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Friday, May 17, 2024

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## OXFORD TOWN ELECTIONS - TUESDAY, MAY 21st - 8am to 8pm



Paid for by the  
Campaign to Elect Russell Rheault

Please vote **RUSSELL RHEAULT** Selectman  
*Experienced Leader - Open Minded Listener - Proven Problem Solver*

- Oxford Selectman - 3 years
- Oxford School Committee - 9 years
- Oxford Town Moderator - 15 years
- Oxford Council on Aging - 3 years
- Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf - 14 years
- Meals on Wheels volunteer driver - 10 years
- Small business owner 40+ years
- Lifelong Oxford resident & OHS graduate

I truly believe voting is the best way to honor our veterans  
who gave their lives for this freedom.

If you would like to see more civility and accountability in town government I sincerely ask for your vote.

Your vote is extremely important! THANK YOU!



# Nichols honors Class of 2024

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

WORCESTER — Nichols College held its annual graduation ceremony on May 4, conferring diplomas to 329 students throughout the morning. The ceremony featured a few consistent themes: perseverance, service, and meaning in choosing a career path of the future.

Nichols College President William Pieczynski, who was named the ninth president of the college only days before the ceremony, welcomed students and guests and introduced two class speakers, Senior Class President Ingrid de Souza Oliveira and Class of 2024 graduate student speaker Ellis Cropper, who represented two very different generations presenting the values of the college experience to their peers.

Oliviera quoted the poem "It Couldn't be



Graduates celebrate during Nichols College's 2024 commencement ceremony.

Courtesy

Done" by Edgar Albert Guest which describes how many may prophesize one's failure, but perseverance is key to overcoming those doubts and finding personal success.

"As a first-generation student, I never imagined achieving as much as I have, and I believe many of you here today may be feeling the same way. Some of us may have had naysayers that told us getting our degree couldn't be done, but you did it. In some cases, our naysayers might have been ourselves, but you did it. In fact, throughout our journey we have seen our fellow classmates do what others thought couldn't be done," she said.

Oliviera praised the Class of 2024 for "embodying the spirit of engagement and involvement" which was a sentiment shared by her fellow speaker Ellis Cropper who graduated Nichols College's

Turn To **NICHOLS** page **A14**

## Dudley sets annual Town Meeting for Monday

BY JASON BLEAU  
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — The Town of Dudley will hold its annual spring town meeting on Monday, May 20 with a loaded warrant that will address the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 spending plan, a waterline easement on Eagle Drive, the proposed Centennial Park Plans and more.

The meeting will start off by addressing a series of financial matters in the town. The first major discussion will be the new budget which was finalized during a meeting of the Board of Selectmen on May 6. The proposed budget totals \$29.1 million including \$12.2 million for the Dudley Charlton Regional School District and \$1.17 million for Bay Path. The warrant will also address the revolving fund, salary increases for the Treasurer/Collector and Town Clerk, the purchase of a new police vehicle, unpaid bills and payments, and employee merit pool, and dam inspections.

The second half of the warrant will see the town address a variety of other proposals, including some that have become part of significant public meetings and debate in the first few months of 2024. The Planning Board has recommended amendments to the design standards for shared driveways which must be approved at the town meeting. The town is seeking to acquire land to build on Dudley's portion of the Quinebaug Rail Trail which connects Dudley to Southbridge and Thompson, Conn. Article 14 will seek a waterline easement on Eagle Drive which would allow the town to install a public waterline that officials say is the recommended solution to ongoing PFAS contamination issues in the area. Officials held a public hearing on the matter in April which can be viewed on the Town of Dudley YouTube channel. Article 15 will see a request from the Historical Commission to utilize the town owned property on Ardlock Place known as the "Dye House Property" to construct a Centennial Park that would help celebrate Dudley's Tri-Centennial. The proposal came before selectmen

Turn To **DUDLEY** page **A14**

## Rheault, Robbins seek Oxford selectman's seat

BY GUS STEEVES  
CORRESPONDENT

OXFORD — Former Town Moderator, Selectman and School Committee member Russell Rheault faces a challenge from retired state trooper Mark Robbins in the only contest on this year's town election ballot. They seek to replace Dennis Lamarche, who is not seeking re-election.

