

OXFORD FALL TOWN MEETING

October 2nd at 7PM
Oxford High School
100 Caruncle Drive

See Warrant Articles
and more info at:

www.townmeetinginfo.com



Auburn News

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Friday, September 27, 2024

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Oxford Town Meeting set for Oct. 2

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — On Wednesday, Oct. 2, Town Meeting voters will be deciding on six warrant articles, three of which could have far reaching impacts.

A few town officials summarized them last week in a "Virtual Warrant" presentation on the town's cable channel.

"We want voters to come prepared, educated and informed," said Manager Jen Callahan. She also urged people to attend "even if you've never been involved in town government."

Article 6 is the biggest item – a complete revamping of the way Oxford handles earth removal. The proposed bylaw text, available in the town clerk's office or on the website, is quite long, but boils down to a few major changes.

According to Planner Eric Rumsey, it would shift authority for permitting to the Planning Board from the Selectmen; add a section addressing "filling;" address new technology, stormwater, and other requirements; allows up to 500 cubic yards or removal without a permit; and generally seeks to "minimize hazard and protect our residents here in town." It also increases the required bonds and updates performance standards.

Regarding filling, he said his prior town saw issues that had major impact on neighbors, such as changing runoff flow, but they couldn't do anything about it because their bylaws lacked such language.

Regarding the 500 yard allowance, he said the goal was to allow "homeowners to enjoy their property as they see fit." That quantity "is a lot," and goes beyond "small landscaping operations." By comparison, he added, pool installation needs between 50 and 100 cubic yards.

Manager Jen Callahan said this item seeks to update a bylaw that's decades old. The original version was in the general bylaws before 1987, when it was shifted to zoning. But the text still required permits from the selectmen, and subsequent years saw the Planning Department's capabilities to handle projects like this develop.

Selectboard Chair Mark Lee noted at their last meeting he'd be "glad to give up jurisdiction of this item to the Planning Board." He described the changes as "head and shoulders a vast improvement over what we had."

John Eul agreed, noting the previous text was just two pages; it's now 14. The lack of detail forced the town "into negotiating with developers to get what [we] want," but the new version gives "regulatory boards the teeth" to do things without being "too draconian," he said.

Callahan said Rumsey Turn To **MEETING** page **A10**



W/D Veterans Tournament
September 14, 2024

Courtesy

The Webster and Dudley Veterans held their annual golf tournament at The Dudley Hill Golf Club at Nichols College. The annual tournament provides much-needed support to local veterans' organizations. "With the golf committee's dedication, the local business support, the many volunteers, and the golfers themselves, our veterans will continue to be served and helped. Thank you all for your continued support and generosity," read a statement released by the organization.

Remembering "the two most powerful words: I am..."

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — When you run into Scott Maloney, it sure doesn't look like he's dead.

But for a while 20 years ago, he was.

One night in September 2004, while a senior at Worcester's Becker College, Maloney did what college kids often do – went out drinking. When he came home that night, he found he'd locked his room keys inside, and thought he could climb in by way of the window.

He didn't make it.

"Every parent's worst nightmare is receiving that phone call," Maloney said of that night. "That call" was from the hospital telling his parents to come to the ER, where they were "told to say goodbye."

He'd fallen four stories and landed on his head, leaving him officially brain dead at age 21.

But the doctors gave him long emergency surgery, and Maloney spent "weeks in a coma, months in a semi-coma," and even longer recovering the ability to talk, walk and perform other basic functions. He described that period as "the biggest challenges I've ever encountered."

Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) are extremely

widespread, but seriously undercounted. According to the National Institutes of Health Web site (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK580076/>), multiple studies have found a huge range of TBI frequency, often due to the lack of consistent recording systems in various countries and the fact many minor TBIs never get diagnosed. One study from 2019 "estimated a TBI incidence of 939 per 100,000 population [globally], which included 55.9 million mild and 5.48 million severe TBIs annually. These estimates are far higher than any other global estimates, yet are unlikely to include falsely identified cases of people with TBI, and therefore provide some idea of the extent of TBI undercounting."

In the US, the Centers for Disease Control started tracking TBIs in 1989, that page states. "The center's most recent report provides information on TBI mortality in 2017, including an estimated 61,131 TBI deaths," the site states. "...Throughout this period, TBI death rates were significantly higher for males than for females and were higher for American Indian/Alaska Native people than for other reported racial/ethnic groups. The leading causes of

TBI death included motor vehicle crashes, falls, suicide, and homicide." That same year also saw just under 224,000 TBI hospitalizations.

Of the total, 48 percent came from falls, as Maloney's did. The NIH data show a general trend of growing frequency as people get older, with a huge jump for those age 75-plus. (The lowest risks were for ages 5-14.)

"I realized I could either get better or get bitter," he recalled to a small audience at Gladys Kelly Library last week.

A big part of recovery for him was being "blessed with the ability to motivate myself" and having a "great support system" in his family.

Today, Maloney brings his experience to audiences in various forms as an effort to remind people to remember "you don't got to, you get to" do the basic tasks of life, something he almost didn't get the chance to do. The core message was to remember "the two most powerful words" – "I am..."

"The words you follow that with will dictate your future," he said, encouraging the audience to repeat after him positive thoughts about themselves. Many people experiencing loss (of personal skills, loved ones or many other things) tend to go down "a rabbit hole" of

DCRSD responds to Georgia school shooting

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — Following the latest school shooting in the United States in early September the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District Superintendent is seeking to reassure local parents that they are prepared for such an incident if it were to ever occur on their campuses.

The nation was shaken by another school shooting in early September when a 14-year-old suspect opened fire at Apalachee High School in Winder, Ga. sparking more debate across the country about gun violence, school safety, and gun laws. With such events seemingly becoming a yearly occurrence many school districts have taken it upon themselves to be proactive and implement training and response plans for if such an act were to take place. The Dudley-Charlton Regional School District was one of many to implement ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) Active Shooter Response Training and other measures in 2022 after the shooting in Uvalde, Texas and in the wake of this most recent incident Superintendent Steven Lamarche took the time to once again confirm the district's preparedness for such an event in the Dudley Charlton Regional School District.

"What I ask people to do with these tragic events, because it's what we do, is really kind of dive into them to try to understand the details of them. I know it's easy to apply to us because we're a school, but there are some unique circumstances that happen in all of these that we really dive into and try to understand so that we can ensure that we do have a safe learning environment for our students. Keep in mind the safety of our students, staff, and community is paramount to the work we do, and we are committed to taking every necessary measure to protect our learning environment," said Lamarche while addressing the Georgia shooting with the School Committee on Sept. 11.

The district has made ALICE training an essential part of onboarding staff and even worked with Nichols College on a counterterrorism training in 2022. School officials have also implemented emergency procedures and lock-down drills to ensure that students and staff respond safely and appropriately

Turn To **MALONEY** page **A10**

Turn To **SHOOTING** page **A12**

Board of Health addresses concerns over donation bins

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — Donation bins are a common site throughout plazas and parking lots across the commonwealth. It's practically expected that large parking lots would host a private donation bin associated with a non-profit usually collecting cloths or books with warnings about dumping. However, these warnings often go ignored as many of these bins tend to become prime dumping ground for unwanted products causing concerns about abuse of the drop sites.

This problem is certainly prevalent in Dudley where no less than four donation bins have become known as dumping ground for unwanted goods even as cameras, posts and signs have warned abusers of fines. The problem has become so consistent that the newest member of Dudley's Board of Health, Monica Kaufman, took it upon herself to document the rampant abuse and explore what options the Board of Health has for addressing the situation.

On Sept. 14 Kaufman drove by bins in the Park

Turn To **BINS** page **A10**



Courtesy

The Dudley Woman's Club thanks the more than 35 ladies who attended or contributed in some way to our September Meet & Greet - it was fun and informative! The DWC welcomed 14 new members that night, and we look forward to many years of shared experiences and work toward supporting and uplifting our communities. That evening, our generous DWC members donated men's and women's toiletries valued at \$175 for Together We Blossom Inc. and donated \$325 to the Roseland Park Maintenance Fund. The next DWC meeting is 6:30 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Dudley Town Hall, 71 West Main St. This meeting is all about Breast Cancer Awareness Month as we welcome representatives from Pawsitively 4 Pink who will tell us about the work they do in our communities. Rumor has it they may bring one of their furry therapy friends. Please consider joining us!

Oxford selectmen OK first housing plan

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — Selectmen voted to approve the town's first Housing Production Plan Sept 17.

According to CMRPC planner Emily Glaubitz, its key points include identifying a few areas for future housing development, specifically Oxford Center, near Sutton Ave at I-395, Orchard Hill, Old Webster Road near the Dudley line,

and near the Routes 20/56 intersection. It also lays out "four categories of strategies" to promote housing that meet town needs via "increasing local capacity" and resources, zoning and policy changes, preparation for new development, and ways to keep existing affordable homes affordable.

"We've been working really hard on putting together a good plan," Glaubitz said, noting the Planning Board adopted it Aug. 26. Now that the selectmen have also, it can go to the state for review, which will take about a month.

She noted the project started last September with background data collection and devising a townwide survey that got 344 participants. Among them were some "pretty insightful responses," which helped fuel two community forums in March, one for the general public and one mostly for seniors. Those included an overview of the project and break-out map exercises where people showed where and what kinds of homes they wanted in town.

Glaubitz said these plans are needed because towns "have to reserve 10 percent of their housing stock [to be] deemed restricted as affordable for people earning less than 80 percent of the regional median income."

Below that level, towns are "vulnerable to developers seeking comprehensive permits" under MGL Chapter 40B that override most local zoning laws.

At present, Oxford has 404 "affordable" units, but needs to reach 566 to negate that issue. Having this plan in place, however, gives the town more flexibility to manage development along the way. As long as it's adding a half percent (28 units), it becomes a "safe harbor" for a year; while adding 1 percent (56 units) would do so for two years, she said.

Her summary prompted Chair Mark Lee to ask if the plan would enable the town to require developers to add affordable units into their proposals. Glaubitz said that would require "some sort of inclusionary zoning policy" that defines the percentage Oxford wants; this plan doesn't address that directly.

Robert King noted the plan doesn't address the newly-changed "accessory dwelling unit" law. Glaubita agreed, saying she'll amend it because the Legislature passed that just after CMRPC finished this plan.

In other business, the board discussed several recent grants. One, for the fire department, will replace the ambulances' outdated defibrillators and cardiac monitors to the tune of \$284,620, with a \$14,231 local match.

According to Chief Laurent McDonald, "the current models were the oldest in the Commonwealth and are no longer supported." The grant also adds two LUCAS machines to the ambulances now lacking them; that device automates the chest compressions for CPR. He noted Oxford has seen several cardiac calls in recent months.

The town's also receiving a \$29,719 state 911 training grant plus another \$51,000, which Lt Jeffrey Grniet described as "a small step for what we do" every year regarding ensuring dispatchers get necessary training. The money funds coverage for overtime and pays them for classtime. One of the big recent additions to that job is to give medical advice on the phone based on computerized prompts, he noted.

Chief Mike Daniels said grantwriting is "a small portion of [Grniet's] role" as administrative lieutenant, since he also has to keep track of all the necessary

reporting to federal and state agencies about them.

Manager Jen Callahan agreed, saying they've been trying to add resources without adding to the budget. She said two more things are "on the horizon" — one is also 911-related, the other will study the department's staffing needs to find "the sweet spot for what makes the most sense."

Callahan also announced receipt of two \$50,000 Community Compact grants to develop a wage and classification plan and a school facilities plan. Regarding the latter, she said foundation repairs voters approved last spring are in the punchlist stage and should be complete before the planned date of mid-October. The approved bid was for \$589,000 but it looks like the work will cost less, she said.

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

Learn about Medicare enrollment with Edward Jones

AUBURN — Medicare open enrollment begins Oct. 15 through Dec. 7, where you can join or change a Medicare plan. The increasing cost of health care is a growing concern for current and future retirees. In fact, 25 years ago, retirees spent almost twice as much on food as on health care; now the amounts are nearly equal.

Join Edward Jones Financial Advisor, Dennis Antonopoulos & Medicare Specialist, Lynne Mussulli for our presentation where we will discuss:

- Medicare coverage and traditional medical expenses
- Long-term medical care expenses
- Strategies for addressing uncovered expenses

This program will be held Thursday, Oct. 10 at 6 p.m., with registration starting at 5:45 p.m., at Brookdale Eddy Pond West, 669 Washington St., Auburn.

To Register for this free seminar, please call Karen Rieser at 508-832-5385 or email Karen.rieser@edward-jones.com by Oct. 8.

We hope you will join us for one of our most popular seminars of the year! Please feel free to bring a friend, relative, colleague or neighbor who may find this seminar topic of interest.

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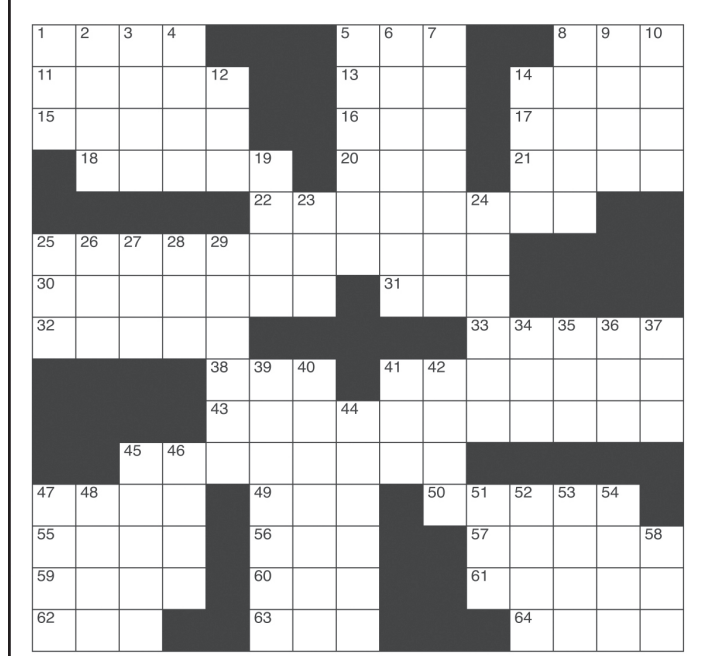
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WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875)
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CLUES ACROSS

- Unequaled
- ___-fi (slang)
- Synthetic resin
- Chadic language Bura-__
- Influential come Election Day
- Bucket
- European river
- Earn a perfect score
- Horizontal passage
- Barely sufficient
- Dekaliter
- Goo Goo Dolls hit
- Australian city
- Female servants
- Plumbing fixtures
- Tooth caregiver
- Book of Esther antagonist
- Say aloud
- Thyrotrophic hormone
- Absolute
- Untimely
- Area or neighborhood
- Juicy fruit
- Expresses distaste, disapproval
- S. American rodents
- Swedish rock group
- Influential American president
- Volume
- Begged
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Good friend
- Body part
- Tableland

CLUES DOWN

- Barrels per day (abbr.)
- Body parts
- Invests in little enterprises
- Rock legend Turner
- Dug into
- Laughed
- Northern European nation
- San Diego ballplayer
- Eight
- Substitutes (abbr.)
- Moved swiftly on foot
- Compensated
- Volcano in the Philippines
- Speak ill of
- One who publishes
- Expression of bafflement
- Macaws
- Matchstick game
- We all have our own
- Divinatory
- Explosive
- Follows sigma
- Sea eagle
- Type of bread
- Bit used with a set of reins
- Time away from work
- Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- Lots on your plate (abbr.)
- Actor Brosnan
- It's part of packaging
- Towards the oral region
- Public Theater creator Joseph
- Ancient Syrian city
- Swiss river
- Mollusk
- A French abbot
- Hoagies
- Not present (slang)

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Presentation pays tribute to Rachel Carson

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — “Everyone has the right to secure his or her home from intrusion of another’s poison.”

