet paper and question if the economy and markets will ever be the same again. We've seen enough.

Now that we're done with our research let's analyze a few numbers. Let's look at how the stock market performed DURING AND AFTER these events.

The average 1YR return? +31 percent. The average 5YR return? +16 percent. Our conclusion: history has proven the United States and corporate America are incredibly resilient and persevere. Markets do indeed bounce back and go on to make new highs. Staying invested can help investors benefit from market rebounds. People who gave up investing (or tried to "time" the market) missed out on significant long-term wealth creation. Our study is complete.

The next time you're watching talking heads on CNBC try to predict the near-term future, remember no one has a crystal ball. And that is precisely why being a "day trader" is so difficult. But if you're an investor, it becomes easier to deal with short term volatility because you're focused on the long-term results. Remember: history may not always repeat itself, but it often rhymes.

Yes, today's markets hate the uncertainty over tariff implications, and so we should expect continued price volatility. But don't panic. Volatility is normal. It's like a "toll" investors must pay on the road to attractive long-term returns. On average, the stock market corrects once per year (a drop of 10-19 percent) and has still achieved a 13 percent annualized return including dividends since 1980.

If you indeed have lingering concerns about your portfolio, its best to check in with a qualified Financial Advisor to discuss how your portfolio is positioned.

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

Securities and advisory services are offered through LPL Financial (LPL), a registered investment advisor and broker-dealer (member FINRA/SIPC). Insurance products are offered through LPL or its licensed affiliates. Cornerstone Bank and The Capstone Planning Group are not registered as a broker-dealer or investment advisor. Registered representatives of LPL offer products and services using The Capstone Planning Group, and may also be employees of Cornerstone Bank. These products and services are being offered through LPL or its affiliates, which are separate entities from, and not affiliates of, The Capstone Planning Group. Securities and insurance offered through LPL or its affiliates are:

Not insured by FDIC or Any Other Government Agency | Not Bank Guaranteed | Not Bank Deposits or Obligations | May Lose Value

The event reaction periods begin with the stock market close prior to the events. Historical references do not assume that any prior market behavior will be duplicated. Past performance does not indicate future results. There are risks associated with mutual fund investing including the possibility that share prices will decline. Since investment return and principal value will fluctuate, investments may be worth more or less than their original cost. The S&P 500® Index is an unmanaged index of common stock performance. You cannot invest directly in an index. Indexes are unmanaged and used as a broad measure of market performance. Data sources for this article include Putnam Investments and LPL Financial.

Crisis and recovery: How the S&P 500 Index performed during and after historic events

Event	Event reaction dates	Percent of gain/ loss during event	S&P 500 percentage of gain/loss after last reaction date: 1 month later	1 year later	5 years later	10 years later
Fall of France	5/9/40–6/21/40	–18.2%	3.1%	5.2%	15.9%	13.2%
Attack on Pearl Harbor	12/5/41–12/10/41	–6.9	4.5	16.0	18.1	17.1
Outbreak of Korean War	6/23/50–7/13/50	–11.1	9.5	42.0	27.6	18.4
U.S. invades Cambodia	4/29/70–5/26/70	–15.0	6.4	49.0	9.3	9.3
Nixon resigns	8/9/74–8/29/74	–13.4	–6.8	30.6	14.6	14.6
1987 stock market crash	10/16/87–10/19/87	–20.5	7.1	27.9	17.0	18.9
September 11 terrorist attacks	9/10/01–9/21/01	–11.6	11.3	–11.1	8.3	3.9
Collapse of Lehman Brothers	9/12/08–11/20/08	–39.6	18.3	48.8	21.5	15.8
U.S. debt downgrade by S&P	8/4/11–10/3/11	–8.1	14.9	35.0	17.0	17.1
U.K. Brexit referendum	6/23/16–6/27/16	–5.3	8.5	23.5	18.7	—
Covid-19 pandemic	2/19/20–3/23/20	–33.8	25.2	77.8	—	—
Mean gain/loss		**–16.7**	**9.3**	**31.3**	**16.8**	**14.3**
Median gain/loss		**–13.4**	**8.5**	**30.6**	**17.0**	**15.8**

Letters to the Editor

Quitting the rhetoric

To the Editor:

It would seem as though a certain opinion writer would like everyone to quit the rhetoric, yet sends his own rhetoric week after week.

Perhaps if the state did not spend so much on some of the immigrant programs they do, most of us would not see the constant rise in state and local taxes that we do, and there might be more money available in the form of grants for local towns and businesses.

The same old Nazi Germany rhetoric seems to come from this writer again, as he seems to have a lot of care for the Jewish people who suffered so badly, yet I don't remember him ever writing about the anti-Israel protests that take place across our country, where many of these people openly shout for the death of all Jews, how they are Hamas, and also calling for the death of America. The death of America would include him too. Where is his outrage at that, and while many of our Democratic leaders don't seem to take much issue with any of that, shouldn't we all know what they really think, much like you call on certain Republican leaders here in our state?

As far as our military he is so concerned with, he seems to forget how our last administration sent hundreds of thousands of meals to Al Qaeda fighters in Syria. I repeat, Al Qaeda! Or the hundreds of millions sent to Afghanistan to help with the cultivation of the poppy fields, resulting in unprecedented heroin production thereby benefiting the Taliban. I repeat, the Taliban. These would seem to be two groups that would like nothing more than to destroy our military. Where is his outrage, and how do our democrat leaders feel about that?

Can this writer come up with any valid, widespread circumstances of people being whisked off the street, or is he now trying to defend the gang members, murderers, rapists, and child traffickers, all in the name of anti-Trump?

The 'save democracy' rhetoric from him would seem rather hypocritical, as there were more Trump voters across the country, and even in the small town of Dudley in which we live, yet he now wishes to destroy those results after only several months. So much for democracy if it doesn't match up to his liking.

As far as spending cuts, I will, just like last time, ask anyone reading this, do not take my word for it — watch the video. June 12 , 2011. Obama from the White House with special guest Joe Biden in the Campaign to Cut Waste. Not some wild MAGA idea; something they themselves say will hurt a little, but necessary. That was when Joe Biden actually had the capability to think for himself, not like the last four years, when we the people were lied to on a daily basis and the Democrats in Washington tried to cover up the fact that he probably didn't even know he was supposed to be the president. Talk about a national security issue. That includes Kamala herself; it's a good thing she didn't win. What web of lies would she now be spinning?

The cuts, although painful, need to be done, if not for us now, then our future generations, which this writer claims to care so much about when it comes to climate change. Or is that just more blank rhetoric?

Thank you for your service albeit not Vietnam, but I too have a DD214 that says Honorable Discharge, so your rhetoric is not all true, as there are many veterans like myself who voted for Trump.

John Giaquinto
Dudley

I have the background and experience to strengthen the WHA

To the Editor:

I am Frank Stefanik, running for the Webster Housing Authority on May 5, and would like to introduce myself.

I have been a resident of Golden Heights for almost seven years, and am very active in the Golden Heights community. I have attended every board meeting since living here in person or Zoom since moving in. I was the past President of the Local Tenants Organization. I have been involved with the new employee interview process. When Secretary of Housing Ed Augustus visited last year, I was part of the small group that toured the property.

I am the rep/contact person for Mass Union for Public Housing. I am on Mass Union's Police Committee. I was part of a group of tenants that went to the State House last May to meet with our senators on a Lobby Day with Mass Union to get votes for the public housing bond that was up for vote, of which $2.2 billion was successfully passed. This is important, as we have aging infrastructure here, being 50-plus years old. I am on many Zoom meetings with Mass Union each month to stay with current events, as we all know things are turbulent now.

I am very familiar with how the WHA is run, and have very good knowledge on how a nonprofit entity works, as I was once treasurer of a large nonprofit organization for a few years. I have a great rapport with the great staff, management & board of the WHA. I am a highly visible tenant at Golden Heights, always interacting with my fellow tenants & staff and always helping them out, sometimes on a daily basis.

I am a retired sales engineer in the fluid power industry in both sales & management, so I have vast business experience. I am a recent cancer survivor, and having a second chance is one of the reasons I am running for the board. With my background, people skills & drive, I can be an asset to the Webster Housing Authority. My personal involvement with the public housing sector at the state level brings me great satisfaction, and to share that knowledge with fellow tenants, staff and the board sometimes as well, and even have an appointment with our senator in May at Mass Union's Housing Day.

With that said and done, I would appreciate your consideration for voting for me in the upcoming May 5 town election.

Thank you.

Frank Stefanik
Webster

Advertise Here

WANTED TO BUY
Antiques & Old Stuff
•Bottles • Crocks •Jugs •Costume Jewelry • Pottery •Toys
• Games • Glassware •Sterling Silver • Coins • Gold
• Silver Plated Items •Watches •Typewriters •Sewing Machines
• Tools • Radios • Clocks • Lanterns •Lamps • Kitchenware
• Cookware •Knives •Hunting • Fishing • Military • Masonic
• Fire Dept • Musical Instruments & Much More
CALL DONALD ROY 860-874-8396

PET of the WEEK



BAYPATH HUMANE SOCIETY OF HOPKINTON
Small Shelter Big Heart

Ms. Piggy

Meet Ms. Piggy! She has been soaking up all the love in her foster home, and showing her silly, loving side. Piggy loves doing zoomies and playing with squeaky toys, and with her favorite people she's the ultimate snuggle bug. Always ready to lounge on the couch for TV binging and belly rubs. Piggy is crate trained, sleeps soundly through the night, and house trained. She's done well when left alone during the workday and will happily greet you with a wagging tail when you come home.

Piggy can be a little nervous of new experiences at first, but has been working on her confidence. She's food motivated and such a smart girl. She already knows, "sit," "down," "stay," "wait," "place," "paw," "front," and "touch." With her love for treats, she's always eager to learn, and is looking for a family who wants to continue working with her.

Piggy enjoys walks in quieter areas or trails in the woods to explore. Her favorite is playing and smelling all the scents in her foster homes fenced yard. Busier areas can be a little overwhelming for her, so city life or apartment living, is probably not the best fit for this girl.

With the new year here, she is ready to find her family, one that will shower her with love, patience, and plenty of snacks! Apply today!

500 Legacy Farms North • Hopkinton, MA 01748

MILFORD FEDERAL
Est.1887 Our Community. Your Bank.

Milford Federal Bank is proud to sponsor Baypath Humane Society's Pet of the Week!

Bring your furry friend along on your next trip to MFB for a treat from our drive-up tellers, or stop in any branch and bring home a treat from our complimentary doggy treat bar.