To Rheault, the goal is to promote civility and compromise locally in a

national political culture that seems to be running from it.

"I've always been good at compromise," he said. "I can disagree with someone without disrespecting them. Disagreeing with someone doesn't have to mean you dislike them. And knowing this can lead to compromise, or at the very least, agreeing to disagree so that you can move forward."

Robbins has a similar viewpoint. By email, he

said, "I wholeheartedly believe that working with others and being open minded to other points of view build strong relationships, trust, and a better community. I don't know if anything in our small community will ever change, but it would be amiss if I did not try to be a part of the solution versus just a barking voice on the sidelines."

The two of them face a political climate that has become fairly polarized, but still needs to address

a long list of sometimes perennial local concerns.

**RUSS RHEAULT**

Rheault noted one of them is affordability, with many people in the same situation he is of living on Social Security and a part-time job. He noted people don't generally want to raise taxes, but sometimes "kicking the can down the road [isn't] a good option." He was

Turn To **OXFORD** page **A14**

## St. Joseph students present Living Wax Museum

WEBSTER — On Friday, April 26, Ms. Kelly Bailey's fifth-grade students, with their unwavering enthusiasm and dedication, presented the Living Wax Museum at St. Joseph School.

This annual two-part project, which focuses on reading biographies, saw each student immerse themselves in the life of a fascinating figure. They not only read about their chosen person but also dressed up and spoke like them, showcasing their deep understanding of the person's birth date, childhood, and contributions to our society.

The 2024 Living Wax Museum unfolded on the lawn outside St. Joseph Basilica. Parents and fellow St. Joseph School Students were not just spectators, but active participants in this interactive learning experience. They had the unique opportunity to engage with and learn from the statuesque students, who came to life with every

visitor's approach. The event was a captivating journey through the lives of famous authors, scientists, mathematicians, sports figures, and more, adding a dynamic element to their presentations.

Living wax figures included Abigail Rubin as Queen Elizabeth I, Amelia Potem as Diana Spencer, Ariana Benson as Katherine Johnson, Bella Kicilinski as Amelia Earhart, Evelyn Macko as J.K. Rowling, Gabriel Kenoung-Ung as George Takei May, Grayson Dollar as Abraham Lincoln, Jacob Manzi as Samuel Slater, James Miranda as Wilbur Wright, Lily Martin as Anna May Wong, Lukas Stock as J.R. Tolkien, Noah Ryan as Alexander Hamilton, and Sophia Surowanec as Margaret Brown. The event, always a source of joy and fun for the students, is their favorite book report of the year. It's a testament to the educational and enjoyable nature of the event.



Courtesy

Saint Joseph School 5th Grade student Grayson Dollar portrays Abraham Lincoln during the Annual Living Wax Museum.



**St. Joseph's Parish  
Indoor/Outdoor  
Yard Sale**

**Date: Saturday, May 25th  
Time: 8am - 3pm  
Location: 28 Mt. Pleasant St.,  
North Brookfield**

Featured items include - Household, furniture, small furnishings, decorative items, and attic treasures

Proceeds to benefit  
St. Joseph's Church

www.Stonebridge  
Press.com

**Webster resident awarded  
scholarship from Society of CPA's**



Alicja Rogalski

was awarded the MassCPAs Alliance - Silver Scholarship by the MassCPAs Educational Foundation's 2024 Scholarship Program.

Rogalski, a student at Bentley University, was one of 51 students selected to receive a scholarship. The students will be honored for their awards at MassCPAs' annual, member-wide networking event, Connect 2024, on May 8.

"The dedication and talent of these scholarship recipients is truly inspiring," said Zach Donah, CAE, president and CEO of MassCPAs. "Their commitment to the accounting profession fills us with confidence about the future of the industry in Massachusetts. We're honored to support their academic journeys and play a role in their success. We extend our sincere gratitude to this year's donors and volunteers for helping students achieve their dreams through our scholarship program."