That quote came from one of Rachel Carson’s last public appearances, testifying before Congress when she was deathly ill with cancer in 1964. But its message is still relevant, maybe even more so, now, and retired professor Ellen Duzak brought that message to a Southbridge Garden Club talk in Charlton last week.

Duzak said Carson’s message of humanity’s ecological interdependence with other species was a new and sometimes controversial one in that era. Carson grew up during the heyday of

what was called the “natural studies movement” of the early 1900s, and was raised a reformist Presbyterian, with her family believing in “fixing nature.”

While her youthful education focused largely on what nature could do for humanity, “what she got from it was a biocentric idea.” Carson started expressing that in print with four articles in *St Nicholas* magazine, a quite popular media source then, before she graduated high school in 1925. They helped her get into what was then the Pennsylvania College for Women (now Chatham University) as an English major, where she was praised for her writing.

But one of her advisors saw her interest in biology, and pushed her in that

era. As Duzak noted, Carson would later send “the best minds in the world” 10-15 letters a day for both friendly correspondence and scholarly research.

“She ends up finding her voice and who she is at the MBL,” she said.

Like most female scientists and other professionals of that era, Carson never married (women had to resign their jobs if they did). She got her feet wet professionally at the US Fisheries Division (now Fish & Wildlife) as one of the first two women hired there, writing “every pamphlet known to mankind.” Her boss and friend told her “the government doesn’t deserve this” and urged Carson to submit to the Atlantic. When she did, the magazine ran it with the comment that it would “fire the imagination of the layman.”

Reading it prompted publisher Simon & Schuster to ask Carson to write them a book, which became “Under the Sea-Wind.” Duzak said Carson wrote it on the Beaufort, N.C. seashore “because of the tides and the full moon,” walking the beach at night with “a profound sense of awe.” Her mother helped as her secretary, typing Carson’s notes.

Upon publication, it got good reviews and “accolades,” but the timing was awful. It came out just before the US entered World War II in 1941, so it sold poorly.

Duzak noted that kind of luck seemed common for Carson — “Something wonderful happens, and something terrible, and she always makes her peace with it.” Part of that peace came from “creat[ing] an ecological social world as well as a professional world.” She had to juggle her research in various places, caring for mom, siblings, nieces and a nephew, activism in Audubon and more. Her

journeys took her all over the nation, with favorite sites including Parker River on Cape Ann, Boothbay Harbor, ME, a visit to Georges Bank on the Albatross III, and even a brief dive in one of the era’s cumbersome diving suits at Key West.

They led to her second book “The Sea Around Us,” which Duzak described as expressing the ocean as “a web of life, an ecological whole” and advocating for protecting it. That book also won awards and became “a runaway best-seller” because “people are looking for some big answers.” A *New York Times* critic praised Carson as being “a physical scientist with literary genius.”

Success enabled Carson to quit the Fisheries service and devote time to research and writing in 1952. Spending summers at Woods Hole and living in Southport, Maine, “she’s in seventh heaven,” Duzak said.

Over the next few years, Carson wrote “Edge of the Sea” (looking at how the coastline nurtures life), “A Sense of Wonder” (a child-focused book written largely for her nephew Roger) and *Silent Spring* (sparked by receiving letters about birds dying “as soon as they’re spraying”). Duzak noted the latter’s working title was “Man Against the Earth,” with “*Silent Spring*” as a chapter title, but friends said the original title would be seen as “ugly and toxic” and urged her not to publish.

Of course, that’s what it was about — the toxic effects of DDT. At that

time, Duzak said, the common (chemical-company-promoted) idea was to kill all insects. When “*Silent Spring*” came out in 1962, Monsanto, DuPont, the USDA and others attacked her as “a communist and a subversive” and claimed “if you don’t spray, crops will die and everyone will starve.”

But Carson got support from various sources, including garden clubs, Sierra Club, President John Kennedy and Interior Secretary Stuart Udall. Those led to Congressional hearings and a CBS-TV interview in her home when she was so sick she had to be “propped up.” It was seen by 15 million people.

The combination of those efforts led to DDT being banned, the Clean Air and Clean

Water acts being passed, and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency over the next several years. Subsequent decades have seen the discovery of other toxins with widespread ecological impact, including endocrine disruptors, PFAS and microplastics. Environmental concern has largely gone mainstream, but also faces renewed corporate pressure against regulations and Supreme Court decisions undermining EPA authority to do so.

Carson didn’t live long enough to see those happen, dying April 14, 1964. But, as Duzak concluded, “She’s still with us today, guys. She’s still with us.”

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

Second annual gala event at Gladys E. Kelly Public Library

WEBSTER — A second “Bites, Books and Blooms” fundraising event is coming to the library on Thursday, Oct. 17, from 6 until 8 p.m. If you missed the first one, now is your chance to attend the event that was the talk of the town. Prepare for an evening of tasty hors d’oeuvres from Webster’s own Bistro Eighty Ates, live music Carlos Odria Trio, and a beer and wine cash bar. Top it off with a stroll through unique floral displays depicting selected books and poems.

This year, the literary items chosen for display by local florists, clubs, churches and some crafty individuals have taken on an international flair: “All Cats Speak Polish” inspires the diorama of blooms contributed by St. Joseph’s Basilica. A work in Spanish, “La Leyenda del Maiz” will be portrayed by St. Louis Catholic Church, and the Episcopal Church of the Reconciliation and Zion Lutheran Church join to depict a Russian work, “The Master and Margarita.”

Children of all ages will delight in the interpretations of classic English books by Beatrix Potter, Maurice Sendak, J.K. Rowling and more. And prepare for the spooky season with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Stephen King. Approximately 20 books in all will be on display in unique presentations to capture the imagination. Many of them will be won by lucky attendees in the night’s raffle. They will remain on display at the library on Friday, Oct. 18 until they go to their new homes.

Haven’t visited the Gladys E. Kelly Library yet? It is an architectural gem and, increasingly, a center of community life for Webster and surrounding towns. In addition to book clubs and lectures, the library hosts concerts, yoga classes, a board games club, and a cookbook club with monthly dinners. And that’s just the adult programming. There are even more activities for children. In July, total attendance at library programs was 2,400.

Money raised in this fundraiser will go to the Friends of the Library, supporting these programs as well as a new outreach program for all young children residing in Webster: Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library. Any Webster resident aged five years or younger can receive one free book per month mailed to his or her home. The Library Friends pay for the postage, so there is absolutely no cost to the family. Imagine that! Please encourage any young families you know to visit the library and sign up to raise lifelong readers.

Get your fundraiser tickets now at \$35 each at the library or on our Web site (gladyskellylibrary.org). You can also support the library programs by donating a gift card or basket for the evening’s raffle. If interested in contributing an item, contact Martina Koziak at ma2622@charter.net.

direction instead, leading to a master’s in marine biology at Johns Hopkins despite the fact she’d “never seen the ocean.” That changed rapidly. Before long, eight weeks in the “completely equal” (in terms of male-female and student-scientist) atmosphere of Woods Hole Marine Biology Lab (MBL) set Carson on the path that would make her famous and connect her with “the elite” of world biologists in

Food Truck Fright Fest coming to Nichols campus

DUDLEY — Food Truck Fright Fest 2024 will be held Friday Evening, Oct. 25 from 5 – 9 p.m. on the grounds of Nichols College, 121 Center Rd., Dudley. Parking and admission is free, and the event is open to the general public.

The premiere event of the season, Fright Fest 2024 offers visitors and their families a safe, fun environment to “trick or treat” among the festively decorated grounds and food trucks. Enjoy fantastic food, beer and wine. Play exciting carnival games provided by Baystate Amusements. Costumes are encouraged. Cash prizes awarded for best costumes.

WooTrucks is a food truck commissary, commercial kitchen, and base of operations for food trucks, caterers, bakers, and food entrepreneurs 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, city and town governments.

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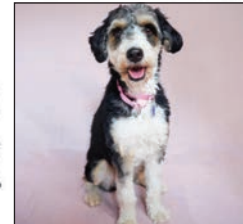
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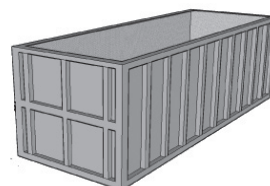
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Join us for one of our programs at the Pearle!
To register go to www.crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021
September is Library Card Sign up Month! The theme this year is "Autobots, roll out...to the library!" Stop by, get a card, and be eligible for some cool giveaways! New CWMARS card members only. Must be 5+.
Gentle Yoga
Mondays in September
10:00-11:00
Fels Community Room
Join instructors Erin & Jia, for traditional "on the mat" yoga class with 15 minute relaxation at the end.
Bring your own mat. Wear layers, do not eat heavily 1.5-2 hours before class.

Movies @ The Pearle!!
Tuesdays in September at 1:00
September 24: *Unsung Hero*

Mahjong at the Pearle
Wednesday in September
10:00-12:30 Fels Community Room
The game consists of players competing to form distinct sets or pairs of tiles, similar to gin rummy.
Everyone welcome, registration not required.

Crawford Library Book Group
Monday, September 23
6:00-7:30
Book: *THE LAST YEAR OF THE WAR*
Author: Susan Meissner
Books are available at the circulation desk for check-out one month prior to discussion. No registration required.

Quilting Group
Wednesdays @ 1:30
All quilters and would-be quilters are invited to join our new group. Bring your projects!

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

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

Afternoon Movie @ The Pearle
Friday, September 27
1:00-3:00
It's a half day of school! Join us for a showing of *Garfield*. Bring a drink and we will provide the popcorn.

Animal Adventures
Saturday, September 28
11:00-12:00
This program will feature 8-10 exotic animals presented in an hour long session where the audience will get to pet and learn about them from one of the experienced zookeepers! Great for the whole family!
Registration is Required.

[www.Stonebridge Press.com](http://www.StonebridgePress.com)

GLADYS E. KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

Halloween Costume Drop off—Bring in your gently used costumes to the library and pick up one on October 5th!

FRIENDS OF THE GLADYS E KELLY PUBLIC LIBRARY SECOND ANNUAL FUNDRAISER BITES, BOOKS AND BLOOMS. October 17th at 6:00 PM
Enjoy local hors d'oeuvres, beverages, music, and books in bloom. Tickets are \$35. You can purchase them on the library website or in person at the library. This is a ticketed event!

Adult Programming
YOGA – Saturday September 28th at 9:00 AM
Join Julie or Lauren at the Gladys E. Kelly Library for a vinyasa yoga class for all levels. In Sanskrit, Vinyasa yoga translates to the "uniting of movement with breath". A typical class involves centering the mind with the breath, aromatherapy, movement of the body to release energetic blockages, and, finally, rest and relaxation. Classes are free. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

FRIENDS CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS:
Counterfeit Cash -- October 10th at 6:30 PM
Being Influenced by Johnny Cash in younger years listening to the great lyrics of the "Man in Black" and the story that they told, Rodney Brunelle with his Johnny Cash voice decided his mission in life was to keep the stories of Johnny Cash going. You will swear "CASH" is in the house...

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP— October 21st at 6:30 PM
This month's book discussion will be in the Library's Community Room. The Group will be discussing *Dead Wake* by Erik Larson. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcox@cwmmars.org for inquiries.

COOKBOOK CLUB— October 22nd at 6:00 PM
Every month there will be a new cookbook and you will choose a delicious recipe to make! You can choose anything out of the cookbook to bring and share. Whether you like to cook or bake there will always be something for you! We will eat and discuss our favorite and least favorite things of the cooking adventure.

ADULT BOARDGAME NIGHT-- September 30th at 6:00 PM
Come in and play games with other board game enthusiasts. Learn a new one, or play one you know and help others learn!

COMPUTER BASICS CLASS-- September 26th at 3:30-4:30 PM
Come learn some computer basics with Assistant Director Evan Hale. Registration is required for this event. You can do that by visiting our website or calling the library.

HOW TO CREATE A BOOK IN BLOOM— September 26th at 6:30
Ever wonder "How do they do create a book in bloom? Can I do it?" Wonder no more. Come to the Community Room on Thursday, September 26th at 6:30pm to learn how literary works—your favorite poem, short story, novel, or non-fiction book can be turned into a floral arrangement. Friends of the Library Elaine Davies and Ashley Starzec will enlighten you about the origins of Books in Blooms, analyze some Blooms presented at the first BBB last year, show you what it takes to make a book in bloom floral arrangement, and leave you with a worksheet on how

to do it—so you can experiment in the comforts of your home. They also will unveil the books being used this year.

Children's and Young Adult Programming

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

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

MAKER MONDAYS – Mondays from 3:30-4:30 PM
Feeling artistic? We will have a variety of craft materials available to put your creativity to the test! Every month we will rotate our craft material, stop in to see what we're making this month!

LEGO CLUB-- First two Tuesdays of the month at 3:30 PM
Come play with the library's Legos. If you like, we can put your work on display!
No registration Required

BUILD TUESDAYS - from 3:30-4:30 PM
Join us for the last two Tuesday for a self-guided STEM-based building challenge, appropriate for all ages. Younger kids should bring a parent. Instruction sheets will be provided. Contact Andrew at 508-949-3880, or atai@cwmmars.org for more details.

OPEN PLAY TIME ADVENTURE-- Fridays at 10:00 AM
Kids 0 to 6 are invited to get their wiggles out with weekly obstacle course and fun.