1271 Providence Rd, Whitinsville, MA
508.234.8256 • 800.357.2265
MilfordFederal.com

Member FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Milford | Whitinsville | Woonsocket

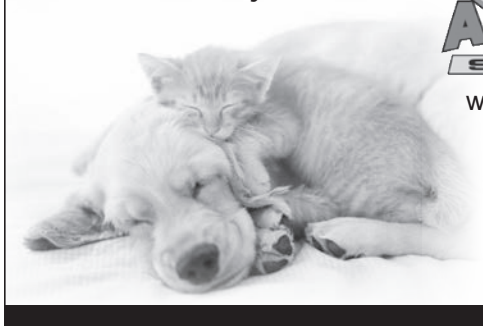
LOWEST PRICES • FULL SERVICE

Serving Worcester County for almost 60 years!

Shrewsbury's Own…

AL'S OIL SERVICE
www.alsoil.com

We accept most major credit cards



24-HOUR EXPERT BURNER SERVICE • 508-753-7221

NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

25 ELM STREET | SOUTHBRIDGE, MA



9,536-SF HISTORIC OFFICE BUILDING FOR SALE

- Historical building, also known as Tiffany-Leonard House, built in 1832
- Large Executive Offices with Elegant Finishes and High Ceilings
- Large Open Concept Cubicle Areas

- Listing price: $550,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
- Basement: partial | Unfinished



MORE INFO:







JAMES GLICKMAN
Principal

508-769-5007
jglickman@glickmankovago.com



JONAH D. GLICKMAN
Vice President

508-868-3765
jdglickman@glickmankovago.com



Slapstick scientist wows Barton Elementary with "Notion of Motion"

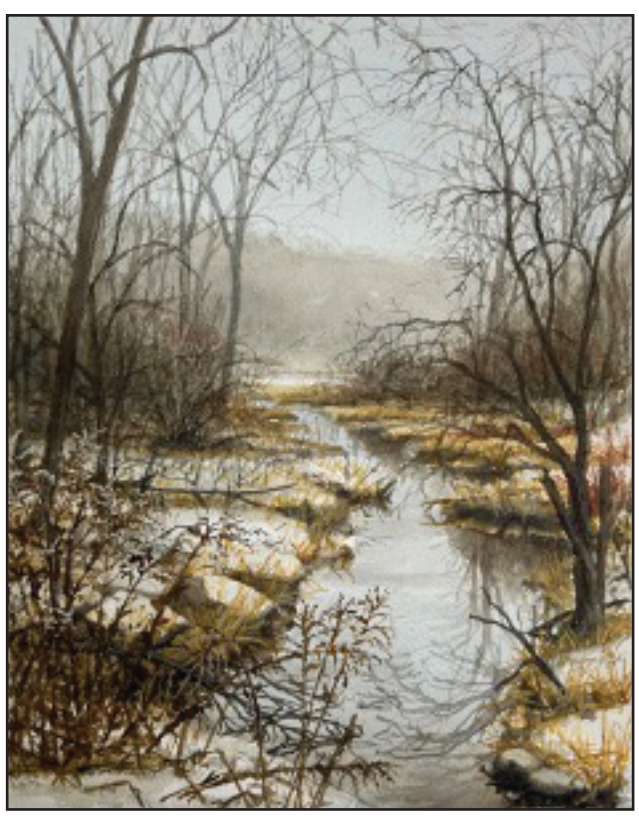
OXFORD — Barton Elementary students in grades 3 through 5 were in for a treat this week as they were captivated by the high-energy, educational antics of Slapstick Scientist Ted Lawrence, also known as Dr. Quinton Quark. His thrilling presentation on physics had students on the edge of their seats, combining science with comedy in a way that made learning both engaging and unforgettable.

Dr. Quark's "Notion of Motion" assembly took students on an interactive journey through the fundamentals of physics. With a mix of humor and hands-on activities, students explored key scientific concepts by creating hypotheses and testing their ideas in real time. From spinning wheels to balancing acts, the presentation demonstrated the forces and laws of motion in action, keeping students mesmerized with every experiment.

Barton Elementary extends a heartfelt thank you to the Barton PTO for making this enriching experience possible. Their support in bringing Dr. Quark to the school provided students with a unique opportunity to experience science in an exciting and memorable way.

With laughter, learning, and plenty of hands-on exploration, the Notion of Motion assembly was a resounding success, leaving students inspired and eager to dive deeper into the world of physics.

Gladys E. Kelly Library hosting reception for artist Steve Gerling



WEBSTER — The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, located at 2 Lake St., Webster, will host an artist reception for Steve Gerling Tuesday, April 15 from 6-8 p.m.

Join us in celebrating Steve Gerling's display, featuring landscapes and nature scenes. Light refreshments will be served. Enjoy a visual showcase that is perfect for art lovers and aspiring creators!

The exhibit on display April 1-May 14.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!!



news@
stonebridgepress.news

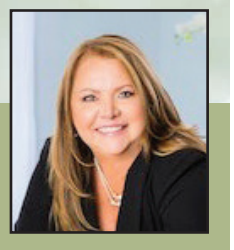
Proudly Serving the Community for 50 Years
RONNIE'S seafood
Soft Service Ice Cream
Frozen Yogurt
Premium Hard Ice Cream
Specializing in Fresh Fried Seafood
Indoor/Outdoor Seating!
Now Open
Thursday-Sunday
11am-8pm
www.ronniesseafood.com
Route 31 Charlton Depot
Hours: Thursday through Sunday 11am to 8pm
WE ACCEPT MOST MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

183 Fiskdale Road Brookfield $699,000



Gorgeous colonial set on 3.6 acres....on the Brookfield/Sturbridge border. Grand 2 story foyer w/hardwoods throughout. Fam rm w/vaulted ceilings, tons of natural lighting & fireplace. 1st fl offers a bedroom or office, dining room & full bath w/shower & laundry. Open floor plan - Kitchen is fully applianced w/tons of storage & granite countertops. 2nd fl has 3 bedrooms & 2 full baths. Master has walk-in closet & full bath w/jacuzzi tub & separate shower. Basement is fully finished w/mud room, huge pantry, what could be an exercise room, craft room, home office or 2nd living room. Oversized deck off the back, shed and fire pit area. Easy access to rte 9, 20, 84 and mass pike. Forced hot water/hydro air/central air, 5 zone. 2 car heated garage under

OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE!
Opening New Doors For Families Everyday



Lisa Caron Real Estate
Broker, Owner GRI, ABR, SRS, RENE, C2EX, SRES, MRP, PSA, LMC, CDPE, E-PRO
42 W. Main Street, PO Box 447 Brookfield, MA 01506
Cell : 508-341-8299
Search Homes Instantly: http://www.lisacaron.com

LA-Z-BOY
WORLD'S GREATEST RECLINER SALE
BORN·1927
GET RECLINING & GET SAVING!
Choose from an amazing selection of our greatest recliner styles and features including massage, leather, high legs and more...
all sale priced to fit comfortably into your budget!
FROM $399
HURRY! Limited time only!
hot buy
0% INTEREST - FOR 1 FULL YEAR!
www.sundeenfurnitureinc.com
Sundeen Furniture
241 PROVIDENCE ROAD, WHITINSVILLE, MA
508-234-8777
FREE LAYAWAY / FREE DELIVERY
M.T.W. 9:30-6:00; TH. FRI. 9:30-7:00; SAT. 9:30-6:00; SUN. 11-5

BEAT THE TARIFF PRICE INCREASES!
INSTANT FINANCING - HUGE REBATE PACKAGES AVAILABLE!
2024 Community's Choice Awards
VOTED WORCESTER COUNTY'S "BEST APPLIANCE STORE" 2021 - 2022 - 2023 - 2024
PRE-SEASON A/C SALE!
TV's On Sale!
43" Smart.....$199.99 Regularly $249.9
50" HDTV.....$229.99 Regularly $269.99
55" Samsung HDTV..$299.99 Regularly $349.99
65" HDTV.....$399.99 Regularly $599.99
70" Samsung 4k TV..$499.99 Regularly $599.99
75" Samsung HDTV..$599.99 Regularly $699.99
WE INSTALL TV'S, MICROWAVES AND DISHWASHERS!
MATTRESS SALE!
TWIN: $199 (REGULARLY $299)
FULL: $269 (REGULARLY $499)
QUEEN: $299 (REGULARLY $599)
PRE-SEASON BIKE SALE!
SAMSUNG WASHER & DRYER #46300 Reg. $1599.99 $1299.99 AFTER REBATE!
DELUXE FRIGIDAIRE INDUCTION STOVE Reg. $1299.99 $999.99
GE DELUXE DISHWASHER Reg. $499.99 $399.99
PRE-SEASON GRILL SALE
LG 20 CU. FT. BOTTOM FRENCH REFRIGERATOR Reg. $1499.99 $1299.99
G.E. DELUXE AIR FRY GAS RANGE Reg. $899.99 $699.99
FRIGIDAIRE DISHWASHER Reg. $399.99 $299.99
SAMSUNG TOP LOAD WASHER & DRYER Pair - Reg. $1199.99 $1099.99 AFTER REBATE!
G.E. 27 CU. FT. FRENCH DOOR REFRIGERATOR Reg. $1999.99 $1499.99
5 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER $159.99
WHIRLPOOL 21 CU. FT. TOP MOUNT REFRIGERATOR Reg. $899.99 $699.99
FRIGIDAIRE 18 CU. FT. REFRIGERATOR Reg. $699.99 $599.99
FAMOUS MAKER OVER THE STOVE MICROWAVE Reg. $249.99 $199.99
LG #3400 WASHER & DRYER Front Load, Reg. $1599.99 $1399.99
MAYTAG DELUXE WASHER OR DRYER Reg. $699.99 $549.99
WHIRLPOOL SIDE BY SIDE Reg. $1499.99 $1099.99
10 CU. FT. FREEZER Reg. $459.99 $399.99
INSTANT FINANCING UP TO $10,000!
WHITCO
140 MAIN STREET, SPENCER, MA
508.885.9343
SEE WHITCOSALES.COM FOR 100's OF DEALS!
Store Hours: Mon. through Fri: 10am-9pm • Sat: 9am-8pm • Sun: 12 Noon-7pm

Obituaries

Jayne Emma Romanek, 86



Jayne Emma (Siegmund) Romanek, 86, of Danielson CT and formerly of Wilsonville CT died on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston MA.

She was born in Webster MA on August 5, 1938, the daughter of the late Arthur and Gertrude (Kruger) Siegmund. She married Edward John Romanek on November 24, 1956. They celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary before Ed's passing in July 1998. Jayne previously worked as a paraprofessional for the Thompson Public Schools.

It was her passion for crocheting in her retirement years that many of her family and friends will remember most about Jayne. Always the teacher, she passed along her crocheting knowledge by sharing her "projects" with the young and old alike. She enjoyed traveling, cooking, reading, watching the Red Sox, volunteering her time and donating her completed projects to local charitable organizations. She was active in several prayer shawl ministries and won multiple awards for her project submissions at local craft fairs.

She is survived by her daughter Janet (Romanek) Young and partner Richard Mathieu of Southbridge MA, son Edward John (Jay) Romanek Jr. and wife Melinda of Milton GA, older brother Arthur Siegmund Jr. of Webster MA, four grandchildren; James Young Jr. and wife Amanda of Webster MA, Jennifer (Young) Caron and husband Gary of Southbridge MA, Derek Romanek and wife Alexa of John's Creek GA, and Casey (Romanek) Barber and husband Ben of White GA, six great grandchildren; Cayden Young, Jackson Young, Avery Barber, Skylar Barber, Landon Barber, Nella Romanek and numerous cousins, nephews, and nieces. Jayne was predeceased by her older sister Betty A. (Siegmund) Ruhnke.

Private graveside services will be held at the Mt. Zion cemetery in Webster MA.

Patricia M. "Patty" Motyka, 75



CHARLTON – Patricia M. "Patty" (May) Motyka, 75, died Monday, March 31, 2025 in UMass/ Memorial Healthcare, Worcester.

She leaves her husband of over 50 years, Deacon Peter J. Motyka; 2 sons, Matthew S. Motyka and his wife Ashlee of Hoover, AL, and Andrew R. Motyka and his wife Julie of Indianapolis, IN; a daughter, Laurie J. Richer and her husband Timothy of Northboro; 8 grandchildren, Mary, Lucy, Thomas, Abigail, Audrey and Stephen Motyka, and Joshua and Jacob Richer; a brother, David A. May and his wife Linda of Bloomsburg, PA; 2 sisters, Paula J. Kirchenbauer and her husband William of Belvedere, NJ and Carol F. Finley and her husband Robert of Northampton, PA; several nieces and nephews.

She was born on August 31, 1949 in Paterson, NJ, a daughter of Russell and Joan (VanDuren) May and raised there. She graduated from East Side High School in 1966. In 1985, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in accounting for Nichols College in Dudley, graduating as class valedictorian. She moved to this area in 1976 and has lived in Charlton for four years.

Mrs. Motyka worked as an accountant at small firms and retired as the assistant director of financial aid at Nichols College in 2013.

She was a communicant of Saint Louis Church in Webster and belonged to the Saint Louis League of Catholic Women. At the parish, she co-taught the confirmation class, was active in the RCIA program, served as a lector and eucharistic minister, sang alto in the choir and was a member of the Partners in Charity Committee. She was the treasurer of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society for many years.

Patty was a member of the Harrington Hospital Auxiliary and served as the chairperson of its scholarship committee. She also was a former member of the parish council of Saint Anthony of Padua Church in Dudley when she worshipped there. She liked crocheting, swimming, yoga and traveling. Her favorite time was spent with family, especially with her grandchildren and friends.

Her funeral was held on Saturday, April 5, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, with a Mass at 10:00 AM in Saint Louis Church, 14 Lake Street, Webster. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace, Webster. Visitation was held from 4:00 to 7:00 PM on Friday, April 4, and again on Saturday from 8:45 to 9:30 AM in the funeral home. Donations in her name may be made to either Saint Vincent de Paul Society, c/o Sacred Heart Church, 18 East Main Street, Webster, MA 01570 or to Catholic Charities. 10 Hammond Street, Worcester, MA 01610.

www.websterfunerals.com

Friday's Child



Wesley
Age 10
Registration # 8475

Hi! My name is Wesley, and I would like to be an engineer when I grow up!

Wesley is a healthy, sweet, creative, helpful and caring boy. Bright and curious about his surroundings, he may appear shy and reserved at first but becomes more comfortable through play. Wesley is not comfortable talking about himself to others. Wesley is a natural builder. He loves building with Legos and can make amazing and ornate origami art. He also creates new games and has a very vivid imagination. He loves to read. Math is his favorite subject. He would like to be an engineer when he grows up.

https://www.mareinc.org/child/21180805788

Can I Adopt?

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

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

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

The secret of Socrates

Positively Speaking

Toby Moore

Picture this: a man in a suit, contracts in hand, marching down a hallway like he's heading into battle.

He swings open the office door, eyes locked on his business partner. He's angry. He's certain. He's ready to set the record straight.

"This is outrageous," he says, slamming the folder on the desk. "You agreed to these terms. You're backing out now?"

The partner, calm but resolute, folds his hands. "No, I didn't agree to that."

"Yes, you did," the man in the suit snapped.

"No, I didn't," his partner replied, calm as ever.

The conversation spirals. The angrier the businessman gets, the firmer his partner digs in. No progress. No compromise. A Stalemate; nowhere to go. And that was it—just one word, over and over: No.

When the man walks out, nothing changes except his blood pressure.

Now pause here. Let's talk about what just happened.

The problem wasn't the disagreement. The problem was the approach. He came in swinging—accusation first, challenge second. He backed the other person into a corner. And people don't make deals when they feel cornered. They defend themselves. They harden.

The second someone says "no," it's like concrete drying. Fast. Solid. Tough to crack.

Dale Carnegie called this The Secret of Socrates in "How to Win Friends and Influence People."

He wrote: "In talking with people, don't begin by discussing the things on which you differ. Begin by emphasizing—and keep on emphasizing—the things on which you agree… Get the other person saying 'yes, yes' at the outset. Keep your opponent, if possible, from saying 'no.'"

Socrates mastered this. He didn't argue. He asked questions. Obvious ones. Undeniable ones. Questions that showed both sides were aligned. Only differing in the method. One yes, then another. And slowly, the tension faded. The resistance dropped. The conversation shifted. They weren't on opposite sides anymore. They were on the same page.

Let's come back to our world.

Instead of walking into a room with fire and a point to prove, try starting with this: "You want what's best for the team, right?" "You care about this project like I do, right?" "You want this to work."

Get agreement on the big picture before diving into the details. Because once someone's in "yes mode," they're far more likely to stay there.

The truth is, "no" is more than a word—it's a wall. And once it's up good luck getting through. But "yes" is a bridge. It connects people. It opens doors.

Now, picture a good salesman talking to a potential customer—not the pushy kind, but the thoughtful, sharp kind.

He doesn't start with, "So, are you ready to buy?" He starts with questions so obvious they're effortless to answer: "You're looking for something reliable, right?" "Yes." "You want to make sure you're getting the best value for your money?" "Yes." "And I'm guessing you don't want to waste time shopping around forever." "Exactly."

Three yeses, right out of the gate!

What just happened? The customer started nodding—not just physically, but mentally. They felt understood. They felt like the salesperson was on their side. And now, the next sentence—"Let me show you what I think is a great fit"—doesn't feel like a pitch. It feels like teamwork.

The beauty of this isn't that it tricks people. It's that it meets them where they are. We don't move forward when we feel forced. We move forward when we feel seen.

And this isn't just for sales or business.

A parent asks a teenager, "You want your room to feel peaceful, right?" A coach saying to their team, "You want to win just as badly as I do." A teacher calming a classroom: "You want to enjoy this time together, don't you?"

Shared goals, voiced early, dissolve resistance before it ever shows up. They create alignment, and alignment creates momentum.

So next time you need to persuade someone—whether in a boardroom, a negotiation, a relationship, or just a conversation—remember the Secret of Socrates.

Lead with agreement. Start with what's obvious. Find common ground. Get the nods early.

Because anyone who leads, teaches, builds, or negotiates will tell you—once they're nodding, you're already halfway home.

Coloring Easter Eggs Naturally



Take the Hint

Karen Trainor

Easter is right around the corner, and for many, the annual ritual of coloring eggs is an anticipated yearly tradition. But there's no need to run out and buy a fancy egg coloring kit, as you likely have the ingredients to make up a rainbow of colorful eggs right in your kitchen cupboard!

The following ideas are fun and easy to do family egg coloring projects.

Note: Eggs that are to be eaten should always be refrigerated after coloring.

***

Quick and Easy Classic Food Coloring Dye

This homemade mixture rivals the basic egg coloring kits. Use empty egg cartons to dry the eggs.

Mix three quarters of a cup warm water with one tablespoon white vinegar. Add one quarter teaspoon of (no artificial dye) food coloring. Note: gel food coloring works best.

Make individual batches of color in wide mouth mugs or small bowls. Dip and soak hard boiled eggs in mixture to color.

**

Natural Egg Dyes

Note: Patience is the key to bright colors as it could take a while to achieve.

Red: Save the skins from onions and boil for one half to one hour. The more skins you use and longer you soak, the darker color will be. A small amount of skins will produce a light lavender color.

**

Pink: Soak hard boiled eggs in a mug or cup of cranberry juice or pickled beet juice with ½ tsp of vinegar until desired hue is reached.

**

Lavender: Soak hard boiled eggs in a mug or cup of grape juice and ½ tsp of vinegar until color is to your liking.

**

Blue: Soak hard boiled eggs in a mug or cup of grape juice and ½ tsp of vinegar. Soak overnight in the refrigerator if you want a dark, rich color.

**

Yellow: To a cup of hot water, add one and a half teaspoons of tumeric and one half teaspoon vinegar.

**

Golden Tan: Save skins from yellow onions. Add to water when hard boiling eggs.

**

Brown: Add one tablespoon of instant coffee and one half tsp. vinegar to a cup of water. Drop in hard boiled egg and allow to sit until desired color is reached.

**

Pastel Hues: Rub blueberries and cranberries directly on the shells for soft blues and pinks.

**

Waxed eggs

Here is a super idea for creating waxed eggs that are truly impressive!

Ingredients: Wax crayons; paper towels; egg dyes in different colors; cooking oil.

Instructions: Draw a heavy crayon pattern on hard boiled egg. Dip egg in egg dye, preferably a dark color. Leave in dye until desired color is reached. Remove with slotted spoon and place in 200 degree F oven for a few minutes until wax is melted. Wipe with paper towel and dip again in lighter dye to fill in pattern where wax was. Polish finished eggs with cooking oil and soft cloth.

**

Reader Hint: This hint from reader Donna Lewandowski was received after last week's reader hint column was submitted– but it is timely for making Easter dishes with eggs:

To remove eggshell fragments from your bowl, use a piece of eggshell. The sharp edge of an eggshell helps to remove the fragment.

**

Reminders to extend the life of Easter lilies long beyond this season:

Prolong Potted Plant: Easter lilies are gorgeous plants, and with a few tricks you can prolong their life as a potted plant way past the Easter holiday.

If you are purchasing the plant yourself, choose a healthy looking plant with a few flowers in full bloom but with most unopened. Keep potted soil moist and place in a cool 60 to 65 degree room where it can get some indirect sunlight. Avoid direct heat and direct sunlight. Be sure the pot is on a saucer, and if it is wrapped in foil be sure the foil doesn't trap any water in the bottom of the pot. Help your lily last even longer by snipping off the pollen laden anthers from the center of the blooms.

**

Longer Lilies: When your Easter lily has seen better days, don't toss it out! Your potted lilies can last for years to come if you plant them outside. To do: When leaves and stems turn yellow and or brown, trim them back and plant the bulb directly into the garden after the threat of frost

Turn To **TAKE** page **A11**

TAKE

continued from page A10

has passed. For best results, plant the bulb in about three inches of good soil in a sunny or partial shade area. Top with another three inches of mulch, peat moss, compost, etc. (bulb is six inches underground). Water as needed.