STORYTIME-- September 10th, 17th and 24th at 10:00 AM
Mornings will be filled with fun stories, songs, and activities perfect for ages 2-5. Siblings are welcome to join.

WEDNESDAY STUFFED ANIMAL STORYTIME--- October 2nd and 16th at 10:00 AM
Join Sondra the Library Director for a few of his favorite stories, felt story fun, and some free play. For ages 0-3

SENSORY BIN EXPLORATION---September 30th at 10:00 AM
Join us for open sensory bin exploration. Bins will be filled up with sand, rice, dirt, dry pasta, and more! This program is geared towards ages 2 to 5, but siblings are welcome.

BABY SIGN CLASS--- September 27th at 10:00 AM
Sign language for caregivers and babies age 2 months and up. Pre-verbal.

ME AND MY MINI-- September 26th at 10:00 AM
A 45-minute creative movement group for ages birth through 2.5 with a grown-up. Group is focused on adult and baby spending quality time together, fostering attachment, and baby interacting with others their age. Get groovy to upbeat music with props, instruments, and a story. Adult participation is required and 1-2 children per adult is recommended.

SPECIAL STORYTIME: FLOWER DISPLAYS--- October 8th at 10 AM
Please join us for stories and fun as we create flower displays for the senior center. This program is perfect for ages 2-5, but siblings are welcomed.



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

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least forty-eight hours in advance to reserve or cancel your meal. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. All meals include milk, bread, and fruit or dessert. This week's menu: Tuesday, 10/1, Vegetable Cheese Bake, seasoned potatoes, capri blend vegetables. Wednesday, 10/2, Greek Chicken, steamed white rice, California blend veggies. Thursday, 10/3, Salisbury Steak with Beef Gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, peas and carrots. Friday, 10/4, Soup du Jour, sliced ham sandwich, potato salad.

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

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

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

We are now offering MOVIE MATINEES every Wednesday at 1:00 pm! Popcorn is provided. No registration needed. The movie for October 2nd is Where the Crawdads Sing, and October 9th is We Have a Ghost.

Starting on October 3rd, the first Thursday of every month we will be open until 7:00 pm with entertainment starting at 5:45 pm. No registration needed.

Craft Fair on Monday, October 21, 2024 from 10:00am- 2:00pm. This event is hosted by the Friends of the Senior Center, and will offer assorted handmade, and seasonal items. FREE ADMISSION.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rod Stewart the Ultimate Tribute Show by Rick Larrimore is a must-see high energy show on Thursday, October 24th. Rick has been touring the globe with his amazing tribute to Rod Stewart. This show takes place at Davensport in Danvers, MA. The cost for this show is \$129 per person and includes transportation, plated luncheon of chicken piccata or baked schrod, meal tax, gratuity, and show ticket. There will be no refunds for cancellations made after September 20th

For more information call (508) 949-3845.

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

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

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Coast Guard offers boating safety certification course

WEBSTER — The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing a one-day boating safety course at the Webster Fire Department, 55 Thompson Rd., Nov. 2 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. It is time to get your family's boating knowledge and skills ready for the waters and for required Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Connecticut Certification.

This course was developed to provide the skills and confidence needed to explore the coast and inland waters; and the basic knowledge necessary to have safe, enjoyable boating experiences. This course is perfect for families that have just purchased any type of boat or are planning to in the future, including paddlecraft, and for the boater keeping up with changes to boating regulations and laws. Some marline-spike seamanship (knots etc.) will also be included, along with the new Rhode Island regulations. 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 Massachusetts waters; in conjunction with the Mass. Environmental Police Certification requirements for MA may be expanded in the future; approved by NASBLA this course covers requirements to operate a vessel in other states and many countries where boating safety education is mandatory; including RI and CT where it is required for all PWC operators and most boaters. Most boating

insurance companies offer a discount on premiums for successful completion of this course. The Webster course is limited to 30 students; an additional course at this popular location may be scheduled with interest. Register by Oct. 28, as space is limited! The USCGAux. offers courses at no charge however there is a \$45 fee for the cost of mate-

rials including the Boat America textbook, handouts, and certification(s). Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied in person by a registered parent/guardian.

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

Weaving workshop at Samuel Slater Experience Oct. 12

WEBSTER — Samuel Slater Experience will host a log cabin weaving workshop for intermediate weavers on Saturday, Oct. 12, from noon to 3:30 p.m. Local fiber artist Sharon Geyer will lead the workshop.

Log cabin is a fascinating color-and-weave design that creates blocks of vertical and horizontal stripes, making it a great choice for towels, placemats or scarves.

The log cabin workshop is for anyone who has some weaving experience with a rigid heddle loom.

For details, go to <http://samuel Slater Experience.org>. To register, email admin@samuel Slater Experience.org. Samuel Slater Experience is at 31 Ray St., Webster.

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\$375,000, 5 Elmwood St, Wanda A Stavros Rt, and Stavros, Wanda A, to Rodriguez, Magaly.

DUDLEY
\$425,000, 18 Kennedy Dr, Meleski, Mark, and Meleski, Naomi, to Rodriguez, Valeria, and Costa, Paloma.

OXFORD
\$415,000, 12 Spruce St, David Lyons Ft, and Lyons, David, to Baker, Jacob M.
\$350,000, 10 George St, Cook, John C, and Rogers, Hong N, to Remeika Jr, Daniel.
\$350,000, 10 Woodcrest Dr #10, Montville, Henry J, and Fitzpatrick, John C, to Zukowski, Charalee.
\$330,000, 8 Laurelwood Dr, Marcoux, Brenda L, to Morrow, Jacob.

WEBSTER
\$625,000, 49 Camile Rd, Sharma, Saira, to Anim-Boateng, Allen.
\$545,000, 32 Brookside Ave, Hunt, Thomas, and Stevens, Leslie, to Boaduwaah, Doris, and Amooh, John K.
\$460,000, 46 Brookside Ave, Kelly, Daniel E, and Kelly, Kim, to Allison Sr, Charles.
\$460,000, 7 Woods Grove Dr, Manchuk Lt, and Manchuk, Paul M, to Colby, Matthew, and Nigro, Melissa.
\$420,000, 6 Slater St, Wta Properties LLC, to Arifi, Fatbardha, and Jetullahu, Bashkim.
\$370,000, 9 Normandy Ave, Kozub, Cheryl A, to Marti, Samuel A, and Marti, Christa.
\$330,000, 8 Freeman Ave, Legere, Bruce D, and Burdett, Wendy A, to Stone, Matthew, and Stone, Jesse.
\$299,900, 8 Nelson St, Gonyea, Eric T, and Gonyea, Abigail, to Osei, Eunice.

Friday's Child

Hi! My name is Stanis Laus and I am very welcoming!

Stan loves learning about trucks and dinosaurs! He enjoys screen time, however, but he is very active and loves being outdoors, running, playing on his scooter, and basketball. You can also find Stan spending time with his friends, as he is very social and personable.

Stanis Laus
Age 9
Registration # 8566

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/8566>

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.



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STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Staying united after the election: A call to remember what matters most

Once the dust settles after the upcoming presidential election, it's important for all of us—no matter who we voted for—to remember that we are still neighbors, friends, and family. Elections have the power to highlight our differences, but they don't change the core of what really makes us a community. When the votes are counted and the debates subside, we must find our way back to what binds us: a shared commitment to the well-being of our families, our neighborhoods, and the place we call home.

While political divisions can feel sharp and personal, especially in today's climate, it's essential to remember that the most meaningful connections in our lives aren't determined by a vote. The person who will lend you a cup of sugar, help you shovel your driveway, or cheer for your kid's team on a chilly Saturday morning is your neighbor—not just a political identity. Whether we find ourselves celebrating or disappointed by the election's outcome, the morning after still requires us to move forward—together.

Our communities are built on cooperation and common ground, regardless of who holds office. We rely on each other in ways that go beyond politics. Schools still need teachers, businesses still need customers, and we all still need that feeling of connection with those around us. The conversations we have at the local coffee shop, at school pick-ups, or during community events are what truly shape the fabric of our daily lives. These moments, not political debates, are what sustain us.

This is not to say that the issues at stake in elections don't matter—they absolutely do. We must continue to advocate for what we believe in, speak our minds, and hold our leaders accountable. But it's also vital that we don't let the divisions of the political arena spill over into the personal relationships that hold our communities together. After all, when the election is over, we still share the same streets, parks, and grocery stores.

So, how do we move forward? First, by listening. Let's take the time to really hear one another, even when we disagree. Let's focus on finding common ground—there's often more of it than we realize. Whether it's addressing local issues, supporting a neighbor in need, or simply being kind to one another, we can all contribute to the healing and rebuilding process that follows every election.

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

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

The hope and power of the cross

One day 70 years ago, after suffering many years in the work camps of Siberia, Aleksander Solzhenitsyn, the famous Russian intellectual and dissident, had fallen into despair. Like other prisoners, he had worked in the fields day after day, in rain and sun, during summer and winter. His days were filled with back-breaking labor and slow starvation. On this particular day, the hopelessness of his situation became too much. Solzhenitsyn saw no reason to continue living and trying to fight the system. He thought his life was meaningless since he would die in this Siberian prison. His life made no difference to the world. So, he gave up. Laying his shovel on the ground, he slowly walked to the side of the work field and sat down. He knew that at any moment a guard would order him to stand up, and if he did not respond, the guard would beat him to death. He had seen it happen to many other prisoners.



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

As he was waiting, head down, he felt a presence. Slowly, he lifted his eyes and saw a skinny, old prisoner squat down next to him. The man said nothing. Instead, he took a stick and traced the sign of the Cross at Solzhenitsyn's feet. The man then got back up and returned to his work.

As Solzhenitsyn stared at the sign of the Cross, his entire perspective changed. He knew that he was only one man against the all-powerful Soviet empire. Yet in that moment, he understood that there was something greater than all the evil he saw in prison. There was something even greater than the Soviet Union. He knew that the hope of all mankind was represented in that simple Cross. And through the power of the Cross, anything was possible. The Cross shone forth light in the midst of the greatest darkness. Solzhenitsyn slowly got back up, picked up his shovel, and went back to work. Nothing outward had changed, but inside, he saw a sign from God - he received hope.

Years later, Solzhenitsyn's writings would enlighten the entire world, telling them not only about the horrors of the Soviet prisons, but also witnessing to the depth of the human soul, the sovereignty of God and the hope of the Cross.

In our Orthodox Christian Church, one of the hymns we chant says, "We venerate your Cross, O Master, and your holy resurrection we glorify!" No symbol is more representative of what we believe than the Cross. Christians wear crosses. We make the sign of the cross. We hang crosses in our homes, in our cars, and throughout our Churches. The Cross is central to what we believe and who we are!

In times of despair, hopelessness, and uncertainty, as with Solzhenitsyn, we turn to the Cross and we find meaning. Although Solzhenitsyn did not have a logical reason to hope, he understood that the power and meaning of the Cross is beyond logic and reason. God's hope is sometimes inexplicable!

In ancient times, people equated the Cross with pain, suffering, and death. The Cross was a sign of the worst torture one could suffer. It was a cursed sign. And yet, when Jesus willingly accepted the Cross and died a criminal's death, he changed the Cross from a symbol of death and despair into a symbol of life and hope! Christ used the fruit of the Cross, death itself, and destroyed the greatest evil. As we sing at Easter time, "By death He has trampled down death, and granted life to all."

This is why we Christians continually make the sign of the Cross, and place Crosses around our neck and throughout our churches and homes! Because the Cross represents a symbol of love, joy, hope, power and ultimate victory.

First, the Cross reminds us of the love God the Father had for the world. We read in the Gospel of John, 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him will not perish but will have eternal

life." God loved the world so much that he allowed his son to be cruelly killed on the Cross as a sacrifice for the sins of the world and as a means to destroy death itself! What greater love is there than to die in order to save others, yet God did that for us!

The Cross reminds us of the joy of paradise. Many hymns of our church recall how Adam and Eve were cast out of paradise because of the forbidden tree. And yet it is also a tree, the tree of the Cross that has opened the doors of paradise once again for all believers. Understanding this is the beginning of true and everlasting joy!

The Cross reminds us of a hope that is greater than the darkest despair. When Jesus was crucified, his disciples fell into despair. They had abandoned, denied and betrayed Jesus. They had placed all their hope in him, and now he was dead. For three days they lived in utter agony. And yet, after the resurrection, they understood the Cross in a new way. It no longer symbolized despair but represented hope for all people. Death is not the end, because the resurrection will come!

The Cross is a symbol of power. Often in the world, it appears that evil conquers good. Yet the Cross reminds us that sin will not have the last word. Evil will not last forever. For Orthodox Christians, the Cross and the Resurrection are inseparable. Maybe evil and suffering appear to win at first, but the resurrection will come. The struggles of today will not last. God will have the last word!

The Cross is a symbol of victory. Through the death of Jesus on the Cross, the greatest evil, death itself, was destroyed. When Jesus died and entered Hades, the devil trembled. The evil tool of the Cross became a tool for destroying the power of hell itself. Many of our hymns describe the devil trembling when he sees Christ himself enter into Hades and cries out, "My spirit trembles, and now I must cast out Adam and his posterity. A tree brought them to my realm, but now the tree of the Cross brings them back again to paradise."

Ultimately, Satan no longer has power over humanity. He can no longer keep us captive in hell for all eternity. The Cross is our reminder of that victory "Death has been swallowed up in victory!" as St. Paul proclaims, "O Death, where is your victory? O Death, where is your sting?" So we hold up the sign of the Cross today as a symbol of love, joy, hope and victory.

The Cross also shows us the path of life we must walk each and every day. "If anyone wants to be my disciple," Jesus says, "he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." The Cross reminds us that we must walk a life of sacrifice for the other, a life of self-denial, and a life of unconditional love for the other. We will never discover the abundant and rich life in Christ without first dying to our own desires and will and placing Christ before all else.

The life of an authentic Christian is surely not easy. That is why the Cross symbolizes, par excellence, our path of salvation. Yes, we may be called to suffer. Yes, we may be called to walk a painful path. Yes, we may even be called to die. Yet, it is all doable for one reason - through the Cross we know joy has come into the world!

A life of self denial, sacrifice, and the cross is not a masochistic life, but when understood and lived properly, it is a life of great joy, of incredible discovery, of authentic abundance. The Church teaches that the more we deny ourselves and give away, the more we will receive. When we learn to carry our cross and die, we will then discover a true, resurrected life.

We venerate your Cross, O Master, and Your holy resurrection we glorify.