Keep in mind transplanted lilies won't bloom until next summer. Keep well mulched during the winter and next spring remove extra mulch to help lilies sprout up.

**

Win a Three Course Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

**

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

Eastern student Delaney Kudron of Oxford "makes history" at statewide conference

WILLIMANTIC — History students at Eastern Connecticut State University and visiting students from other Connecticut State Universities (CSUs) presented their topical research at the CSU Making History Conference on March 28 in the Student Center. The event was sponsored by Eastern's Department of History, Center for Connecticut Studies, School of Arts and Sciences and Provost's Office.

Among the panelists was Delaney Kudron of Oxford, a senior majoring in History and Social Science.

Kudron presented her work on former first lady Abigail Adams, a project that she had previously explored in one of Balcerski's classes. This was the first historical conference she had ever participated in

"It was great to see so many people who share a common interest be given the opportunity to talk about the different aspects of history that interest them," said Kudron. "Being able to present on a topic that I am passionate about to a wider audience was truly a great experience."



AUTO BODY / REPAIRS

KEARNS COLLISION REPAIR
Since 1969
Always Going The Extra Mile For Our Customers
Free Written Estimates • Damage Appraisal
Color Matching Specialists • Rental Car Services
Warrantied Work & Repairs
Diagnostics • A/C Repair
Tune Ups & Engine Repair
Brakes • Alternators • Starters • ABS
Alignments • Tires…and more
Major Insurance Referral Shop
Honoring All Insurance Estimates
1734 Providence Road (Rt 122)
Northbridge, MA 01534
Ph: 508-234-5211 • Fax: 508-234-2231
www.kearnscollisioncom
Fully Certified • RS# 2678

BEST WINDOW COMPANY

Beautiful, Efficient, Affordable
WINDOWS & DOORS
KUBALA HOME IMPROVEMENT
Your Window & Door Experts!
Award Winning High Performance Windows & Doors
Lifetime Warranty
100% FINANCING AVAILABLE
CALL NOW FOR EXCLUSIVE SPRING SAVINGS
508-784-1550
MA CSL100114 | MA HIC150118 | CT HIC0619712

BUILDER

Todd A. Ethier TAE
B•U•I•L•D•E•R
INCORPORATED
Remodeling Expert
♦ FINISHED BASEMENTS
♦ ADDITIONS ♦ GARAGES
♦ SIDING ♦ ROOFING ♦ DECKS
♦ WINDOWS ♦ DOORS
♦ KITCHEN ♦ BATHS
Quality Building Since 1985
Licensed & Insured
508-764-2293 ◆ 774-230-3967

CONSTRUCTION

CWM CONSTRUCTION CORP.
Septic Systems
Design, Installation, and Repairs
• Complete Outdoor Living
• Retaining Walls • Patios
• Drainage Solutions
• Asphalt Paving
774-696-3246
Financing Available

CONTRACTING

Indoor/Outdoor Remodeling
Decks~ Kitchens ~Bathrooms
Door~ Bedrooms ~ Floors ~Painting ~ Etc.
Landscaping
Mowing ~ Leaf Clenups Plowing
Hedge Trimming ~ Stone/Mulch beds
Tree Work ~Etc
Owner: Seth Goudreau
774-402-4694
Prices beating the competition
Free Estimates Fully Insured
Black Diamond CONTRACTING

DRYER VENT CLEANING

AMV
Nationally Certified Dryer Exhaust Expert
SAVING ENERGY
774-289-3581
amvdryerexhaust.com
DRYER VENT CLEANING, INSTALLATION AND REPAIR
• CLOGGED DRYER VENT
• DRYER RUNNING TOO SLOW
• MOVING LOCATION OF DRYER
• REPLACING FLEXIBLE HOSE WITH HARD PIPE FOR SAFETY
TOP RATED · ELITE SERVICE · SCREENED & APPROVED · CERTIFIED DRYER EXHAUST TECHNICIAN

LAWNMOWERS

WORCESTER COUNTY LAWNMOWER
ALWAYS THE BEST SERVICE
Snowblower & Generator Repair
Tractor Service
Tune-Ups & Repairs
Pickup & Delivery
508-987-2775
492 Main St Oxford
WORCESTERCOUNTY LAWNMOWER.COM

Stump Grinding

MILLER STUMP GRINDING
Asian Longhorn Beetle Certified
Fully Insured • Free Quotes
REASONABLE RATES
PROMPT SERVICE
ROD MILLER • NICK MILLER
OWNERS / OPERATORS
508-688-2159

CHIMNEYS/MASONRY

CHIMNEY CLEANINGS
Starting at $99
ALL KINDS OF MASONRY & CONCRETE WORK
New & Repairs, Repointing, Rebuilding, Re-lining, Waterproofing, Foundation & Chimney Repair, New & Stair Repair, Concrete Walkways, Stonewalls, New Roofs, Construction & Carpentry.
Need to get it done? Call me!
-FREE Estimates-
Quality Chimney
(508)752-1003

Home Improvement

BONETTI'S
Home Improvement
Roofing
Siding
Decks
Remodeling
Windows
Doors
Basement Finishing
Gutters Cleaning
Pressure Washing
Painting Landscaping
Over 25 Years Experience
Residential Specialist
Licensed and Insured
128231
508-347-4906
Cell 508-688-0072

GUTTERS

GUTTER CLEANINGS
30+ years exp Licensed & Insured
508-867-2877
508-754-9054
A. Eagle Gutters
aeaglegutters.com

MASONRY

C J
MASONRY HARDSCAPE
RETAINING WALLS
OUTDOOR LIVING CONSTRUCTION
Chimney Repair
Foundation Repair
Steps, Patios
Pool Surrounds
Pressure Washing
Property Maintenance
Water Proofing
Delivery of Aggregate
Cord Wood
Brian French
(413)222-5542
frenchyn45@gmail.com

GJ LEDUC PAINTING

Interior and Exterior
Power Washing
Wallpapering
General Repair
Fully Insured
Over 40+ Years Experience
508-764-8548
774-230-8373

PAINTING

Scott Bernard's
PRECISION PAINTERS
Finest Craftsmanship Since 1979
Interior-Exterior
Paints, Stains, Wallpaper and Fine Faux Finishes
Satisfaction Guaranteed
Free Estimates
774.452.0321

Advertise on this page for one low price!
Get 7 papers.
Call 774-200-7308
• Spencer New Leader
• Sturbridge Villager
• Charlton Villager
• Southbridge News
• Webster Times
• Auburn News
• Blackstone Valley Tribune

PLUMBING

JOHN DALY
Plumbing
Specializing in repairs or new installs for home owners since 1988
Fully licensed and insured
Filter Your Water with a Reverse Osmosis Under Sink Or Countertop System
Lic #MPL 21763
Call 508-304-7816
Email jdrainman714@aol.com

Plumbing

MIKE LAMBERT'S PLUMBING & HEATING INC.
LIC# 166643-14
Commercial, Residential, New Construction
369 Main St, Ste 4
Spencer, MA
1-833-969-4330
Fully Insured
MIKELAMBERTSPANDH @GMAIL.COM

ROOFING

David Barbale
ROOFING
Roofing/Gutters
Repair Work
Fully Licensed and Insured
MA LIC #CS069127
MA HIC. LIC #1079721
INS. # CAC032585
C: 508-397-6709
O: 508-248-6709
davidbarbale.com

ROOFING

GUARANTEED BUILDING MAINTENANCE
Residential/Commercial Roofing and Siding Specialist
Gutter installations
gbmaintco.com
Daniel Truax
508-450-7472
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+
Check Out Our Reviews Online
Financing Available
A+ Rating BBB
Mass CSL #099487
Mass HIC number 124019
Connecticut, HIC number 0665243

ROOFING

S. WILLARD ROOFING
Serving areas in Massachusetts
Our Services:
Roofing • Siding
Gutters
Skylight Installament
Chimney Repair
Exterior Repair
508-689-8295
Reasy to get started? Reach out to Willard Roofing today for all your exterior needs. Our friendly team is here to assist you. Contact us now
Swillardroofing.com

Roofing

SAUNDERS & SONS ROOFING
Read our reviews at the Better Business Bureau. A+ rating and accredited member since 2009.
Call Bill Toll-Free
1-866-961-Roof
508-765-0100
Lifetime material warranty & 25 yr. labor warranty available
MA Reg #153955
CSL #095459
CT-HIC #0638641
Fully Insured, Free Estimates
Family Owned and Operated
Now Accepting All Major Credit Cards
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+

Got Space?
we do.
Contact Mikaela Today
774-200-7308
mikaela@
stonebridgepress.news

QCC offers free tax prep through VITA program

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is participating in the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for the current tax season. Individuals who make $67,000 or less per year can receive free tax preparation services from VITA volunteers, who have been certified by the IRS.

"It's a great experience for the students and builds a sense of community," said Associate Professor of Accounting Eduardo Rivas, who coordinates QCC's involvement with VITA, explaining that volunteers get to work with people from a wide variety of ages, abilities and cultures.

Students from any discipline can join the VITA program, but many are in the Business Administration and Accounting programs.

QCC student Joshua Roman has worked in finance for years at his family's business, but with the owner's retirement approaching, he wanted to show his clients that he can offer the most current knowledge and experience through his credentials. In addition to bolstering his career, he has enjoyed the volunteer aspect of VITA.

"It's really rewarding. We were able to help an elderly couple acquire a specific credit, which got them a bit more of a refund than they were expecting," Roman recalled. "To them, it felt life changing."

Many students participating in the VITA program also commented on the soft skills they have gained from hands-on experience with actual clients. More than just telling clients how much they will receive or owe, volunteers educate them on how the process works and ways to improve their tax situations for the future.

Wanda Morales had never volunteered before but has been excited to help people with their tax preparation. She said she improved her communication skills through the interactions she's had in the program.

"Sometimes, it's a difficult situation, so you need patience to explain to people why they owe because they don't have enough withholdings," Wanda commented.

According to Arielle Bento, who wants to pursue a career in accounting, she's learning about confidentiality and real-world financial situations.

"Taking calls for the program has really helped me build my confidence," Bento commented.

Bento was recently selected for the Local Finance Commonwealth Fellowship, a paid internship program that will focus on municipal finance practices.

Melvin Minaya noted that the hands-on experience in the program is not only helping his self-assurance, but also building trust in the Spanish speakers who he assists with translation.

"I'm getting all this experience at a young age. I know how to treat people, what the questions are going to be and how I'm going to answer. I have the confidence to do it and the mentality to focus," Minaya said.

QCC's VITA program operates out of the Main South CDC in Worcester, but also offers tax preparation services remotely for qualifying participants. The VITA program runs through April 11.

To make an appointment with the VITA program visit getyourrefund.org/mscdc, call 508-752-6181 or email vita@qcc.mass.edu. More information is available at QCC.edu/vita.

Food Truck Festival returns May 10

SPENCER — The Throwdown! 2025 Food Truck Festival will be held Saturday, May 10 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Spencer Fairgrounds, 49 Smithville Rd. Admission $5 at the gate (children under 12 free).

Throwdown! 2025 is Worcester County's longest running and largest annual Food Truck Festival and Craft Fair. A panel of judges and event attendees cast votes for their favorite food truck to be honored with the prestigious "Best of Worcester County Food Trucks" and the ever coveted "People's Choice" awards. Along with great food from dozens of food trucks, customers may browse among the more than 50 artisanal craft vendors, enjoy carnival style games, listen to music or participate in an array of yard games such as corn hole, giant blocks, ladder toss and other fun activities just for the kids. Enjoy craft beer and wines at this year's event from "The Stein & Vine," Central Massachusetts' favorite mobile bar service. It's a fantastic way to spend a Spring afternoon with family and friends in a beautiful outdoor setting.

WooTrucks has been the most trusted name in reliable food truck booking for over a decade. Our commissary, commercial kitchen, and base of operations for food trucks, caterers, bakers, and food entrepreneurs is located at 67 Main St., Boylston. Our fully permitted and approved facility to prepare food was established to foster a transparent, self-policing community of food trucks and food entrepreneurs practicing only the highest standards of customer service while maintaining strict adherence to health, sanitation and food codes. WooTrucks operates food truck festivals throughout the region and supplies food trucks to corporate clients, private businesses, breweries, academic institutions, and local municipalities.

QCC's Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship announced

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College kicked off StartUp Week Worcester earlier today with the announcement of the Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship, a new initiative made possible through the support of the Cliff and Susan Rucker Foundation.

The Auxilium Center for Entrepreneurship will serve as an innovation hub for QCC students of any discipline, offering workshops, mentoring, consultation services and entrepreneurship-focused curriculum.

"This has been an amazing partnership. The Center will help our students get the social capital and the guidance that they need. The generous gift of the Cliff and Susan Rucker Foundation will help empower QCC students to be catalysts for economic growth. Our students are rooted here, and they will invest in our community," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja.

The Cliff and Susan Rucker Foundation has committed $100,000 per year for a minimum of three years to support staffing and programming at the Center.

"No aspiring entrepreneur should ever feel like they're doing it alone. In partnership with QCC we're laying the groundwork for a vibrant entrepreneurial hub…in the broader Worcester community," said Jacob Rucker, private equity analyst at Rucker Investments and co-founder of Auxilium. "This will be a space where bold ideas are welcome, risk is encouraged and support is real. Auxilium will be this program's partner, mentor and constant source of encouragement."

Also speaking at the announcement was Noah MacDonald, who is studying business administration at QCC and started a group for students called Coalition of Rising Entrepreneurs (CORE) to help students such as himself who want to start their own ventures.

"I just started getting into entrepreneurship and I can see how important it is. I have very big goals for my life so I'm grasping opportunities. A place like this could give me the mentorship that I need and show me the paths I can take," MacDonald commented.

QCC Board of Trustees President Dr. Linda Maykel reflected on starting a dental practice without knowing where to turn for advice on simple business practices such as signing a commercial lease.

"To have a center now where students can come and have people to mentor them through is absolutely one of the most exciting things I've seen since I've been here," said Maykel. "The Center will also maximize QCC's existing wraparound services like counseling and the HomePlate Food Pantry & Resource Center."

The Center is set to open on QCC's main campus in Fall 2025.

MassIndie2025 Film Festival showcases Oscar-nominated "Porcelain War," bold local & regional indie talent

SOUTHBRIDGE — The annual2025Massachusetts Independent Film Festival (MassIndie2025) will be packed with indie features, shorts, documentaries, experimental, horror films and more,all made both locally and from around the country and the world including the Oscar Nominated Documentary "Porcelain War" by Brendan Bellomo and Slava Leontyev.

The festival takes place on April 24 through 26 at the Wellsworth Hotel & Conference Center, 14 Mechanic St., Southbridge, and a special screening of student films at Razzo Hall, Clark University, on Friday the 25th.

(Special note: Important Venue Update for MassIndie. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our previously announced venue, starlite in Southbridge, has closed. All three days of MassIndie—April 24 to 26—will now take place at the Wellsworth Hotel in Southbridge.)

The festival is presented by the Shawna Foundation which also runs the Shawna Shea Film Festival (SSFF) which will return to Southbridge in July. The Foundation also runs the Scandriglia Film Festival in Italy every other year in October. Our next date there is October 2026.

This year's MassIndie Film Fest includes the feature length movies "Mountain Lion" by Brooklyn Demme, film director Jonathan Demme's son, "Fakes" by John Hayeck shot entirely in Worcester; and "The Dirty Gerund Poetry Show Documentary" by Manny Alvarado about the iconic Worcester poetry reading series that has taken place at Ralph's Diner for the last 15 years.

"We also offer screenings online exclusively to the Shawna Foundation Patreon subscribers which include the feature length films "Atrabilious" by William Atticus Parker, son of Billy Crudup and Mary-Louise Parker, starring Jeffrey Wright and Leon Addison Brown and the Canadian Feature "Home Free" by Avi Ronn Federgreen starring Michelle Nolden and Art Hindle. Allowing our Patreon members this opportunity helps people who live in rural areas or who don't have the ability to travel to take part in experiencing truly independent art." said festival director Skip Shea.

The festival also has blocks full of short experimental, horror, international and documentaries made by filmmakers who chose to lean more towards art then commerce with their work showing their true independent spirit.

"In keeping with the mission of the Shawna Foundation roughly 60 percent of the movies we will screen were made by people in the underrepresented communities. But that also reflects roughly the average amount of films submitted by the same community. The Shawna Foundation has become known that we are the home for all voices. We truly believe that showing the stories of a diverse population only shows how much we have in common. We all experience sadness, joy, loss and survival. And we can all relate to that," said Shea.

Shea is an acclaimed Uxbridge-based filmmaker, writer, director and producer who founded the Shawna E. Shea Memorial Foundation Inc. in memory of his daughter Shawna E. Shea, an Uxbridge High School student and a creative and artistic young woman who died at 16 in a 1999 automobile crash.

The nonprofit organization runs a number of arts and film programs, all with the Shawna Foundation's mission to equitably promote and support students through scholarship and showcase artists in filmmaking, performance arts, poetry and other creative endeavors with a focus on underrepresented communities. The Foundation's vision is the belief that the arts and education are essential to creating a vibrant, healthy community and world.

Tickets for program blocks are $10. For the full schedule and to buy tickets, visit shawnafoundation.org.

Central Mass. Grown celebrates 10 years of supporting local farmers

STURBRIDGE — This May, Central Massachusetts Grown will celebrate ten years of helping farmers thrive and educating consumers on the importance of supporting local farms.

Central Mass Grown is a non-profit organization and one of several Buy Local organizations across Massachusetts tasked with encouraging consumers to support local agricultural businesses, especially farms and restaurants. Across Worcester County every year, more than fifteen hundred farms produce more than $87 million in agricultural products. These farms are a vital part of our economy and our community. They protect open space from development, protect wildlife habitats and water supplies, and support local businesses in their community, contributing to a strong local economy. Our local farms produce food more sustainably than what you typically find in a supermarket, grow our economy, support our neighbors, and make Central Massachusetts a better place to live.

Since it was founded in late 2014, Central Mass Grown's network has grown to cover the entire region, tirelessly promoting the importance of protecting our farmers and farmland. CMG regularly hosts workshops to help farmers improve their business and use environmentally sustainable practices. It is also active in promoting local farmers markets, helping ensure more people in Worcester County have more access to the best, highest quality food and other products. It has advocated for our farmers, especially during the COVID pandemic and in the wake of the devastating weather of 2023.

As CMG looks toward the next ten years, the need for strong small farms and local businesses is clearer and more important than ever. As we've all seen, national and international supply chains can be disrupted by political events and natural disasters. By protecting our local food system, local agriculture is creating local food security and food sovereignty. We must continue to find more sustainable ways to protect our land, increase food access, and make access to land and food equitable to all. The mission of Central Mass Grown continues to be to support local farmers and local agriculture to create a healthier community and a better, more sustainable environment.

Central Mass Grown will hold their Annual Meeting celebrating their tenth year on Friday, May 2 at Deep Roots Distillery in Sturbridge. More information can be found on their Web site at centralmassgrown.org.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 4 Ridgewood Drive, Auburn, MA 01501

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Robert J Tatro to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, and now held by **TH MSR Holdings LLC f/k/a Matrix Financial Services Corporation**, said mortgage dated August 20, 2020 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 63098, Page 179, said mortgage was assigned from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation to Matrix Financial Services Corporation by assignment dated April 6, 2023 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 68996, Page 386; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on** May 8, 2025 at 01:00 PM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Auburn, Worcester County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point in the easterly line of Ridgewood Drive, at the most northerly corner of the premises to be conveyed, which point is at the most westerly corner of lot 41 on a plan hereinafter referred to; Thence S. 30° 59' 30" E. one hundred fifty-four and twelve hundredths (154.12) feet to a point; Thence N. 80° 14' 30" W one hundred eighty and ninety-two hundredths (180.92) feet to a point in the easterly line of Ridgewood Drive; Thence N. 16° 44' 20" E. by the easterly line of Ridgewood Drive, forty-five and eighty-two-hundredths (45.82) feet to a point; Thence by a curve to the right of the radius of which is twenty (20) feet, distance of fourteen and seventy-five hundredths (14.75) feet to a point; Thence N. 59° 0' 30" E. by the easterly line of Ridgewood Drive, eighty-nine and seventy hundredths (89.70) feet to the point of BEGINNING. containing 12,345 square feet of land, more or less, and being lot 42 on a plan entitled "Central Estates" Subdivision by Mr. Alex M. Pappas of Auburn, Mass. June 1953, prepared by R.B. Cullinan, registered professional engineer and filed for record in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 190, Plan 42. Being the same premises conveyed to the mortgagors by Deed recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 16063 page 191.

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

For Mortgagor's Title see deed dated February 10, 1994 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 16063, Page 191.