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Email Us @ news@stonebridgepress.news

Manifestation

Manifestation—does it truly work? For decades, this concept has captured significant attention, especially in the pages of popular self-help books like "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne, "Think and Grow Rich" by Napoleon Hill, and "The Power of Now" by Eckhart Tolle. These works suggest that the mind can create reality, emphasizing positive thinking, visualization, and belief as the key.

So, what's the truth behind manifestation? Is it a genuine force or just another trend?

POSITIVELY SPEAKING
Looking through history, we find compelling examples of people who have manifested their desires remarkably. Jesus manifested bread and fish to feed thousands, turned

water into wine, and raised Lazarus from the dead. How did He do it? He told us: 'Everything is possible for the one who believes' (Mark 9:23). This belief, central to Jesus' miracles, also applies to those who have shaped the world through their conviction.

Gandhi, through non-violent resistance, and Martin Luther King Jr., with his vision of equality, both relied on unwavering belief to drive their movements. Likewise, innovators like Elon Musk and Steve Jobs revolutionized industries by maintaining steadfast belief in their visions. They didn't just wish for success—they visualized it, believed in it, and worked relentlessly to bring it to reality.

There is a distinction between miraculous manifestations, such as Jesus multiplying bread, and the achievements of inventors and social activists. While one may seem instantaneous and the other a slower, deliberate process, both are rooted in the same fundamental principle: belief.

Whether miraculous or transformative, faith in the outcome drives these manifestations into reality.

A common thread among those who teach manifestation techniques is the importance of

assuming your desires are already fulfilled, even before they physically manifest. Whether it's modern self-help gurus or ancient spiritual teachings, the principle remains the same: you must believe you have what you want before it arrives in your reality.

The central idea is that by aligning your thoughts, feelings, and beliefs with the desired

outcome, you attract that outcome into your life.

This idea of belief has been central to Jesus' teachings, as mentioned above. He emphasized it again in Mark 11:23: "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, "Go, throw yourself into the sea," and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them." Here, Jesus highlights the crucial role of unwavering belief in the process. It's not enough to ask for what you want—you must act as if it is already done.

The idea is clear: belief and emotional alignment with your desired outcome create the

conditions for its realization. So how does this apply in your life? Imagine you're aiming for a promotion at work. Instead of doubting or hoping, visualize yourself already in that role—feeling confident, acting as if the promotion is yours. The same goes for personal goals, like getting healthier. Instead of focusing

on the obstacles, believe you're already living a healthier lifestyle, making choices aligned with that belief. The principle remains the same even in bigger dreams—starting a business, finding your dream home, or writing a book.

If you think success is inevitable, you'll naturally align your actions, mindset, and energy toward making that vision a reality. Belief becomes the foundation for your daily actions, driving you forward even when challenges arise.

So, does manifestation truly work? Well, it has great business leaders and revolutionaries. You might attribute their success to luck or chance, but you can't deny that they believed with all their heart in their vision. That kind of belief—so strong that it drives every action—is undeniably a common thread among those who achieve remarkable outcomes. So, is it luck, or is it the power of belief? The line between the two may be thinner than we think.

The real question is: Are you willing to believe before you see? As countless teachers and

thinkers have encouraged, can you assume your wish is already fulfilled? Perhaps it's time to believe not only in the world around you but in your ability to shape it. What if the life you dream of is waiting on the other side of the limits you've created in your mind?

Tips for Planting Bulbs this Season

Following a long New England winter, few signs of spring are more welcome than the first sprouts of green popping up in a barren garden. The promise of a season of beautiful blooms, the tiny shoots are the gardeners reward of a past autumn spent preparing and planting. Experts agree fall offers ideal conditions to plant perennials. In fact, autumn is the preferred time to plant spring blooming bulbs. The following is a beginner's guide to preparing, planning and planting bulbs now for a flourish of flowers come spring.

Choosing Choice Bulbs
If you are selecting bulbs in bulk, such as loose bulbs offered at discount garden centers, it's important to follow a few rules of thumb. Typically, big bulbs produce the largest blooms and may yield more flowers, therefore, it may be worth the cost to pay a bit more for good sized, healthy bulbs. However, if you are on a budget and have the time to wait, smaller bulbs will eventually increase in size and bloom each year. When choosing a bulb, look for those that are firm and plump. Hold them in your palm and select bulbs that feel heavy for their size. Avoid bulbs with bruises, spots or signs of mold. And steer clear of soft, mushy and lightweight bulbs. Sprouting bulbs

may indicate a bulb that has been in storage for a long time.

Planning a Flower Garden
A little thought and preparation go a long way in reaping the benefits of a successful spring and summer flower garden. The planning you take time for in the fall will be apparent when the flower garden plantings burst with color and texture next year. Know your flowers before you plan to plant. While most bulbs require an area where there is full sun, other varieties such as the iris and crocus enjoy some shade after blooming. For best results select a location in full sun or sun with morning shade only. Well drained soil is a requisite for flower bulbs. If you have poor soil, raised flower beds may be an effective alternative.

For best results, design your garden with pen and paper first, mapping out the size of the beds and the flowers to scale. Keep in mind color, texture and fragrance are all important factors when deciding on a particular flower garden plan. Plotting a garden plan is an exciting chore, and there are some basic rules that ensure a pleasant mix of color for a showy display. Notice how a clump of daffodils and tulips are much more eye appealing than a tidy row of the springtime flowers. The



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eye is drawn toward the burst of color when these flowers are in generous groups of plantings. Be sure to take an accurate bulb count of such large splashes of plantings. Your layout plan should also include using flower bulbs as accents in perennial beds, or to fill in rock gardens or as an interesting border to greenery. Be sure to plan for extra bulbs to fill in areas or to add as landscape accents.

For an interesting mix, merge short plants with tall specimens to give variety and depth as well as differing textures. And don't underestimate the power of fragrance. Nothing is more delightful than a pathway of floral scents welcoming visitors to your door! You should also decide if you want to plan out every aspect of planting a semi formal garden, or if you choose instead to toss convention and bulbs to the wind, planting bulbs the natural way, thus creating a natural sprinkling of blooms. Scaling plants to the bed is another important factor when plotting your plan. A simple rule to follow is to keep in mind the tallest plant in an

island flower bed should have a mature height that is equal to about half the width of the bed. Place these plants in the center, so they can be viewed from all sides. Also remember to take into account plants that grow and expand quickly.

Color is another major consideration when planting your bulbs. If you want your garden to be a showcase all season, select a variety of bulbs that flower during early, middle and late spring and summer for a continuous burst of color. Just as in the home, in the garden bed cool colors seem to recede and warm colors appear to come forward. To make a small garden area appear larger and more spacious, plant flowers in cool, light colors. As a general rule white goes a long way in a garden bed, but if you use a lot of white flowers in an area, consider adding a dramatic splash of bright red or bright pink or purple for visual contrast. And, remember, if you are growing flowers to cut and bring the blooms indoors, choose colors that will go with the decor of your home, as well as harmonize with one another in the garden. Gardens, in fact, are often planned around color. The ambiance of your outdoor living space is determined by color and your choices decide whether your garden flowers contrast

or complement each other which can result in either a subtle hue of color or a spectacular show of brilliant blooms. For a bright, showy garden, eye catching bright reds, yellows, purples and whites take center stage in a flower bed. Such contrasting colors can be often be achieved with little effort simply by matching up opposite colors on the standard color wheel.

Planting Prep: Planting time varies depending on location, but here in the Northeast it ranges from September until as long as the soil can be worked, usually around the end of October. Prepare your bed by making sure soil is properly fertilized. Be sure to dig out the soil to the proper depth. Loosen the soil and if you choose, add a bulb booster to the soil. Bulbs should be planted with pointed side up. Place them firmly, yet gently, into the ground. Cover the bulbs loosely with soil, water lightly and add a layer of mulch. Typically, bulbs should be planted three times as deep as the bulb is wide. In sandy soils, you can plant a little deeper, and in heavy soils you can dig a slightly shallower hole. Bulbs should be spaced approximately a width twice the diameter of the bulb. Note: Tulips should be planted one inch deeper than indicated if the soil is not too heavy and their

location is permanent as deep rooting can prolong the effective life of the tulip bulb.

Win Dinner for Two at the Publick House

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

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

Strategies for adding native plants to your landscape

More and more gardeners are adding native plants to their landscapes. These plants provide more than beautiful flowers for us to enjoy. They also support pollinators and other beneficial insects, and provide food and shelter for songbirds, toads, and other wildlife.

In addition, these plants help protect and improve our soil and manage stormwater. The plants slow stormwater runoff and help direct it into the soil through pathways created by their deep roots to the groundwater below. These deep roots also help break up compacted clay soils. Legumes like blue false indigo (*Baptisia australis*) that are hardy in zones 3 to 10 help add nitrogen to the soil while supporting a variety of pollinators.

Look to woodland native plants if you are gardening in the shade. Tall black cohosh (*Actaea racemosa*) grows four to six feet tall, has white flowers in summer, and is a host plant for the Appalachian azure butterfly. The spring-blooming native columbine's (*Aquilegia canadensis*) red and yellow flowers provide food for hummingbirds and long-



GARDEN
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tongued insects. Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) makes an excellent groundcover that can hold its ground against garlic mustard and other invasive plants.

Perhaps you or members of your household have been reluctant to add these plants to your landscape. Some people worry that these plants won't fit in with their current landscape design or be accepted by their neighbors. One option is to start including native plants in your landscape one plant or garden at a time.

As always, make sure the plants you select are suited to the growing conditions, your garden design, and the available space. Some native plants are aggressive and work best when given a lot of room to grow and spread. Others grow in clumps and slowly increase in size making them easier to include in smaller yards.

Common milkweed

(*Asclepias syriaca*) is a wonderful but very aggressive native plant that's a favorite of the monarch caterpillar. It spreads by seeds and deep rhizomes making it challenging to contain. Consider growing other native milkweeds that will support the monarch but are less aggressive when space is limited. Butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) hardy in zones 3 to 10 is a great option for those with sunny well-drained locations. Red milkweed also known as swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) also grows best in full sun, but this milkweed tolerates moist soils.

Think about substitutions when starting to add native plants to the garden. When one plant dies look for a native plant to fill the void. Consider one with a similar growth habit, texture, and bloom time. Prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) is a North American native grass with a growth habit similar to ornamental fountain grass (*Pennisetum*) and it provides many more benefits. Hardy in zones 3 to 8, it has uniquely fragrant flowers in late summer; golden fall color; and seeds that look like



Melinda Myers

A bee nectaring on purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*) which is hardy in zones 3-8.

gems when covered with ice in the winter. It is also a host plant for six different moths and butterflies. This elegant grass is at home in just about any style garden.

As you get to know the native plants of your region and gain experience adding them to your gardens you may decide to create gardens of all native plants. Look to nature for some winning combinations. Combine plants that look good together; have the same growing conditions, and

are equally assertive. When aggressive plants are mixed in with timid plants, you end up with a garden of just one or two overly assertive plants.

As always, do your research first. Visit nearby nature centers and talk to others growing native plants to gather information and inspiration. As you gain success and confidence, you are sure to find creative ways to add these beauties to your landscape.

Melinda Myers has

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

QCC Foundation elects alum as new president

WORCESTER — The Quinsigamond Community College Foundation has elected its new president, Jorgo Gushi, QCC alum and technical account manager at MathWorks, a global company specializing in technical computing software for engineers and scientists. Gushi's nomination was approved by unanimous vote on Sept. 17, replacing former president Matthew Wally, vice president of Audit, Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) and Fair Lending at UniBank, who led the Foundation for two years. "I am eager to raise awareness about the vital role community colleges play, particularly QCC," Gushi stated. "Returning to where my educational journey began is thrill-

ing, and I am committed to supporting the college's mission of providing equitable education and preparing the local workforce. My achievements are deeply rooted in the foundation QCC provided me."

Gushi's journey with QCC began in 2018 after he moved to the United States from Albania, enrolling immediately after high school.

"Arriving in the U.S. alone to live with my Greek and Albanian-speaking grandparents, I balanced improving my English, attending college, and caring for them while working part-time. I want to inspire others to understand that dedication and hard work can lead to significant accomplishments," Gushi shared.

Despite these challenges and the need to adapt to a new culture, Gushi fully embraced and participated in college life. In 2019, he was elected as president of the QCC Student Government Association and chair of the statewide Student Advisory Council (SAC) to the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education, a role he held for three years. During his tenure, he worked to advance open educational resources and championed a successful campaign that changed a state law, which now allows part-time students to run for student trustee positions.

After his time at QCC, Gushi pursued further education at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), where he earned

both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

In 2022, Gushi received official citations from the Office of the Governor, the Massachusetts State Senate and the Massachusetts House of Representatives for his contribution to advancing public higher education. The same year, Gushi also received a GOLD award, given to 10 outstanding WPI graduates from the previous 10 years.

"Jorgo is going to be fantastic. Being an alum puts him in a very strong position to share the experience that students are going through," Wally said.

Under Wally's leadership, the Foundation offered various support

to QCC students, faculty and staff through direct student scholarships, funding for special academic projects and investments in the HomePlate Food Pantry & Resource Center, which will continue under Gushi's leadership.

"It's been an honor to serve. The benefits that I received from being part of the Foundation are ten-fold what I've given. I run into QCC alumni weekly and see the quality of graduates who are contributing to the economic vitality of greater Worcester," Wally said, adding, "The other Foundation directors and the QCC staff and faculty are so committed to the mission. Without them, QCC wouldn't be as strong as it is today."

Other changes in the

QCC Foundation include the nomination and election of Diane Giampa, chief community engagement officer at Bay State Savings Bank, who will serve as the new clerk. Giampa has been a board member since 2019, spearheading multiple efforts to recruit and engage new and current directors.

The mission of the QCC Foundation is to raise funds and provide the resources to support the college in advancing educational and economic opportunities in Central Massachusetts, make impactful community connections and create and expand on initiatives to ensure students have a successful academic experience.

Community Food Collaborative helps the food insecure

STURBRIDGE — The Community Food Collaborative (CFC) is celebrating its seventh year and having a very busy and productive year. The garden operates under the guidance of a 10-member committee with Joe Coan serving as President of the CFC.

“When we started the garden seven years ago, it was much smaller. We have expanded several times and have learned a lot about working smarter,” Coan admits. “Doing similar tasks each year teaches us what to expect. However, our best predictions can change with the weather so we are always learning.”

While growing organic vegetables sounds pretty easy, there are always other important tasks that must be done to reach our goal of high quality organic produce.

Maintenance: Perhaps the largest task is garden maintenance. This year Robinson Tree Service generously donated their time and service to cut down several trees blocking sun from one corner of the garden. They shredded the trees and spread the mulch on the top and side of the garden. We also had all the wild growth around the fence of the garden pushed back 20 feet. A heavy weed fabric was put over the dirt and then a four-inch layer of crushed stone was spread on top of the fabric. We are hopeful this will protect us for a long time from the growth encroaching into the garden.