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 TH MSR Holdings LLC f/k/a Matrix Financial Services Corporation
Present Holder of the Mortgage
(401) 217-8701
April 4, 2025
April 11, 2025
April 18, 2025

LEGALS

(SEAL)
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT
Docket No. 25 SM 000959
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO:
Zdzislawa Kumor
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Auburn, numbered 3 Zabelle Avenue, given by Zbigniew Kumor and Zdzislawa Kumor to Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.,** dated **March 28, 2011,** and r**ecorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 47236, Page 47, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated April 13, 2022, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 67727, Page 9,** 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 o**n or before 05/12/2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 3/31/2025
Attest:
25-048306 I FC01
3/31/2025
Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
April 11, 2025

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. WO25P0912EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Estate Of:
Judith Gladding Reilly
Also Known As:
Judith G. Reilly
Date of Death: January 18, 2025
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of :
Petitioner **Warner S. Fletcher** of **Worcester MA**
a Will has been admitted to informal probate
Warner S. Fletcher of **Worcester MA**
has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **without** Surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
April 11, 2025

COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
Docket 25 SM 000971
ORDER OF NOTICE
TO:
Jessica A. O'Connell a/k/a Jessica A. Moody
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq):
Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Fremont Home Loan Trust 2006-3, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-3
claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Oxford, numbered 6 McKinstry Driv**e, given by **Jessica A. O'Connell** to **Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Fremont Investment & Loan, its successors and assigns, dated August 24, 2006, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39668, Page 143, as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated September 20, 2013, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 55089, Page 125, and further affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated December 21, 2022, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 68938, Page 241**, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's/Defendants' Servicemembers status.
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 5/12/2025 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on 3/31/ 2025
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
April 11, 2025
April 18, 2025

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. W025C0076CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
In the matter of:
Sahmina Grace Oriaku Ekeh
A **Petition to Change Name of MInor** has been filed by
Sahmina Grace Oriaku Ekeh
of equesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Sahmina Klin Mensah
IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 04/08/2025 at 10 a.m. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 11, 2024
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 11, 2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO22P4236EA
Estate of:
Dorothy M Hultin
Date of Death: 10/08/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Martha A Hammond** of **Charlton MA**
requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including a determination of testacy and heirs at law, the allowance of a final account, 1st and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
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 **04/29/2025**. 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.
Witness, Hon. Leilah A Keamy,
First Justice of this Court
March 28, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman, Register of Probate
April 11, 2025

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. WO25P1001EA
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
Estate Of:
Margaret A. Lapierre
Also Known As:
Maragaret Ann Lapierre
Date of Death: November 26, 2024
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of :
Petitioner **William F. Lapierre** of **Douglas MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate
William F. Lapierre of **Douglas MA**
has been informally appointed as Personal Representative of said estate to serve **without** Surety on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
April 11, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Level 3-Critical Drought-Central Region
Re Posted: April 04, 2025
On November 07, 2024, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental affairs (EEA) issued a Level 3-Critical Drought Declaration for the Central Region of Massachusetts and it has not been lifted to date. As recommended by EEA, the Town is following the guidance and response actions in the Massachusetts Drought Plan and instituting a MANDATORY non-essential water use restriction as required by our MassDEP Water Management Act Registration. Also, in addition to the State drought restriction, Bigelow Well our largest single producing source remains offline under construction for PFAS treatment. Without this source, it has been challenging to keep up with daily water system demand.
These mandatory water restrictions are for daily "non-essential" water use from public water sources and shall be in effect until the drought is lifted by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs or by the Webster Water Department.
Non-essential outdoor water uses that are subject to mandatory restrictions include:

- irrigation of lawns via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems;
- filling swimming pools;
- washing of vehicles, except in a commercial car wash or as necessary for operator safety; and
- washing exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply surface treatments such as paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement or cement.

When you CAN use water outdoors:
The following "essential uses" as defined by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) may be allowed, before 9:00am and after 5:00pm, when mandatory restrictions are in place:
a. for health or safety reasons
b. irrigation to establish a new lawn and new plantings during the months of May and September;
c. irrigation of public parks and recreation fields by means of automatic sprinklers;
d. by regulation;
e. for the production of food and fiber
f. irrigation of gardens, flowers and ornamental plants by means of a hand-held hose or drip irrigation system; and irrigation of lawns by means of a hand-held hose;
g. for the maintenance of livestock; or
h. to meet the core functions of a business.
Nonessential uses are those other than essential uses.
Enforcement will include:

- Written warning of first offense;
- $50 fine for second offense;
- $100 fine for each subsequent offense;
- **Each day of violation constitutes a separate offense.**

April 11, 2025
April 18, 2025

TOWN OF WEBSTER WATER SEWER COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE-
The Webster Water Sewer Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 6:30PM at the Town Hall in the Selectman's Meeting Room, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA, to establish FY 2026 Water and Sewer Rates. The hearing will include a Water and Sewer rate study presentation from Tighe & Bond. All interested parties are invited to attend.
April 11, 2025
April 18, 2025

DUDLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Public Hearing Notice
A **Public Hearing** will be held at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street in Dudley, MA at 6:00PM on April 23, 2025. To consider a **Notice of Intent** of Roger Puzo for the property located at: 6 Michael Lane, Dudley, MA for the construction of an addition, pool house and replacing the existing deck and pool.
This is a Public Hearing under the requirements of G.L. CH> 131 40, as amended. Plans are available at the Dudley Conservation office on Mondays and Tuesdays from11:30 AM – 4:30 PM. For more information, call 508-949-8011.
April 11, 2025

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. W025P1128EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Frank W Zayonc
Also known as:
Frank William Zayonc
Date of Death: 02/04/2025
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by
Paul E Forgit of **Oxford MA**
requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Paul E Forgit of **Oxford MA**
be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/29/2025.**
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: March 31, 2025
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
April 11, 2025

For Legal Advertising Information Call 508-909-4127 email: legals@stonebridgepress.news

RETIREES

continued from page A1

ing school projects prioritizes needs. She said it hasn't been done since 2016 and was "a little unorganized, but we got through it."

Speaking of MSBA projects, Lisa Kontoes updated the board on the Bartlett work. She described the last parts of Phase 1 as "organized chaos" as the contractor finishes internal and site work aiming to meet the "substantial completion date" later this month before shifting to Phase 2. She noted there will probably be "blind spots" of testing and inspection to address.

Kontoes also summarized the recent federal funds audit the district completed as "overall really positive" with one finding – a need to "certify time and effort" for all staff funded by federal grants. Later, she added the district is participating in a DESE focus group on the impact of the Student Opportunity Act and federal ESSER funding on local districts over recent years.

She also got to the budget itself, saying recent discussion with the town and internally resulted in another reduction to $27,737,389. This time, it's eliminating four positions, some software and reducing some special ed tuition. The four jobs are a school-year administrative assistant at Park Ave, a special ed teacher at the Middle School (being shifted to the BRYT grant), and a music teacher and re-engagement specialist at Bartlett.

"All of our neighboring communities are in pretty much the same shape," Pierangeli said, noting the budget is "contingent on using additional funding from other sources in town" that will require a conversation at Town Meeting.

"We're trying to be as creative as possible through this difficult time," she added.

Sheila Blythe said she likes the fact they've been able to maintain extracurricular activities and sports, and praised "all the teachers who take the time" to run them.

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

OVERRRIDE

continued from page A1

major throughfares. Among other things, that means numerous car accidents and traffic incidents and sometimes suspects being pursued through town. MPI found Oxford was on the low end of those towns in number of officers but high in call volume. But Daniels said he can't do much traffic enforcement now; the department has tried to do it by grant funding, but often has had to pull that person to other events.

Likewise, he said extra officers will reduce call response time. As it is now, if they're all at an incident on one end of town, it can take about 15 minutes to get to the other side, depending on traffic and time of day, and Oxford relies on mutual aid pretty often (as other towns do). He said the average call response time is seven to 10 minutes.

Additionally, the state is foisting various training requirements on the towns without adequate funding. Atop the regular 40 hours a year, certain officers need specialty refresher courses that add an extra 18 hours a year. Departments have to backfill all of those shifts, usually with overtime, he told the committee.

Looking at the big picture, Daniels said he feels "a lot of the departments, including my own, have to be heavily scrutinized with an audit on how the money's being spent." That would improve municipal transparency, which he noted there isn't "a whole lot of" right now.

Today's local budget issues are being largely blamed on spiking health insurance (up $1.5 million) and special education costs (both not unique to Oxford), and he said he thinks the state needs to "invest heavily in our schools and public safety. Without those, you're not going to need money for infrastructure or much of anything else" because those are "what draws people to the community."

The Finance Committee did not make a decision on the police budget or override at that meeting.

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

CAMP

continued from page A1

Each year, the program features a new curriculum inspired by some of our nation's most world-changing inventors - the National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees. This year's Discover program encourages children to be confident in their ideas and explore their innovativeness through hands-on activities including:

In Control™: Campers take control of their innovation journey as they head out on the ultimate road trip. From assembling a custom control panel with a transmitter and receiver, to creating a prototype of their own artificial intelligence-inspired bobblehead assistant, they invent their way around every bump and twist in the road.

Illusion Workshop™: Children discover the mesmerizing world of illusions, where things are not always as they appear. Through hands-on activities and experiments, they go behind the scenes of the tech tricks used in theme parks, animated films and theater. Using design and electrical engineering skills, campers build an animation device to bring drawings to life.

Claw Arcade™: Campers use their creativity and engineering skills to construct a functional Claw Arcade out of cardboard. They explore physics in easy-to-reach ways as they make hands-on discoveries about the science behind claw machines.

Penguin Launch™: Children embark on an eco-expedition to investigate penguins and the ice and snow of Antarctica. Along the way, they discover the fascinating connections between the technology and training used to explore Antarctica and outer space. From flippers and flingers to exploring high-wingers, children are sure to have a blast as they propel Pengy, a research assistant penguin, across the South Pole and beyond!

"My son recently attended Camp Invention, and it was an absolutely phenomenal experience for him," said the parent of a 2024 Camp Invention camper. "The camp's focus on creativity, problem solving and innovation truly sparked his curiosity and imagination."

All local Camp Invention programs are facilitated and taught by qualified educators who reside and teach in the community. Camp Invention serves 140,000 students every year and partners with more than 2,600 schools and districts across the nation. For more information or to register, visit invent.org/camp.

FOOD DRIVE

continued from page A1

compared to other holidays as a time of significant need for local communities.

"Everybody gives at Thanksgiving and Christmas, but very few people give at this time of year," said Anderson. "That's why it's so important for our boys to do this. They each get 15 bags to pass out to friends, family and neighbors. We solicited at St. Anthony's and the Dudley Congregational Church because we have boys at both churches, and also at Park N' Shop."

Allowing the scouts to get involved teaches them the value of supporting their community and how even small efforts can change lives for the better and support those who may be struggling. Further emphasizing the significance of the day, Anderson revealed the need for 2025 is even more significant than in prior years.

"There's a 33 percent increase this year over last year of people, local families and individuals, that need food that weren't getting it last year. It's important that these boys know about their community service and how it impacts their daily life and how they can make a difference. This really helps them to see that," said Anderson.

The food drive is just one of many community events Troop 273 hosts each year. Those looking to support their cause or to get involved in local scouting can learn more by visiting the "Troop 273, Dudley, MA" Facebook page.

The Webster Dudley Food Share is a nonprofit providing food security services to residents of Dudley and Webster. Those looking to volunteer or donate, or those in need of food assistance can email wdfoodshare@verizon.net or call 508-943-9171.