Irrigation: The expanded irrigation system was certainly needed this year with all the very hot and dry weather we had. It's time consuming when we first open the garden because we rotate crops each year and the irrigation system consists of over one thousand linear feet of dripline in the beds. The dripline needs to be arranged each year to accommodate the new plants with enough water for them to thrive. Arranging the dripline cannot be done before the garden is planted so it's a scramble to get the lines in place once Suzanne, our head gardener, and her helpers plant.

Planting in the garden started this year on May 27; however, we had started seedlings elsewhere well in advance of actual in-ground planting. To say planting goes fast is a mis-statement when she actually planted 2,224 plants in the garden. This number includes the plants generously donated to us each year by an experienced gardener.

Raised beds: We currently have 45 raised beds. Several of the beds were moved or resized somewhat this year to make it easier for the volunteers to reach everywhere in the bed without stepping inside the bed. This year we replaced 12 of the old beds with new ones made

of the same accoya wood as the 10 replacement beds we installed last year. We will continue to replace the old beds each year until all have been replaced with the new wood that is guaranteed not to rot for 20 years.

Challenges: Besides the challenge of laying the dripline around all the plants each year, we had a few challenges with critters (large and small) who love what we grow. One species of small critter loved our tomatoes but only took one or two bites before moving on to the next tomato. A much larger critter jumped over the six-foot fence and loved our string beans. Perhaps we should find a volunteer to stay at the garden at night keeping watch for unwanted critters.

In spite of the work and challenges in growing a large garden, it has also been very reward-

ing. We have a lot to be thankful for. The garden is on land that is owned by the Federated Church and because we are all volunteers and donate everything we grow to feed the food-challenged, the Church lets us use the land for the garden at no cost, which is very generous. The garden is located behind the Sturbridge Town Hall lower parking lot and is connected to the Town Hall water supply which is provided to us at no cost. We have many sponsors and donors who admire what we do to help the food insecure and these sponsors and donors give to us very generously and some do it every year. While many contractors do work for us without charging us, we still have expenses for materials to run a garden this size. We would be remiss not to mention our great volunteers. We have many

who come when they can and those who come on a regular basis. And we appreciate each one of them. They are dedicated, hard-working and offer great suggestions to us. We listened to our volunteers last year when they suggested volunteering during the morning hours, so we tried it. Our hours this year are 10-11:30 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday and 9-10:30 a.m. every Sunday. The morning hours turned out well because so many families have challenges with work commutes, sports practice, games, etc. in the evenings making a commitment to work in the garden more difficult for them.

While the garden is still producing this summer, we don't have statistics yet for this year but in the 2023 season, produce grown and donated to the St. John Paul II Food Pantry in Southbridge served 737 Households with almost half that number being Seniors. We were also able to make 5 deliveries of fresh produce to Food Share in Southbridge. This year in 2024, we were also able to provide some fresh produce to St. John's and the Bridge Fridge. Total volunteer hours for last year (2023) in the garden were 740.

We welcome all comments and suggestions sent to cfcgarden357@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CFCGardens. We also welcome all volunteers. You can make new friends and have a lot of fun volunteering with us. No need to contact us first; just show up during one of our work sessions. We'd love to have you.

Class of 2025 student representatives elected at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy!



CHARLTON — New student representatives to the Bay Path RVTHS Practical Nursing Academy PN Class of 2025 were elected recently and began their term this fall.

Practical nursing students Julie Peloquin and Delene Sarsfield were voted as student representatives for the PN class of 2025. The student representatives are an important part of the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy Faculty Organization (PNFO). Their main responsibility is to be a link between Practical Nursing faculty, staff, and the students, and to contribute to Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy activities and projects. Peloquin and Sarsfield represented the students of the PN Class of 2025 on the advisory board and steering committee meeting held on Sept. 24.

Student representatives are responsible for attending the PNFO meetings, where they serve as non-voting members. The student representatives speak on behalf of the student body and report on topics they want to bring to the PNFO's attention. The student representatives are also invited to attend the spring Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for in the Spring, March 2025.

“One of the goals of the student representative role is to continue to advocate for governance by increasing awareness of student's role in governance,” said Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN, Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director.

The student representatives will work together towards feedback on topics on the PNFO agenda.

“The topics that go into the agenda are ones that resonate with the student body, these are very unifying topics, and are all in congruence with regulatory and accreditation requirements for BORN (Board of Registration in Nursing), COE (Council on Occupational Education), and ACEN (Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing),” Bolandrina said.

Peloquin of Southbridge is with the Department of Developmental Services as DSW II, providing direct care in a group residential setting for individuals with developmental, physical, and mental disabilities. As DSW II, she acts as shift supervisor and guide staff in care and operation of the shift. She mediates issues and handles scheduling/house duties as necessary. Peloquin is a graduate of Southbridge High School (2004) where she was active in Show Choir, Drama Club, Chess Club (Vice President), and School to Career Program. Her project was with Dystopia Rising Massachusetts- setting guide. From 2015-2020 she studied at Worcester State University majoring in Psychology. She took four semesters of French (fluent in conversational French) and various visual/fine arts courses.

Sarsfield of Charlton is a multi-faceted, efficient, ethical, motivated, and reliable Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA). She has over 15 years of centered-based patient care and customer service experience. She is employed at CareOne at Millbury as a CNA (since 2019) and was with Sterling Village at Sterling from 2008 to 2019. She graduated from the Holy Name Central Catholic Jr./Sr. High School in Worcester (2005). Sarsfield's long-term goal is to complete her practical nursing education, become an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse), and bridge into an RN (Registered Nurse) program with her field of interest- hospice and palliative care nursing. She is a 2024 PCE (Program for Continuing Education) Grant recipient from P.E.O. International (Philanthropic Educational Organization, www.peointernational.org) Sarsfield was also newly elected as an officer of the UNICEF Club.

Both Peloquin and Sarsfield have a valid Health Care Provider/ Basic Life Support Provider CPR, Dementia Care Certified, and Mental Health First Aid Certified. Student representatives will bring student issues up, participate in governance, and focus on not just current students but may include alumni and possibly incoming students in conversations and activities.

Bay Path Nursing students complete adult mental health First Aid training



Courtesy

Pictured — Far left, standing: Jammie Glenn with members of the Bay Path PN Class of 2025.

CHARLTON — Research states that the overall suicide rate in the US has increased by 35 percent since 1999, and suicide is the 10th leading cause of death overall in the US. September is National Suicide Prevention Month and Bay Path practical nursing (PN) students are doing their share in learning. The PN class of 2025 learned the signs of suicide to prevent home or workplace-based tragedy.

Some members of the PN Class of 2025 completed the Blended Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training lead by Jammie Glenn, Project Director of the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services, Inc. (www.SYFS-MA.org). The six-hour curriculum, completed in one full professional development day, gives the participant a three-year certification upon completion. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN

Academy Director at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy has been working with the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services for the PN students MHFA training for over five years.

“We are blessed to have Jammie Glenn, the Project Director and the Shrewsbury Youth and Family Services for their continued provision of the MHFA training for the PN students!” said Bolandrina.

“It is important for our future nurses to have the skills and knowledge to identify and respond to signs of mental disorders and how to provide initial help and support,” Bolandrina added.

MHFA trained individuals may assist someone experiencing a mental health or substance use-related crisis. In the MHFA course, the PN students learned risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help in crisis

and non-crisis situations and well as where to turn for help for both adult and youth.

Topics covered include depression, mood disorders, anxiety, trauma, psychosis, and substance use disorders. Participants learned how to apply the MHFA action plan in situations when someone is experiencing panic attacks, suicidal thoughts of behaviors, non-suicidal self-injury, acute psychosis (hallucinations or delusions), overdose or withdrawal from alcohol or drug use, and reactions to a traumatic event.

“Providing education to the PN students and supporting them so they're in the best state of mind for their nursing journey is a wonderful tie-in,” Bolandrina said.

The feedback on the MHFA training remains positive. We continue to engage in conversation, education, and breaking the stigma of mental health disorders.

Sheriff's Office earns re-accreditation from American Correctional Association



Courtesy

Worcester County Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis (pictured center) recently announced a major accomplishment for his office.

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER
REGION — The Worcester County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) has now completed all requirements for re-accréditation through the American Correctional Association.

Worcester County Sheriff Lewis Evangelidis recently announced that his department received a compliance score of 98.7 percent for its re-accréditation process. For more than 150 years, the American Correctional Association (ACA) has promoted correctional effectiveness on a national level. The organization serves all individuals and groups, both public and private, that share a common goal of improving the justice system.

In April, the Worcester County Jail and House of Correction hosted a panel of ACA auditors who evaluated the facility on over 420 standards. These include inmate safety, healthcare, mental health resources, education, programming, officer training, staff safety, and facility administration. "In an exit interview with on-site ACA auditors and WCSO administrative staff, the auditors praised the work of the

Sheriff's Office," read a statement released by the WCSO. "The auditors mentioned that they regularly evaluate correctional facilities across the nation, but have seen few institutions that operate at the level of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office."

For Evangelidis and his team, the results are a testament to strong training, a dedicated staff, and a daily commitment to safety and high-quality services.

"The auditors' comments strongly affirmed the excellent quality of the work our staff does," Evangelidis said. "It is incredibly valuable to receive such a high level of praise from the ACA auditors, especially considering their extensive careers in corrections and experience visiting correctional facilities. Their feedback is not

only important to hear, but also serves as a great source of motivation for us to continue our work."

Correctional institutions accredited by the ACA must be re-accrédited every three years to maintain their accreditation status. The Worcester County Sheriff's Office has maintained its status since its initial accreditation in 2008, but the review process was far more challenging for the WCSO during that early period prior to the current Sheriff's arrival.

"When I took office in 2011, my administration inherited one of the oldest facilities in the state," added Evangelidis. "Initially, we faced significant challenges that jeopardized re-accréditation. Meeting ACA standards became a top priority for my administrative team. Striving to meet all standards has set our

facility up for long-term success."

Even though Massachusetts does not mandate an audit of its correctional facilities by the ACA, Evangelidis and his team welcome the regular reviews of their facility.

"It is important that we are held to the highest standards of care, custody, and control of the inmate population," Evangelidis said. "We also want to ensure a high level of professionalism and training across all staffing groups. The employees of the Worcester County Sheriff's Office play a crucial role in the overall safety and well-being of the residents of Worcester County. Thank you to the hardworking WCSO staff who strive every day to improve our communities."



Courtesy

Booklovers' Gourmet, located at 72 East Main St. in Webster, presents "Gnomettes" small paintings featuring gnomes in various settings, by local artist Sharon Lindgren. The exhibit will be on display and for sale Oct. 1-31 in the cafe gallery and may be viewed during normal business hours, Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. A meet the artist reception will take place on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2-4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 508-949-6232.

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Apple Festival set for Oct. 5

DUDLEY — A Craft Fair and Apple Festival will be held on historic Dudley Hill (Center Road), Dudley, on Oct. 5, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Rain or shine! Free admission. Crafters will be located in the historic Black Tavern, the Black Tavern barn and grounds, and on the Dudley Town Common. Also on the common will be "tradesmen" demonstrating 19th century tools and skills. The Dudley Grange Apple Festival will be serving apple crisp, as well as providing music and a "petting zoo."

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OBITUARIES

Dennis D Dancause, Sr., 68



Dennis D Dancause, Sr., age 68, of Woodstock Valley, CT died peacefully Monday, September 16, 2024 at his sisters home in North Grosvenordale. Dennis was born February 16, 1956 in Webster, MA. He is the son of the late Donald and the late Elaine (Rodio) Dancause.

He is survived by two sons: Dennis D. Dancause Jr. and his wife Holly of Dudley, MA and Charles W. Dancause and his wife Hillary of Charlton, MA one daughter: Denise D Dancause of AL, one sister: Linda Orłowski and her husband John of Thompson, CT and two brothers: Richard Dancause and his wife Sandy of Canterbury, CT and David Dancause and his Fiance Dottie of Westbrook, CT.

7 beloved grandchildren Dakota, Brayden, Lochlyn, Addy, Ruby, Chloe and Lea. Several Nieces and Nephews. Dear friend Nick Popiak his faith-

ful companions Sir Winston and Peaches Predeceased by his Paternal grandparents Alphonse and Aldea Dancause. Maternal grandparents John and Aurora Rodio.

He graduated from Bartlett High School in Webster he was a member of the band for all 4 years. He proudly served in the Coast Guard Serving In Cape May, New Jersey And Newport News Virginia He retired from International Paper in Putnam in 2022

Dennis enjoyed Hunting, fishing and family time a member of the family Rendezvous Club.

Most of all he treasured time spent with his grandkids and teaching them there outdoor skills.

Services are private with a celebration of life. Online condolence book at www.bartelfuneralhome.com Bartel Funeral Home 33 Schofield Ave. Dudley Ma. is directing arrangements.



Linda J. Morse, 81



THOMPSON, CT - On September 19, 2024, Linda, affectionately known as "Lolly", entered eternal rest on her birthday, with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ at Hope Health Hultar Hospice Center, surrounded by her loved ones. Linda was born in Hartford, CT on September 19, 1943, to Robert and Elizabeth (Hill) Johnston. Her fondest childhood days were spent with her twin sister Kathy and older sister Susan.

Linda graduated from Simsbury High School and Mt. Ida College. She then worked in the infirmary at Aetna Life and Casualty in Hartford, until her marriage to Richard Morse, son of the late Ted and Philomena (Hoenig) Morse of Webster, MA. Linda and Richard were joined in marriage on February 8, 1969, at St. Timothy's Church in West Hartford, and made their home in Thompson, CT.

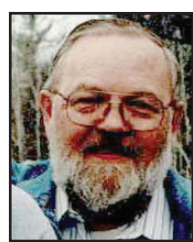
Her greatest joy was welcoming and raising her four sons: Rob, Rick, Ryan and Randy. She loved spending time with her family, immediate and extended, and making lasting memories with her children and grandchildren.

Throughout the years, Linda was an active member at various churches including St. Philips and Green Valley, both in Putnam, CT and High Pointe in Thompson. She participated in Bible study, choir, musical, healing and prayer ministries.

She loved children, texting with her boys and friends, connecting with others on Facebook, bird watching, animal shows, and playing Words with Friends, Scrabble and Solitaire. She especially enjoyed eating chocolate.

She leaves behind her beloved husband of 55 years, Richard E. Morse of Thompson, CT, sons Robert Morse and his husband Chris Law of Sagamore Beach, MA, Richard Morse, his wife Kim and grandson Camden of Blackstone, MA, Ryan Morse, his wife Renie Grindle and grandsons Kyle and Max of North Smithfield, RI, Drs. Randall and Regina Morse and grandchildren Elizabeth, Julianna, and Nathaniel of South Grafton. Additionally, she leaves her twin sister Kathryn Yost in Virginia, sisters-in-law Norma Wadewitz of Holliston, MA, and Sandra (Bernie) Carmell of Florida. She was predeceased by her parents, sister Susan Lenzi and brothers-in-law, Fred Lenzi and John Wadewitz. She leaves many nieces and nephews, all of whom she held dear; and her long-standing best friend, Rose Leo of Webster, MA. Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in Linda's memory to the National Marrow Donor Program, 500 N 5th St, Minneapolis, MN 55401, or to The Tomorrow Fund for childhood cancer, RI Hospital Campus, Physicians Office Building, Suite 462, 110 Lockwood St, Providence, RI 02903. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster, MA.

Paul Edwin Nezuh, 78



WINDHAM – Paul Edwin Nezuh, 78, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, June 12, 2024. Paul was born in Dudley Massachusetts in 1946, the son of Chester and Sophie (Bednarz) Nezuh. Paul graduated from Bartlett High School in Webster, Massachusetts in 1962 and earned his BA at the University of Connecticut Storrs. Paul was fluent in Polish, Russian, and Spanish and continued his education after graduation taking computer courses at the UConn campus in Storrs. After graduation, Paul took a position with the State of Connecticut as a Social Worker with Child Welfare (DCF) before accepting a position as a Juvenile Probation Officer in the Superior Court System, which he excelled at, until his retirement at age 51. As a Juvenile Probation

Officer for many years, he knew which kids needed to be confronted and dealt with firmly and which ones needed to be protected from fear and abuse, while instilling confidence and building their self-esteem. He was well respected among his coworkers and court staff and was often asked for advice and assistance. Throughout his life, Paul gave his time and talents to charitable organizations. Paul served on the Board of the Covenant Soup Kitchen in Willimantic Connecticut for over 25 years. Paul spent time with family and friends and enjoyed his times at the casinos. Paul will be remembered for his love of family and friends, his joy for life, and in his dedication to supporting worthy causes. Paul will be greatly missed by brother and his family, as well as his cousins and his many friends. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested for the Covenant Soup Kitchen, 220 Valley Street, Willimantic Connecticut 06226 or covenantsoup-kitchen.org

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



Susan R Eklund, 63



Susan R Eklund, age 63, of Thompson, CT died unexpectedly Saturday, September 14, 2024 at home in Thompson. Susan was born August 14, 1961 in Putnam, CT. She is the daughter of the late Raymond and the late Doris (Tellier) Robillard.

She is survived by one son: John Eklund of Thompson, CT; one brother: Michael Robillard of Southbridge, MA; nieces, nephews and cousins. A host of friends and co-workers.

Predeceased by her former Husband, Donald Eklund.

She graduated from Putnam Catholic Academy and received her degree in nursing from QVCC.

She was employed by Christopher Heights as a Registered Nurse.

Susan also previously worked at Webster Manor and Nichols College / Dudley Hill Golf Club.

She was an avid reader and enjoyed her two cats and assisting her residents at Christopher Heights over the last ten years.

Services are private Bartel Funeral Home 33 Schofield Avenue in Dudley is assisting the family. Susan's on line condolence book at www.bartelfuneral-home.com.

MEETING

continued from page A1

will have a more detailed presentation of the changes for Town Meeting itself.

Article 5 might also have a long-term impact. That item seeks to give the selectmen authority to negotiate the purchase of a parcel known as "0 Charlton Street," about half an acre at the corner of Charlton and Fremont streets, for future town use.

Assistant Manager Tony Sousa said that land once had a house on it, but has been just vegetated for decades. The goal is to obtain it to expand

senior center parking and/or outdoor activity space; he described it as "well-located, well-suited to our uses."

Callahan said it took quite some time to track down the owners, since it's been in a family trust for years and the trustees moved south. But once she found them and "developed a really nice relationship" with them, she said they've become willing to sell it. She called the cost "a really great bargain" – about \$200,000, which will probably come from Free Cash – and noted getting the parcel would be "very important to our seniors, and that's important to this family."

A third article seeks to adopt a section of state law called the "prudent investor rule." Treasurer/Collector Cheyenne Cusson said the change would allow Oxford "to broaden the list of investments ... and optimize returns," and would offer "flexibility for investment purposes without eliminating any fiduciary responsibility." She said it will only apply to trust and scholarship funds, not stabilization accounts, although Accountant Katie McKenna said Oxford has several of those, especially for the library.

McKenna handled most of the explanation

for the other three articles, which are all financial. Article 1 is a fairly routine "prior year bills" item seeking to pay for police department software called Archive Social that was due back in July 2023. She said she's looking into what that software is for, why the department had it, and a source of payment funds, but assumed the town had already made use of its services.

A quick Google search identified the firm as being "CivicPlus" social media archiving software." The site states it helps "Maintain compliance with public records laws and manage records from social media

accounts in real-time."

Article 2 is also fairly routine – a transfer of \$100,000 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization account; McKenna noted the state recently certified Free Cash to the tune of about \$2.5 million. She said it can be used for items the budget can't fund, but requires a two-thirds Town Meeting vote to spend.

Callahan said that account is "really important for unforeseen circumstances that haven't come up in our capital plan."

The last item might not be needed at all, Callahan and McKenna said. That would amend the Sewer Enterprise budget to

"reduce our expenditures" in light of the fact it seems income is down. McKenna said she's been talking to the state, where Department of Revenue is looking at this budget's revenues, usage and sewer rates, and believes the state will allow what Oxford is now doing, but this item is on the warrant just in case.

Town Meeting will begin at Oct. 2 at 7 p.m. at the High School Auditorium.

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

MALONEY

continued from page A1

negative thinking, sometimes including suicidal thoughts. Maloney noted that's "a permanent solution to a temporary situation."

"If you see me, hear me, or feel my energy, you're still in the game."

Instead of going that way, "don't water the weeds, fertilize the flowers," he said. "... The best way to fix problems" is to help others.

That can be as basic as approaching them with a smile. "There are over 7,000 languages, and a smile speaks them all," he said.

Recovery, though, also requires personal discipline, because "it's going to be harder before it gets easier," he learned. "... If you truly want something that's realistically attainable and you don't have discipline, you will feel regret."

He credited his brother for pushing him to recover – sometimes literally, as in pushing his wheelchair into the YMCA pool for therapy sessions.

In Maloney's case, those trials have included



Scott Maloney

PTSD and daily seizures, multiple medications, and other "consequences you can't charm your way out of," he said. One of them was a total change of career – he's now a TV reporter and speaker, but in high school and college, he wanted to be a cop.

"I've talked in many places, but I've never met the doctor who saved my life," he noted.

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

BINS

continued from page A1

'n Shop Plaza on Airport Road, Marty's Liquor Store on West Main Street, and a third across the street from Marty's where she took photos of junk dumped as each bin ranging from a drum set to televisions and furniture. A fourth site near Sinni's Pub on Chase Avenue was also confirmed to be abused. The most concerning dump site, and the only one of the three without a camera, was the site across from Marty's where a recliner, a small organ-type piano, and tires had been dumped despite the bins stating they were exclusively for shoes or cloths. The tires were especially concerning as standing water is a prime attractor of mosquitos and Dudley is one of many communities currently dealing with concerning risks of West Nile Virus and EEEE, both dangerous diseases carried by the insect. While two of the sites have cameras, including the Park'n Shop bin accompanied by a sign stating a

\$1,000 fine, the town does not have access to those fees.

Kaufman said she wanted to explore what the Board of Health could do and acknowledged that the trash on those sites sometimes rotates giving the impression that people are taking things and leaving new items behind.

"What's interesting is the stuff comes and goes. I'll stop at Park n' Shop in the morning and there will be different stuff, but there's always stuff there so I don't know if it's like the recycling center where it's become a take it or leave it," said Kaufman. "I don't know if there's any procedure in place right now for the junk to go away."

Board Chair Roberta Johnson explained that the Board of Health has little power over those sites as they are on private property.

"The Board of Health is not responsible for those. The owners of that property are," she said. "Those signs for the fines were not put up by the Board of Health because we don't manage those. Just like if you had some-

thing on your lawn and I came and said to get rid of it, I can't do that because that's your property."

The Board of Health does have some power to enforce the private owners to keep the sites clean. Johnson used the tires as an example noting that these could create a larger public health concern that could warrant the

Health Agent providing an order to the property owners to clean up the bins. The board closed the conversation without making any motions, but did note there are contact numbers on each of the donation bins for those with concerns and discouraged citizens from dumping inappropriate materials at these sites.



Courtesy

A Photo shared by Dudley Board of Health member Monica Kaufman shows improperly dumped materials around one of several donation bins in town. This photo shows furniture and other items left as clothing and book bins on West main Street.



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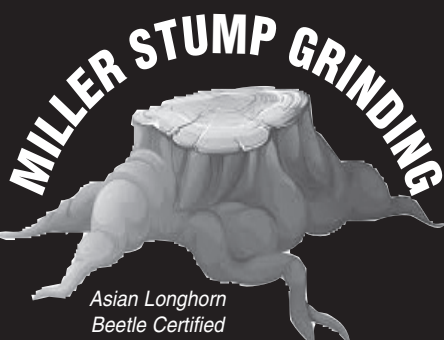
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SHOOTING

continued from page A1

should such a situation occur. While the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District has not had to employ these strategies in an actual emergency, Superintendent

Lamarche said he is confident they have a strong plan in place and a capable staff who will respond accordingly if the need arises.

“We continue to work closely with authorities, which is great. We have a great working relationship with both police

departments, both fire departments, and all emergency personnel, health agents, et cetera in our two communities. That has really been solidified over the past couple of years. We will continue to create safe spaces for all students, and staff in our commu-

nity within our buildings. It is our responsibility to create an environment where students can focus their education without fear, and we will not compromise on that commitment. We are very lucky because we have staff that is very dedicated to our commu-

nity and to our students,” said Lamarche.

The Superintendent confirmed that all new staff attended ALICE training prior to the start of the school year and that refresher trainings for all staff members will be conducted within the next month. Substitute

educators are also being encouraged to take part in the training. The district will continue to conduct three active shooter drills each school year as well in coordination with first responders.

LEGALS

**LEGAL NOTICE
MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF
REAL ESTATE**

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Bruce J. Grici and Angela J. Grici to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated December 5, 2006 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 40314, Page 1 (the “Mortgage”), as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated October 1, 2023, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 69663, Page 219 of which mortgage Nationstar Mortgage LLC is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc. to CitiMortgage, Inc. dated September 13, 2010 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 46367, Page 333, and Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for CitiMortgage, Inc. dated May 25, 2012 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 49089, Page 318, and Assignment from CitiMortgage, Inc. to Federal National Mortgage Association dated February 11, 2014 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 52042, Page 122, and Assignment from Federal National Mortgage Association to Nationstar Mortgage LLC dated August 16, 2022 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 68113, Page 88, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 650 Oxford Street South, Auburn, MA 01501 will be sold at a Public Auction at 1:00 PM on October 15, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

TRACT I:

The land, with the buildings and improvements thereon, situated on the westerly side of Oxford Street South in the Town of Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and being shown as Lot 3 on a plan of property owned by Joseph A. Tonelli, Jr. and John E. Johnson, Oxford Street South, Auburn, Massachusetts by Cullinan Engineering Co., Inc. dated July 22, 1974, which plan is recorded with the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 403, Plan 40, and to which plan reference is made for a more particular description.

TRACT II:

The land, with the buildings and improvements thereon, situated in the Town of Auburn, Worcester County, Massachusetts, and being shown as Lot 4A on a plan of land entitled: “Plan Showing Land” in Auburn, Mass. owned by Stephen Messina, to be conveyed to Joseph C. Messina et ux prepared by George E. Smith, Jr. R.L.S. dated May 17, 1983, which plan is recorded with the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 509, Plan 19, and to which plan reference is made for a more particular description.

Subject to and with the benefits of any and/or all rights, restrictions, covenants and easements of record insofar as the same may be in force and applicable. For title, see deed dated 8-13-1996 from Edward A. Pouzar to Bruce J. Grici and Angela J. Grici, recorded with the Worcester Registry of Deeds in Book 18230, Page 152.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 18230, Page 152.

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

Terms of the Sale: Cashier's or certified check in the sum of \$5,000.00 as a deposit must be shown at the time and place of the sale in order to qualify as a bidder (the mortgage holder and its designee(s) are exempt from this requirement); high bidder to sign written Memorandum of Sale upon acceptance of bid; balance of purchase price

payable by certified check in thirty (30) days from the date of the sale at the offices of mortgagee's attorney, Korde & Associates, P.C., 900 Chelmsford Street, Suite 3102, Lowell, MA or such other time as may be designated by mortgagee. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Grici, Bruce J. and Angela J. Grici,
24-045144
September 20, 2024
September 27, 2024
October 04, 2024

**NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

Premises: 57 Hillside Avenue, Webster, Massachusetts

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Elizabeth A. Hatch and Walter M. Lewinski, wife and husband to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (“MERS”), as mortgagee, as nominee for Urban Financial Group its successors and assigns and now held by WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, not individually but solely as trustee for FINANCE OF AMERICA STRUCTURED SECURITIES ACQUISITION TRUST 2018-HB1, said mortgage dated August 6, 2012, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49450, Page 383, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated November 4, 2016, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 56262, Page 227, as affected by an Assignment of Mortgage dated March 20, 2023, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 68964, Page 108, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction on October 18, 2024 at 10:00 AM Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land with all improvements thereon situated at 57 Hillside Avenue, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts. Said land and improvements being more specifically described as follows:

Land with all buildings thereon of every description and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in Webster, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on the easterly side of Hillside Avenue, and being lot #77 on, “Plan of Lots at Hillside Avenue, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts”, dated October 14, 1943 and recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Plan book 161, Plan 12, and bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a stake in the easterly line of said Hillside Avenue at Lot #78 as shown by the above captioned plan; THENCE easterly, two hundred six and thirty-nine hundredths (206.39) feet by said lot #78 to a stake in the westerly line of parcel “B” as shown by said plan;

THENCE northerly sixty (60) feet at right angles to the last mentioned line by said parcel “B” to a stake at lot #76 on said plan;

THENCE westerly two hundred one and sixteen hundredths (201.16) feet by said lot #76 and parallel to the first mentioned course to a stake in the easterly line of said Hillside Avenue; THENCE southerly with an interior angle of 60 degrees 00 feet a distance of sixty and twenty three hundredths (60.23) feet by said Hillside Avenue to a point of beginning.