Safe boating certificate courses scheduled at Milford and Webster locations

REGION — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing three upcoming boating safety classes that meet current state mandated educational requirements.

The Boat America course is offered in a one-day format developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters by boat. Basic knowledge and skills are needed to have safe and enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Basic marlinespike seamanship (knots etc.) will also be included. Successful completion of the course will certify any minor, from 12 to 16 years of age, to operate a powerboat, including a Personal Water Craft/Jet Ski (for 16 & 17-year-old operators), on all Massachusetts waters; in conjunction with the Mass. Environmental Police. Approved by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) it will also cover the requirements to operate a vessel in most other states & many countries where boating safety education is mandatory, including Rhode Island and Connecticut.

The Hanson-Milone Boater Safety Act, signed into Mass. Law January 8, will now require all Mass. motorboat operators to complete an approved Safe Boating Certificate course before April 1, 2026 for anyone born after Jan. 1, 1998, and by April 1, 2028 for boaters born before Jan. 1, 1998. Enforcement of the new law will begin on September 1, 2026. This course meets the future Mass. requirement. Most boating insurance companies offer a discount on premiums for successful completion of this course.

Participants 16 years old and under must be accompanied, in person, by a registered parent/guardian. Space is limited, so register soon:

Milford High School – Saturdays – May 3 and June 7 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Milford High School courses offered at 31 West Fountain St., Milford.

Registration is managed through the Milford Community School Use Program,

https://milfordcommunityprogram.activityreg.com/ss_t2.wcs

Adult-Winter-2024/2025 and Spring 2025 – Educational - Boat America Certificate Class

or call Laura Farrell (508) 478-1119, email lfarrell@milfordma.com;

The registration deadline is six days prior to course,

For additional USCGAux. information: phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or (508) 478-3778.

Webster Fire Department – Saturday, May 17 – 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Webster Fire Department Classroom, 55 Thompson Rd., Webster.

Contact our Public Education Officer Phil Kubat for registration or additional information: email phil.uscgaux@verizon.net or call (508) 478-3778.

To locate these and other USCG Auxiliary courses (BA and BS&S) that will meet certification requirements go to: https://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/index.php.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit www.cgaux.org

Community invited to DWC Scholarship Awards meeting

WEBSTER — All are invited to the Dudley Woman's Club Scholarship Awards Club Meeting at 6:30 p.m. April 10 at the PACC in Webster.

Please join us as we meet and celebrate the four remarkable high school seniors from Dudley, Charlton and Webster who were selected to receive the club's annual 1,000 college scholarship award. Our voluntary Giving Project for this meeting is Summer Playground Items for the Webster-Dudley Boys & Girls Club.

For more information, please visit www.dudleywomansclub.org.

www.StonebridgePress.com

QCC to screen addiction documentary filmed in Worcester

WORCESTER — Quinsigamond Community College is hosting a screening of the documentary film "Recovery City" on Monday, April 7 at 6 p.m. in the Hebert Auditorium of the main campus on 670 West Boylston St., Worcester. This event is free and open to the public. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with the director and cast members.

"Recovery City" was directed by Lisa Olivieri and follows four women from Worcester who are either in recovery from drug addiction, or helping others with addiction recovery. The film received the Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 2024 GlobeDocs Film Festival and the 2024 Provincetown International Film Festival.

"Everyone's lives are touched by addiction and being able to pull back the curtain in our own community and see what these people's journeys have been, will be an eye-opening experience," said QCC's Director of Health and Wellness Heather Lukas, organizer of the screening.

Lukas wanted to screen the film on campus to spread awareness about local issues such as the hazardous effects of opioid abuse. Lukas has completed work with the Worcester Department of Public Health's opioid taskforce and the state's Community Naloxone Program (CNP), which has allowed QCC to offer education and distribution of naloxone with the goal of preventing death from an opioid overdose.

"The fact that this was filmed in Worcester over five years, doesn't show active drug use, but shows the featured women doing well really sets this film apart from other documentaries on this subject," Lukas said, adding, "This is a powerful film that is a must watch."

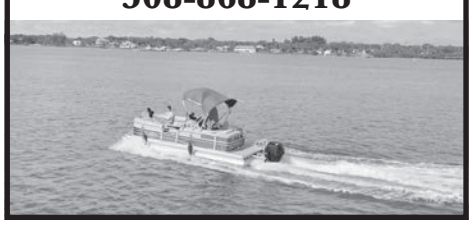
Town-to-Town
Home Town Service, BIG TIME RESULTS
CLASSIFIEDS
774-200-7308
Place your ad today!
VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

FOSTER PARENTS WANTED:
Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central MA To Provide Foster Care To Children In Need. 24/7 Support Generous Reimbursement, $1000 Sign-On Bonus. Call For Details.
Devereux Therapeutic Foster Care.
(508)829-6769
Devereux ADVANCED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

For Sale Uxbridge
Antique Lane Cedar Chest
Cherry finish with lock
$350.00
Call
774-246-9599

WAR RELICS & WAR SOUVENIERS WANTED:
WWII & EARLIER
CASH WAITING!
Helmets, Swords, Daggers, Bayonets, Medals, Badges, Flags, Uniforms, etc.
Over 40 years' experience.
Call David
(508) 688-0847.
I'LL COME TO YOU!

Advertise Here

2006 Excellent Running 50 Horse Power Yamaha Pontoon Boat
Includes Low Mile Trailer
$10,900 OBO
508-868-1218




REAL ESTATE

HOPE REAL ESTATE GROUP
43 East Main Street Webster, MA 01570
Finest Realtor Associates to Serve You!

hope2own.com
508.943.4333
Sharon Pelletier - Owner Broker
Licensed in MA, CT & RI

We Want Your Listings!

STURBRIDGE - 66 WESTWOOD DR
1640' FRONTAGE - 11.61 ACRES! WATERFRONT LAND



NEW PRCE!! 1640' direct waterfront on Cedar Lake! Secluded 11.61 Acres - Pristine, Undeveloped, Private & Serene! Potential for up to 5 house lots! 119' roadfront w/Gravel Drive Access to Land & Lake! 183 ac+- Cedar Lake is full recreational - A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity! **$750,000**

*** June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan* Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * *Bryan Pelletier***

WEBSTER - 25 SLATER ST



Location! Location! This Oversized & Well Maintained 2 Family offers 2,472 sf Total! Apt 1 >1st Floor Unit >has 1,052 sf, 3 BRs & 1 Bath|Apt 2 >2nd & 3rd Floor Unit has 2 levels >1,420 sf, 5 BRs, 2 Baths. Corner lot w/.30 acre, 22'x22' Two Car Garage! 12'x16'Concrete Patio. Apartments fully occupied. PLEASE DO NOT TRESPASS onto the Property. **$559,900**

OXFORD - 25 SUTTON AVENUE



Location ~ Location! Move-in ready Commercial Office &/or Retail Space ! Ideal for >>> Small Businesses, Companies looking to expand, Banks, Medical facilities etc...2 Level Free Standing Building on a Corner Lot - Located in an Active area of Restaurants & Retail 1 Minute to Rt 395 & Rt 20...Zoned GB 10 units - .71 Acre - 26 Parking Spots **$1,150,000**

Featured Listing

WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LISTING!

Snug Harbor Villa!



WEBSTER LAKE WATERFRONT LIVING AT IT'S FINEST! THIS 4000+/- SF ** THE VILLA'S at SNUG HARBOR! ** END UNIT IS TRULY A RARE FIND! ONE of ONLY 6 UNITS** > Custom Built w/Special Features & Upgrades. Offers 4 BRs - 3 are Primary BR Suites w/private baths, 4-1/2 Baths Total!! The Outstanding direct lakefront location provides exceptional Southern panoramic views across Middle Pond, a boat dock, & full recreation activities like swimming, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding - - whatever Floats Your Boat ;-) ! Perfect setup for entertaining family, friends & guests! Enjoy All 4 Spectacular Seasons! It's more than a home - it's a Life Style! **$1,250,000**

WEBSTER - 22 COOPER RD.



New Construction! 2nd of 4 Homes to be built! Imagine Yourself in a New Craftsman Style home - Tucked away on Cooper Rd. Near Webster Lake w/Access to Lakeside Beach/Boat Ramp. 4 BRS., 2-1/2 Baths! Walkout slider from Basement. 2 Car Garage! **$649,900**

SOUTHBRIDGE - 140-152 HAMILTON



13 Units - 4 Well Maintained & Updated Multi-Family Buildings with 2 Commercial Spaces! Located within the " "Central Core" District of Downtown Southbridge!! .... Mixed Use Zoning !! Heated Garage Space - Room enough for up to 18 Vehicles!! **$1,300,000**

On the shores of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Featured Listing!!



Webster Lake Waterfront
88 Union Point
Excellent opportunity! Natural Western Facing Shoreline-Beautiful Sunsets - Views of Middle to North Pond! 7,000 +/- Sq. Ft. Waterfront Lot! Winterized cottage Fireplaced living room ! 12 X 30 one car garage. Beautiful Pine trees at the water's edge! - **$660,000**

Featured New Listing!
Webster Lake Waterfront Lots
Bates Point Rd

In Beautiful, Calm, *Winter Cove*
Lot# 1004R Natural Level Shore Line
5000+/- Sq Ft **$350,000 ON DEPOSIT**
Lot# 1005R Natural Level Shore line
7800 +/- Sq Ft **$380,000 ON DEPOSIT**



Webster Lake Waterfront
44 West Point Rd
1st Time Offered!! On Killdeer Island! Beautiful Waterfront Property. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, custom kitchen, Indoor/Outdoor Fireplace! Entertainers Dream! Beautiful Sunsets! Large Garage
SORRY, SOLD **$1,270,000**

REAL ESTATE



PUT YOUR TRUST IN US
TEAMWORK AND EXPERIENCE
Jo-Ann Szymczak 774-230-5044
Diane Luong 774-239-2937
Maria Reed 508-873-9254
Bob Berk 508-367-9226
Vicki Bennett, Client Coordinator
ReMax Vision • 25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

CHARLTON- New Construction



*AVAILABLE
*3.5 Baths * Gas Fireplace
* 6+ Acres
*Hardwood Floors Throughout
12 Elliot Drive $675,000

DUDLEY



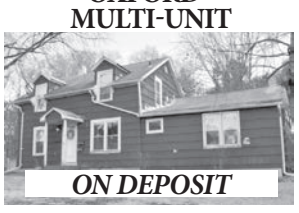
*New Septic being installed
* 6 Rooms
* Updated Kitchen, Windows, Heating
*Level Lot * 2 Car Garage
36 Center Rd $515,000

HOPEDALE- Condo Alternative



54 Hill St. $385,000

OXFORD- MULTI-UNIT



*3 (1 Bedroom Units)
*New Septic
*2.34 Acres
65 Charlton St. $395,000

DUDLEY- SZYMCZAK SELLS!