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 August 9, 2012, and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 49450, Page 381.

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.

TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid by a 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 by a certified check, bank treasurer's or cashier's check within forty-five (45) days after the date of sale.

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Marinosci Law Group, P.C.
275 West Natick Road, Suite 500
Warwick, RI 02886
Attorney for WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, not individually but solely as trustee for FINANCE OF AMERICA STRUCTURED SECURITIES ACQUISITION TRUST 2018-HB1
Present Holder of the Mortgage
Telephone: 401-234-9200
MLG File No.: 23-00910

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder

September 27, 2024

October 4, 2024

October 11, 2024

**Webster Water Department
Bid Request****Well Redevelopment**

The Webster Water Department is soliciting bids for the cleaning of Wells #1, #2, #3 at Station #1 and Well #6 at Station #2 located at 6 Memorial Beach Drive. Award will be based on the lowest bid received for the project and the Department reserves the right to award one or all or any combination of wells based on the money available in the budget. Responders must note the bid price in the proper location for each item quoted. No substitutions to the items listed will be allowed or considered. Price should include Prevailing Wage rates and the subsequent certified payrolls. Power for the redevelopment equipment will be provided by the contractor. A well construction diagram will be provided. For information and the bid tab please contact Webster Water at 508-949-3861.

The deadline for the bid is: October 07, 2024 at 9:00 AM. Bids received after this date and time will be considered non-responsive. Bids may be delivered by email to: tcutler@webster-ma.gov, Fax 508-949-3868, or in person. September 27, 2024

**DUDLEY CONSERVATION
COMMISSION****Public Hearing Notice**

A Public Hearing will be held at the Dudley Municipal Complex, 71 West Main Street in Dudley, MA at 6:15 PM on Wednesday, Click here to enter a date. to consider a **Notice of Intent** of the New England Power Company (NEP) for the property located at 13 Stebbins Drive for the removal of four trees from within the access road leading to the T20 transmission line. Access is required for essential maintenance work on the Line.

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

September 27, 2024

**LEGAL NOTICE
MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF
REAL ESTATE**

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by David F. DePatie to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc., its successors and assigns, dated August 9, 2006 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39569, Page 213 (the “Mortgage”) of which mortgage Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for GSAA Home Equity Trust 2006-18, Asset-Backed Certificates Series 2006-18 is the present holder by Assignment from Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (“MERS”), as designated nominee for GreenPoint Mortgage Funding, Inc., beneficiary of the security instrument, its successors and assigns to Deut-

sche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for GSAA Home Equity Trust 2006-18, Asset-Backed Certificates Series 2006-18 dated June 25, 2014 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 52505, Page 224, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 44 New Boston Road, Dudley, MA 01571 will be sold at a Public Auction at 10:00 AM on October 4, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

A certain parcel of land owned by Frank L. Mackowiak and Gloria I. Mackowiak dated December 12, 2001 and recorded in the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 781, Plan 27 and being shown as Lot #5 on said plan.

BEGINNING at the southwest corner of the lot to be conveyed at a point at an iron rod at a point on New Boston Road;

THENCE proceeding along a curve to the left with a radius of 20 feet a distance of 27.00 feet to an iron rod;

THENCE proceeding along a curve to the left with a radius of 350.00 feet a distance of 139.51 feet to an iron rod;

THENCE North 00 degrees 00' East, a distance of 10.00 feet to an iron rod;

THENCE North 90 degrees 00' 00" West a distance of 210.85 feet to an iron rod;

THENCE North 14 degrees 46' 04" West a distance of 442.37 feet to an iron rod;

THENCE South 83 degrees 41' 46" East a distance of 571.48 feet to a point;

THENCE South 24 degrees 31' 51" East a distance of 121.29 feet to an iron pipe;

THENCE South 59 degrees 01' 55" West a distance of 280.00 feet to an iron rod;

THENCE South 31 degrees 00' 22" East a distance of 240.00 feet to a point on New Boston Road;

THENCE proceeding along a curve to the right with a radius of 273.95 feet a distance of 45.46 feet to a point by New Boston Road;

THENCE South 68 degrees 28' 22" West a distance of 83.82 feet by New Boston Road to a point;

THENCE along a curve to the left with a radius of 269.22 feet a distance of 65.72 feet to the point of beginning.

BEING the same premises conveyed to the grantor by deed recorded with the Worcester District Registry of Deeds in Book 39569, Page 210.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 39569, Page 210.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for GSAA Home Equity Trust 2006-18, Asset-Backed Certificates Series 2006-18
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
DePatie, David F., 19-036311
September 13, 2024
September 20, 2024
September 27, 2024

Oxford Woman's Club begins new year

OXFORD — Ladies of Oxford and surrounding towns, the Oxford Woman's Club is entering another year of meetings with programs which include fun, learning, and new and lasting friendships.

We take part in community service through donations to various organizations, Library free pass, school supplies, food shelf, veterans to name a few. Our biggest fund raiser that we are so proud to offer is three \$750 Scholarships to deserving High School Seniors.

Our current meeting programs for this year are all held at the Oxford Senior Center, behind the Town hall, on the first Tuesday of the month starting at 7 p.m.

Oct. 1: Shelley Lambert telling us about all that is offered at the Oxford Community Center and other events in the town
Nov. 12: Game Night
Dec. 3: Appreciate Dinner
Feb. 4: History of Quilting
March 4: Chinese Auction
April 1: Humor Your Stress, Loretta LaRoche CD
May 6: Annual Banquet

Come and joining us, we would love to see you there!
For more information, contact Paula at 508-987-2804 or email: phparker1951@gmail.com.

LEGALS

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family
Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508)831-2200
Docket No. W024C0424CA
CITATION ON PETITION TO
CHANGE NAME**

In the matter of:

Kayla Lynn Ayala

A Petition to Change Name of Adult
has been filed by

Kayla Lynn Ayala of Webster MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Kayla Lynn Wilson

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10/22/24 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: September 16, 2024

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

September 27, 2024

**MORTGAGEE'S NOTICE OF SALE
OF REAL ESTATE**

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain Mortgage given by Shawn E. Benway and Daryl J. Benway to **THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK** as successor in interest to **JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Trustee for Structured Asset Mortgage Investments II Trust 2006-AR4 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2006-AR4**, dated May 4, 2006 and recorded in Worcester County Registry of Deeds in Book 38926, Page 218, for breach of the conditions of said Mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing same will be sold at Public Auction at 3:00pm on October 18, 2024 at 128 Main Street, Oxford, MA 01540, all and singular the premises described in said Mortgage, to wit:

TRACT I

THE LAND IN OXFORD, WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS WITH BUILDINGS THEREON, BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT #30 ON A PLAN OF HUGUENOT TRACT, OWNED BY THE HALL REALTY CO., WEBSTER DATED AUGUST 26, 1927, DRAWN BY J.R. KLEINDIENST, SURVEYOR, RECORDED IN THE WORCESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN PLAN BOOK 51, PLAN 16, BOUNDED AS FOLLOWS: NORTHERLY 189.7 FEET BY LOT 31 ON SAID PLAN; EASTERLY 60.2 FEET BY LOT 59 ON SAID PLAN; SOUTHERLY 207.1 FEET BY LOT 29 ON SAID PLAN; WESTERLY 61 FEET BY THE STATE HIGHWAY.

TRACT II

THE LAND IN OXFORD BEING LOT #31 ON PLAN OF HUGUENOT TRACT DATED AUGUST 26, 1927 RECORDED IN WORCESTER DISTRICT OF DEEDS, PLAN BOOK 51, PLAN 16 AND BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF SO. MAIN STREET, BEING THE NORTHEASTERLY CORNER OF LOT #30 ON SAID PLAN; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY BY SAID LOT #30 BEING OTHER LAND OF THE GRANTEES HEREIN ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINE AND SEVEN TENTHS (189.7) FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY BY LOT #58 ON SAID PLAN SIXTY AND TWENTY HUNDREDTHS (60.20) FEET TO POINT; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY BY LOT #32 ON SAID PLAN ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX AND SEVENTY HUNDREDTHS (176.70) FEET TO SAID HIGHWAY; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY BY A CURVE TO THE RIGHT, THE RADIUS OF WHICH IS SIX HUNDRED SEVENTEEN AND TWO HUNDREDTHS (617.02) FEET BY SAID HIGHWAY SIXTY-TWO AND SEVENTY HUNDREDTHS (62.70) FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. The premises are to be sold subject to

and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, encroachments, building and zoning laws, liens, unpaid taxes, tax titles, water bills, municipal liens and assessments, rights of tenants and parties in possession, and attorney's fees and costs.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS (\$10,000.00) in the form of a certified check, bank treasurer's check or money order will be required to be Paid by the purchaser in the form of certified funds at the time and place of sale. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid within thirty (30) days from the sale date in the form of a certified funds to Albertelli Law, 5404 Cypress Center Dr., Ste 300, Tampa, FL 33609. A deed will be provided to the purchaser for recording upon receipt of the full purchase price. The Mortgagee reserves the right to bid at the sale, to reject any and all bids, to continue the sale and to amend the terms of the sale by written or oral announcement made before or during the foreclosure sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication.

TIME WILL BE OF THE ESSENCE.

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

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK as successor in interest to JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. as Trustee for Structured Asset Mortgage Investments II Trust 2006-AR4 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates Series 2006-AR4, Present Holder of said Mortgage

By Its Attorney

Patrick D. Beaton, Esq.

Albertelli Law

400 TradeCenter, Suite 5900

Woburn, MA 01801

Phone: 813-221-4743

24-005756

September 20, 2024

September 27, 2024

October 4, 2024

(SEAL)

**COMMONWEALTH OF
MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
Docket Number: 24SM002921
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO:

**Heirs, Devisees and Personal
Representatives of the Estate
of Louise M. Buma**

and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (*et seq*) **Webster First Federal Credit Union** claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in **Webster** numbered **15 Spring Street #2**, given by **Louise M. Buma** to **Webster First Federal Credit Union**, dated **July 10, 2003**, and recorded in **Worcester County** Registry of Deeds in Book **30781**, Page **202**, has 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 10/28/2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, Gordon H. Piper, Chief Justice of this Court on 9/12/2024 .

Attest: A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

September 27, 2024

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

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

In the matter of:

Aviana Stella Leahy-Rojas

A Petition to Change Name of Minor

has been filed by

**Aviana Stella Leahy-Rojas of WEB-
ster MA** requesting that the court enter

a Decree changing their name to:

Aviana Stella Rojas

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Worcester Probate and Family Court before 10/08/24 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: September 5, 2024

Stephanie Fattman,

Register of Probate

September 27, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by: Anything Automotive INC, 8 E Main street, Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, section 39A, that on: 11 October 2024 at 5:00 PM at 8 E Main street, Webster MA by private sale the following motor vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle description: Year 2009

Make: Honda Accord

Registration#/State: 1DPG18/ MA

VIN: 1HGCP25799A063617

Name and address of vehicle owner:

Carlos A Diaz 630 Main St North

Oxford, MA 01537

This notice has been given under the

provisions of G.L.C.225, Section 39A

September 20, 2024

September 27, 2024

October 4, 2024

Notice is hereby given by: Anything Automotive INC, 8 E Main street, Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, section 39A, that on: 11 October 2024 at 5:00 PM at 8 E Main street, Webster MA by private sale the following motor vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle Description: Year 2014

Make: Chrysler 200

Registration #/ State: 2JDD71/ MA

VIN: 1C3CCB7E1N24491

Name and address of vehicle owner:

Melissa Marie Greeson 79 E Main St

Apt 2 Webster, MA 01570

This notice has been given under the

provisions of G.L.C.225, Section 39A

September 20, 2024

September 27, 2024

October 4, 2024

Notice is hereby given by: Anything Automotive INC, 8 E Main street, Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, section 39A, that on: 11 October 2024 at 5:00 PM at 8 E Main street, Webster MA by private sale the following motor vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle Description: Year 2007

Make: Kia Optima

Registration/State: 2NJB73/ MA

VIN: KNAGE124875145819

Name and address of vehicle owner:

Cheyene Crete 41 Brook St Webster,

MA 01570

This notice has been given under the

provisions of G.L.C.225, Section 39A

September 20, 2024

September 27, 2024

October 4, 2024

Notice is hereby given by: Anything Automotive INC, 8 E Main street, Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, section 39A, that on: 11 October 2024 at 5:00 PM at 8 E Main street, Webster MA by private sale the following motor vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

Vehicle Description: Year 2011

Make: Mercury Mariner
Registration/State: 162EA9/ MA
VIN: 4M2CN9B76BKJ01333

Name and address of vehicle owner:

Arpad M Garamy 84 Chaplin St

Southbridge, MA 01550

This notice has been given under the

provisions of G.L.C.225, Section 39A

September 20, 2024

September 27, 2024

October 4, 2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Division
Docket No. W024P3145EA
Estate of:
Ryan J Corbin
Date Of Death: August 10, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above-captioned estate by Petition of Petitioner

Bobbie-Jean Corbin of Webster MA
A Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Bobbie-Jean Corbin of Webster MA
has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the 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 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.
September 27, 2024

(SEAL)

**COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
LAND COURT
DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL
COURT
24 SM 003292
ORDER OF NOTICE**

TO:

Heirs, Devisees, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Bruce R. Brunnett; Richard G. Brunnett; Tanya L. Holmes; Heirs, Devisees, and Legal Representatives of the Estate of Corey Brunnett; Geovani G Brunnett; Natra T Brunnett; Julieann R Brunnett

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

Citizens Bank, N.A. f/k/a RBS Citizens, N.A. s/b/m Citizens Bank of Rhode Island

claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 205-207/207A Main Street, given by Andrea M Loconto to Citizens Bank of Rhode Island, dated February 25, 2005, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 35943, Page 145, 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 October 28, 2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the grounds of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER, Chief Justice of said Court on September 13, 2024.

Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson

Recorder

September 27, 2024

Local nonprofits receive \$91,000 boost from Webster Five Foundation



Courtesy

Participants in United Way of Central Massachusetts – Women’s Initiative, which received \$2,500 from the Webster Five Foundation. The awarded grant monies will be utilized to support the Dollar Scholar program, which provides girls aged 10-14 with basic financial literacy skills and valuable knowledge to support their college, career and life plans.

AUBURN — The Webster Five Foundation is pleased to announce that 18 Massachusetts nonprofit organizations will benefit from \$91,000 in grants during the Foundation’s third cycle of grants this year. Each quarter, the Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations or programs that support expanding or improving access to education, culture and the arts, social services, charitable activities and community development.

The following organizations were awarded funding from the Webster Five Foundation in this grant cycle:

Community Legal Aid – \$10,000 to support its Language Access Project, which provides necessary and free legal services to low-income and elderly residents in Worcester County regardless of their primary language.

Legendary Legacies – \$3,000 and a match of up to \$2,000 to support its Reintegration, Food Transport and Employment Preparation programs for formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated individuals in Worcester.

Mustard Seed Catholic Worker Community Inc. – \$2,500 towards its Summer Enrichment Programming for Low-Income Youth. The Mustard Seed Catholic Worker is a house of hospitality inspired by the vision of Dorothy Day.

Old Sturbridge Village – \$7,000 for its Educational Outreach

to grades 3, 4, 5 and 8 Webster Public School students and teachers for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Pakachoag Music School of Greater Worcester – \$2,500 to support the Music Matters Financial Aid Program, which provides tuition assistance to program participants from low-and-moderate income families.

Pernet Family Health Service – \$4,000 for its Youth Program Enrichment Activities, which ensures summer activities are accessible to low-income students and their families by removing the barriers of transportation and fees.

Regional Environmental Council, Inc. – \$5,000 as the first installment of a \$25,000 multi-year grant to support the organization’s capital campaign to develop the Center for Urban Agriculture and Food Security, located in Worcester’s Main South neighborhood.

RIA, Inc. – \$1,500 towards its SheFund: Supporting Emergency and Basic Needs, Housing, and Education for Survivors, which offers community-based services to adults with experience in the commercial sex trade.

Safe Exit Initiative (f/k/a Living In Freedom Together, Inc.) – \$5,000 for its HARBOR Drop-In Center, which provides individuals with experience in the sex trade and sex trafficking and individuals at a higher risk

of entry into the sex trade with access to health and social services.

Southeast Asian Coalition of Central Massachusetts, Inc. – \$5,000 to support its Food Security program, which provides foods and meals meeting the cultural and dietary needs of its food-insecure clients.

Tri-Valley, Inc. – \$6,000 to support its Money Management Program, which assists low-income elders who are at risk of losing their independence due to an inability to manage their own finances.

United Way of Central Massachusetts – Women’s Initiative – \$2,500 to support the Dollar Scholar program, which provides girls aged 10-14 with basic financial literacy skills and valuable knowledge to support their college, career and life plans.

United Way of South Central Massachusetts – \$1,500 and a match of up to \$1,000 towards the purchase of capacity building software for its program applications, known as eCimpact.

Worcester Area Mission Society, United Church of Christ – \$3,000 to support the Pre-K Plus program, which prepares children who do not have access to early education to enter kindergarten successfully.

Worcester Earn-a-Bike, Inc. (WEAB) – \$1,000 to support its Youth Earn-a-Bike program, a mentoring and skill building program designed to empower Worcester’s youth.

Worcester Youth Center, Inc. – \$3,500 for its Core Programming, which provides free structured programs and support groups to youth aged 14-24.

YWCA Central Massachusetts, Inc. – \$15,000 to support the Financial Literacy for Domestic Violence Survivors program, which empowers participants to learn resources and strategies to address the financial and safety challenges when ending an abusive relationship.

Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Library, Inc. – \$15,000 as an installment of the ten-year \$150,000 gift to the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library. Each grant installment has been used for the library’s building enhancements as well as additional services.

“At Webster Five, our role as a community bank is to be a supporter of progress in our community,” said Don Doyle, President/CEO, Webster Five. “These grants are our way of acknowledging and amplifying the profound impact these nonprofits have. We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to contribute to their essential work and to support their continued success.”

Since its inception in 1996, the Foundation has awarded \$4,128,370 to 298 organizations. The next round of grant recipients will be awarded later this fall.

United Church of Christ Federated announces community scarecrow competition

WEBSTER — The United Church of Christ Federated invites the community to participate in a community-wide scarecrow competition, which will run from Oct. 1 to Oct. 25. Scarecrows will be displayed until Nov. 3.

The contest is open to all individuals, families, civic, non-profit organizations, schools, churches, clubs, businesses or governmental agencies located within the communities of Webster and Dudley. Registration is free and the application form and the competition guidelines can be found online at www.uccfedwebster.org or by calling the office. Registrations will be approved based on first come first serve basis noted by entry date and time on the form.

The public will vote for their favorite scarecrows by categories either on Facebook, on the website, by mail or by calling the office during the week of Sept. 21 as the winners will be announced on Halloween. One vote per person and category only please.

Categories include 100 Series: Individual/Family, 200 Series: Civic/Non-Profit Organizations, 300 Series: Schools/Scouts/Other children organizations, and 400 Series: Businesses. Be creative! Use your imagination! Your entry can be traditional, humorous or contemporary. Remember that this is a community celebration. The goal is to generate good will and a festive atmosphere. No political, off-color or profane displays will be allowed. The United Church of Christ reserves the right to deny entry privileges of displays to be considered offensive or not family friendly.

For more information, contact the church office at 508-943-0061 or office@uccfedwebster.org.

The United Church of Christ Federated is located at 4 Church St. in Webster and can be reached at 508-943-0061 or uccfedwebster.org, [facebook.com/websterfederated](https://www.facebook.com/websterfederated).

Society of St. Vincent de Paul holds first Friends of the Poor Walk

FISKDALE — The Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Fiskdale will host a walk of up to 2 miles (as each is able) to assist neighbors in our communities with food, clothing, utilities, and housing-related requests. The walk will be on Sunday, Oct. 20 from 2-4 p.m. on the grounds of St. Anne St. Patrick Parish, located at 16 Church St. in Fiskdale.

“The goal of the walk is to generate critical funds to meet an ever-growing need,” said Jon Gorman, SVdP Fiskdale President. “Last year, SVdP volunteers served 55 individual neighbors and 92 families. We hope that the Friends of the Poor will become an annual fundraiser. To bring our community together to support those facing economic hardship.”

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is an international non-profit organization that helps those living in poverty. All proceeds, pledges, and donations from the Friends of the Poor

Walk will directly benefit those neighbors needing emergency food, clothing, transportation, utilities, and housing-related assistance. These are neighbors who live in Brimfield, Brookfield, Holland, Sturbridge, and Wales.

With similar walk events happening nationwide, SVdP Fiskdale is proud to join ten other

Massachusetts cities and towns to have a walk. It helps bring awareness to the number of people in our local communities struggling to make ends meet.

If you want to learn more, participate, or make a pledge, please visit <https://www.svdpfiskdale.org/>.

Plan to register, collect donations, and walk with us on Oct. 20.

Walk to support Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf

OXFORD — Please join Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf volunteers and others on Sunday, Oct. 20, for the annual Crop Hunger Walk. It’s a fun way to get together with family, friends and neighbors while supporting a worthy cause - helping to end hunger in our community. We begin our first three-and-a-half-mile walk through town at the First Congregational Church on 355 E. Main St., Oxford, at 1 p.m. Registration at the church is at 12:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome! We’re looking to raise \$3,500 this year. To participate, please go to: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/oxfordma> and follow the steps from there. Or just show up on the 20th!

You can find additional information on the Oxford Food Shelf Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/OxfordMAFoodShelf>. You may also call the Food Shelf at 508-987-1062.

Thank you! Oxford Food Shelf families and our volunteers appreciate your continued generosity.

Worcester Regional Transit Authority celebrates 50th anniversary

WORCESTER — The Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) is excited to announce the celebration of its 50th Anniversary, marking five decades of providing reliable, accessible, and affordable transportation services to 37 communities in Central Massachusetts.

WRTA will host two special events on Thursday, Sept. 26 to commemorate this significant milestone. The first celebration, exclusively for Advisory Board members and invited guests, will take place at the WRTA Maintenance & Operations Facility at 11 a.m. Later in the day, a Rider Appreciation Event will be held at 2 p.m. at

the WRTA Central Hub, located at 60 Foster St.

The 50th Anniversary celebration will feature remarks from local officials, transportation leaders, and community advocates. Keynote speakers will reflect on WRTA’s evolution from its founding in 1974 to becoming the central transportation network in the region. The events will also showcase a special 1974-themed wrapped bus, celebrating WRTA’s history and contributions to the community.

As part of the 50th Anniversary festivities, WRTA invites the community to a Rider Appreciation Event at the Central Hub. The event will include a tour

of the 50th Anniversary themed bus, giveaways, and opportunities for riders to engage directly with WRTA staff. This celebration highlights the critical role riders have played in WRTA’s growth and success over the years.

Since its incorporation in 1974, WRTA has been instrumental in connecting Central Massachusetts residents to jobs, schools, medical facilities, and essential services. Over the last 50 years, WRTA has grown into a vital network that serves thousands of riders daily. The organization has continually adapted to meet the evolving needs of the community and remains

committed to improving service quality.

As WRTA looks toward the future, it will continue to embrace technological advancements, enhance service offerings, and promote more sustainable transit solutions.

“These events are about saying ‘thank you’ to our riders, contractors, members of our Advisory Board and community partners,” said Administrator Josh Rickman. “For 50 years, they have been the driving force behind everything we do. They are all at the heart of our operations, and this anniversary is the perfect time to celebrate their continued trust and support.”



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Maureen Cimoch
Real Estate Consultant
Cell 508-769-9211

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Masons hold joint Installation of new officers for 2025

BRO. VINCENZO JIMMY FALZONE
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Saturday, Sept. 21, Quinebaug Masonic Lodge's upper and lower parking lots were packed full of Master Masons. Also in attendance were family and friends of Quinebaug Masonic

Lodge in Southbridge and Webster Masonic Lodge in Webster. They gathered to witness and celebrate the joint installation of new officers for both lodges for the 2025 Masonic new year. Wow! One hundred sixty-six years later, and Quinebaug Masonic Lodge is still around and thriving. One hun-

dred sixty-seven years later, and Webster Lodge is also thriving, thanks to the strong bonds of Freemasonry and family-oriented men in both communities. What we do know is that Freemasonry has continue to grow and makes good men even better. The highlight of the Installation of New

Officers was at the end when bro. Ken Wilson Jr. from Webster Lodge stood up and read a scroll containing a Carolina Paul Revere charge to the masters, officers and brethren of the lodges. This scroll was about how you should run their meetings and how we should treat our fellow man in the community and within our society. I was getting goose bumps as he was reading this scroll. What a very memorable

reading to the lodge members. When done members applauded.

The Quinebaug Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was first chartered in 1859. Webster Masonic Lodge was chartered in 1858. Both lodges were granted a charter by Paul Revere who was the Grand Master of Massachusetts during that era.

Our members are immensely proud of the deep traditions these

two Masonic Lodge's continue to hold true. We are enormously proud of the next generation of officers who will hold the honorable positions and will continue these long-lasting traditions going into the future. If you would like more information about Freemasonry and to find a lodge nearest you, visit our Web site at www.massfreemasonry.org

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We are in the process of selling out some Floor Samples! Come check them out at **BIG SAVINGS**



Courtesy

New 2025 Masonic Officers: from the center the brother with the black top hat is our 24th District Deputy Grand Master Brother Jonathan Neitz and to the left of him, front to back is all the Webster Masonic Lodge Officers. To the right of center bro. Neitz, front to back are all the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge members.

Local fairs and festivals roll on

BY KEVIN FLANDERS
STAFF WRITER

REGION — With Halloween and the holiday season quickly approaching, central Massachusetts residents are encouraged to check out local fairs, festivals, and programs this fall.

Whether you're looking for Halloween decorations, Thanksgiving supplies, or Christmas gifts, area crafters, vendors, and event organizers have something for everyone.

In Brookfield, the 45th annual Apple Country Fair will take place on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will bring thousands of guests to the Brookfield Town Common for a day of fun and festivities.

Highlights will include fundraisers; dozens of crafters; food trucks; and the famous apple pie contest.

"Fairgoers can browse and buy hand-knit sweaters and blankets, carved wooden bowls and décor, beaded jewelry, specialty soaps and lotions, hand-crafted toys, locally-produced honey, and more," read a statement released by event organizers.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the

Brookfield Community Club, a charitable organization that awards grants to enrich community life.

To learn more about the festival and how you can get involved, visit www.applecountryfair.com.

Meanwhile, central Massachusetts officials urge residents to think local this shopping season and support vendors at area festivals. As we look deeper into the fall, additional craft fairs will take place at Tantasqua Regional High School in Sturbridge (Nov. 9), Oxford High School (Dec. 7), and Auburn High School (Dec. 14).

Leicester High School will also host its holiday craft fair on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

An array of local church fairs, festivals, and other programs will also take place this fall season. Guests are invited to enjoy the seventh annual Pumpkin Patch organized by Sturbridge Federated Church.

Running from Sept. 28 through Oct. 31, the Pumpkin Patch will be located between Town Hall and Joshua Hyde Library in Sturbridge.

"Let everyone know the best place to get your autumn decorations is

the Sturbridge Federated Church. Our high-quality pumpkins and gourds are grown by the Navajo Nation," read a statement released by organizers. "We also offer locally produced mums, hay bales, and cornstalks. Most of our proceeds support our ministries, including local and regional charities."

Weather permitting, the hours of operation for the Pumpkin Patch are: Monday through Friday (10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.); Saturday (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.); and Sunday (11 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

Featured activities will include a pumpkin carving demonstration by a professional carver (Oct. 5); pumpkin stories for children (Oct. 12 and Oct. 26); Rock Voices singers; photos with a scarecrow (available daily); a corn hole toss activity (available daily); and pumpkin bowling (available daily).

For more information about this year's Pumpkin Patch, please contact the church office at 774-304-1021. You may also visit www.sturfed.org.

For information on other local church events and activities, contact church leaders in your community.

NAI Glickman Kovago & Jacobs

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- Listing price: \$550,000
- Building size: 9,536 SF
- Lot size: 13,939 SF
- Loading docks: (1) tailgate height
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MORE INFO:









Courtesy

CHURCH OF THE RECONCILIATION, ZION LUTHERAN INVITE ALL FOR BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Do you know why God didn't give our pets the ability to speak? It would seem that their love and loyalty are demonstrated by actions, not words. We welcome pet owners of every kind (dogs must be leashed) to show their love and loyalty at a special blessing of the animals on Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. at the Church of the Reconciliation, located at 21 North Main St., Webster. Children are encouraged to bring a favorite stuffed animal. Ample, accessible parking is available in the former Webster Credit Union Parking lot. Please enter through the side gate. Each pet will receive a certificate of blessing from Pastor Michael Bastian. We welcome donations of cat and dog food to be shared through local shelters.



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