*2 Baths * Hardwood Floors
* 3 Bedroom
*New Septic System
29 Charlton Dr. $450,000

MARLBOROUGH- Waterviews



*2 Baths *4 Bedroom
*Young Roof, Siding, Windows, Central and Updated Heating System
6 Blaiswood Ave $629,900

MEET YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

Perfect for Realtors, Mortgage Companies, Banks, Real Estate Attorneys, Home Inspectors, Chimney Inspectors, Lead Removal businesses, Insurance Companies, etc… any business involved in the buying or selling of real estate.

To join this section, please contact your local sales rep, 774-200-7308 or email mikaela@stonebridgepress.news



ERA Key Realty Services
Donna Flannery Realtor®
508-612-6771
Donnaflanneryrealtor.com
Donnaflannery@erakey.net
OVER 30 YEARS SELLING LOCAL REAL ESTATE
NATIONAL ERA FINALIST TWICE FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE
TOP AGENT YEAR AFTER YEAR FOR # OF UNITS SOLD & SOLD DOLLAR VOLUME
ERA HALL OF FAME
415B Main Street Spencer, MA 01562



When Experience and Commitment Matter
Mary Vigliatura Stolarczyk
ABR, GRI, CRS, C2EX RE/MAX Hall of Fame
RE/MAX Vision
508.612.1382
MESRealty.com
Mary@WillSellit.com

Got Space? we do.
Contact Mikaela Today
774-200-7308
mikaela@stonebridgepress.news

Mary Hicks Realtor®
Over 25 years experience!
CENTURY 21 NORTH EAST



Direct: 508.612.4794
Home Office: 508.867.2222
www.maryahicks.com
CENTURY 21! A NAME AROUND FOR OVER HALF A CENTURY
160 B Main Street, Spencer, MA 01562
mhicks@c21ne.com
Each office is independently owned and operated.



Sandi Grzyb
I look forward to serving you in all of your real estate ventures!
• Buying
• Selling
• Investing



Contact Info:
774.230.3500|508.943.6960
sandigrzyb@aol.com
65 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA 01501



"I SOLVE REAL ESTATE PROBLEMS"
ReMax Professional Associates
Licensed in MA & CT
We need properties to sell – any type!
Conrad Allen
508.400.0438
callen1995@aol.com
RE/MAX Professional Associates



WEBSTER COMING SOON!!!
• 1200 Sq. Ft. Ranch
• 2.5 Baths •3 Bedrooms
• Livingroom w/ Wood Stove
• Garage • Lower Level Family Room

Jo-Ann Szymczak
CRS, GRI, SRES
508-943-7669
774-230-5044
ReMax Vision
25 Union St., Worcester MA 01608
CALL JO-ANN FOR A MARKET ANALYSIS Licensed in MA & CT

Master Masons hold myCHIP community outreach event

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE
SOUTHBRIDGE

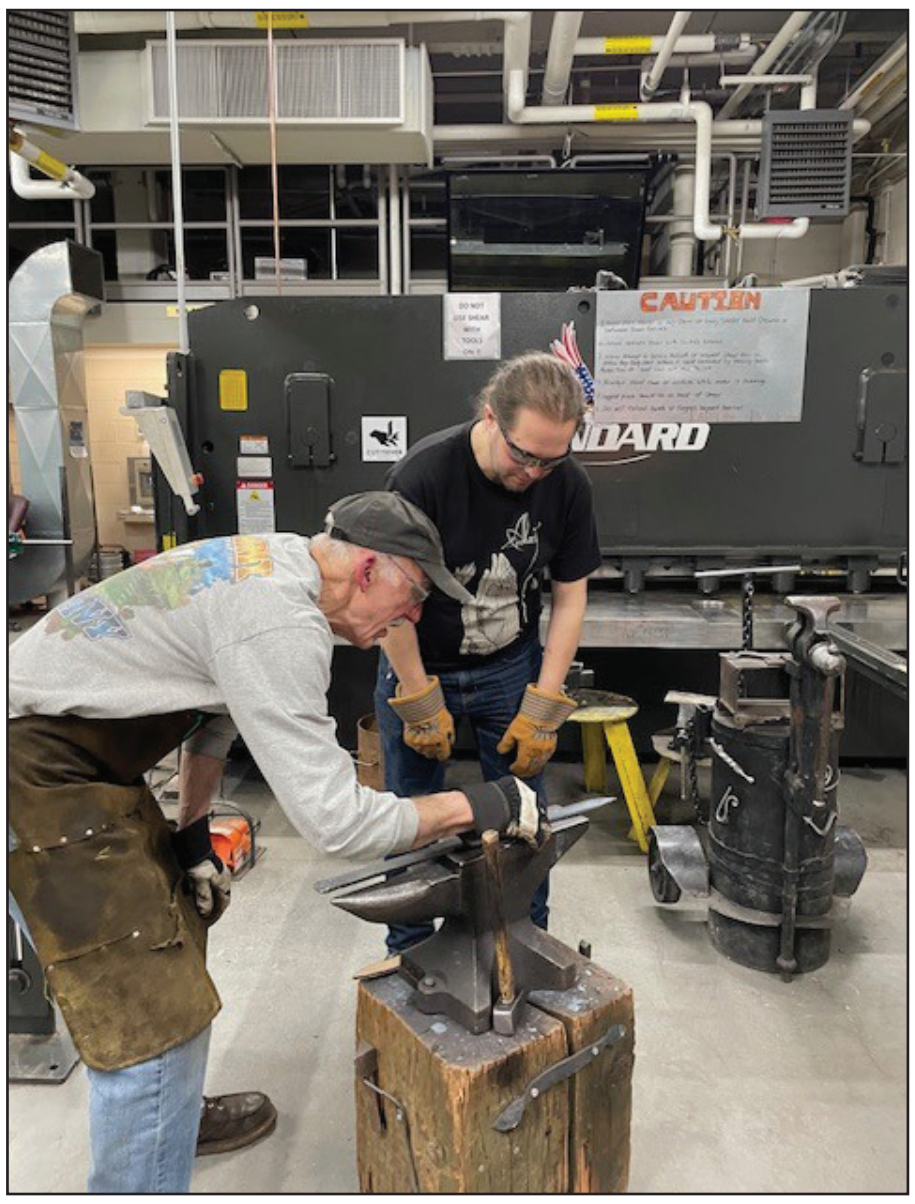
MILLBURY — On Saturday April, 5, Masons from the 24th Masonic District gathered at the Millbury Senior Center to a large crowd of waiting children to get there identification kits completed.

This Massachusetts Youth Child Identification Program called (myChip) was sponsored by The Olive Branch Masonic Lodge from Douglas.

Committee Chairmen Brother Dean Moss of the Olive Branch Lodge asked me if I knew that more than a million children are reported missing in the United States every year. While most are found, many are not. I was surprised and shocked to hear this. This Masonic myChip Program is the most comprehensive service of its kind anywhere. It is free of charge to the public, and all the identifying items generated during this myChip community event are given to the child's family.

At these myChip events, the Freemasons set up the equipment and enlist the aid of other Masons from through the 24th Masonic District and volunteers, as necessary, to generate and complete these child identification kits. Each child progresses through several stations taking about 10-15 minutes to get all the required information for the entire process of that station. Some of the required information are voice recognition, fingerprints, video clip and photo identification, to name a few to be used as required in this identification process. MYCHIP provides Law Enforcement with important tools to assist in the speedy and safe recovery of a missing child. Through the benevolence of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and its membership, we are pleased to present this service free of charge. Massachusetts Freemasons are committed to offering this program to the families of Massachusetts on an ongoing basis. The information recorded is presented to the child's parent or guardian on a USB drive wallet card to take home for safekeeping.

All information is confidential, and the Masonic myChip retains nothing but the permission form when the kits are complete. All other data is permanently erased after the child's USB drive wallet card is prepared. Privacy is our number one focus. If you would like more information or would like to request one of these Masonic mychip events in your area, go to www.mychip.org to read more information and to schedule an event near you.



Courtesy

Unlock the secrets of ancient craftsmanship with the masterful guidance of an expert blacksmith as part of Bay Path Regional Vocational School's evening program. With more than 30 years of experience, the blacksmithing classes offer a rare chance to immerse yourself in the age-old art of forging. The highly sought-after course, "Forging a Full Tang Knife," has drawn so much interest that additional sessions have been added, only to fill up rapidly. Rooted in his extensive work at the Dancing Hammer Forge in Spencer, where he has dedicated more than 25 years to crafting everything from railings and gates to intricate jewelry and artful sculptures, this blacksmith's expertise is unparalleled. For those seeking a tailored experience, private lessons are available, offering an opportunity to learn directly from a seasoned professional. To explore more about his impressive work and distinctive approach, visit dancinghammer.com.



Courtesy

Center in front of the height scale is a very happy young man 8-year-old Joesph Posterro of North Grosvenordale after completing his stations and holding his I.D. paperwork and USB drive wallet card. Behind him are volunteer Masons from the 24th Masonic District.

308 Lakeside
Casual Waterfront Dining on Lake Lashaway
EASTER BRUNCH BUFFET
10am-3pm reservations required
$39.99/person
12 and under $12.99
Call to make your reservation today!
MUSIC BINGO EVERY THURSDAY 7 TO 9
2022 BEST OF CENTRAL MASS
Get your comedy tickets for April 5th featuring Steve Sweeney!
OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK
11 - CLOSE
CLOSED MONDAYS
Please visit our website or Facebook page for our full menu.
Please call 774-449-8333 for reservations, take-out or reserve online 308lakeside.com
Check out the new Fall/Winter menu
308 Main Street
East Brookfield
774-449-8333
308lakeside.com
Find us on Facebook





Courtesy

LOCAL YOUTH PLACES FIRST IN FREE THROW COMPETITION

On Saturday, April 5, Massachusetts State Knights of Columbus Council held its annual State Free Throw Championship in Holliston. Representing Webster/Dudley Council #228 and District #10 in the 13 year old boy division was Jordan Ashton of Charlton. Jordan hit 19 of 25 shots and was presented with the State First Place Trophy by State Deputy, Robert Schwarz. Council # 228 congratulates Jordan for a job well done! Pictured, left to right: State Deputy Robert Schwarz, Jordan Ashton, Program Director Mike Kerrigan and Competiton Coordinator Paul Perry.

DA's Victim Witness Advocate recognized with award

REGION — The Worcester County District Attorney's Office congratulates Kylie O'Rourke, who serves as the office's Victim Witness Advocate.

Last week, the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association presented O'Rourke with this year's Gerald D. Downing Advocate of the Year Award.

"Kylie is a passionate and empathetic advocate for some of our most vulnerable victims, making sure their voices are heard and they have the support they need," read a statement released by the DA's Office.



Courtesy

Kylie O'Rourke, who serves as the Victim Witness Advocate for the Worcester County District Attorney's Office, recently won a major award.