Scholarships are funded 100 percent through donations to the MassCPAs Educational Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to inspire and support the next generation of

CPAs in Massachusetts, and since the program's inception in 2006, the Foundation has awarded over 400 scholarships to aspiring CPAs, ranging from \$2,500 - \$10,000 and totaling more than \$1.9 million. MassCPAs scholarships are available for both undergraduate and graduate accounting students who are attending a college or university in Massachusetts or attending a college or university out-of-state with a permanent residence in Massachusetts. Scholarship funds are issued directly to the students and can be used for tuition, books, interviewing expenses or other needs. For more information about the Educational Foundation, click here.

"MassCPAs is committed to fostering a diverse and talented accounting workforce," said Allie Orlando, director of academic and career development at MassCPAs. "These scholarships address financial barriers and create opportunities for deserving students. We are deeply grateful to our individual and firm donors who share our vision. Together, we are building a stronger future for the accounting profession in Massachusetts."

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  - Move it to your new employer's 401(k) plan, if you've changed employers and your new employer plan allows for it.
  - Roll the account over to an individual retirement account (IRA).
  - Cash it out, which is subject to potential tax consequences.

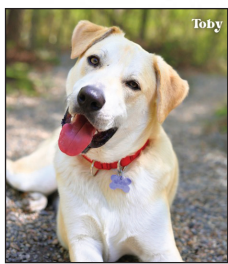
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**PET  
of the  
WEEK**



Meet :Toby , 1 year

"Lots to love" is the perfect way to describe our friend Toby. This big boy is a total goofball and is sure to make you smile. Even though he doesn't have a tail, Toby still shows how happy he is with the most adorable wiggles. He makes everyone he meets smile by leaning against them for pets and rolling onto his back for his favorite activity: belly rubs! He enjoys car rides, which often lull him to sleep.

Toby would do great in a home with teens or older children due to his size and excitement. He may do well with a dog sibling who loves to romp around and play as much as he does. Sometimes he doesn't know his own size, but he's learning. Your next best friend is waiting here, apply for adoption today!

Apply for Toby at baypathhumane.org

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Small Shelter Big Heart

BOSTON—The Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants (MassCPAs) today announced that Alicja Rogalski of Webster

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical School congratulates the following grade 10 students on being named to the honor roll for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year:

**High Honors**  
Helena Adkins, Addison Aho, Logan Barriere, Vincent Bedard, David Betancour, Isabella Bitar, Dominic Boyd, Aleah Brink, Brianna Brink, Emily Corey, Jayla Fowler, Aiden Giroux-Provencher, Joshua Irons, Jr., Zackery Kelleher, Phoebe Lawendowski, Ava Mastrototaro, Felix Menard, Alexis Messina, Alexis Moody, Kayleigh Ramm, Jordan Russell, Gabriel Turcotte, Gabriela Vazquez Hernandez, Esmerelda Velez, Haylee Zurowski

**Honors**  
Bayleigh Abdella, Adriana Alicea, Sarah Appiah Kubi, Jacob Archambault, Alexander Audunsson, Victoria Bachand, Arianna Belanger, Emma Berry, Edward Blash, Riley Boucher, Lucien Brodeur, Alissa Burlingame, Dimitri Burt, Liam Carlson, Samuel Ceppetelli, Lily Chartier, Frederick Cierpich II, Charles Congdon, Hunter Coombs, Maxton Cournoyer, Jacob Creeron, Valentina Culberson, Brody Cunningham, Joseph Daige, Abigail Dejong, Myiah DeLaRosa, Treyton Dery, Brandon Donnell, Nathan Dube, Svannah Dubois, Jocelyn Evans, Anika Ferrantino, Jordan Ferreira, Ethan Ford, Anthony Gonya, Aliyah Gonyea, Sadie Hawley, Luke Heller, Kolton

Hemenway, Liam Hesselton, Lillian Horner, Grace Huehls, Hannah Ingalls, Nicholas Jalbert, Joshua Jeffers, Samuel Kittredge, Cassie Kotomski, Nia Laforest, Joel Landor, Jomar Landor, Zachary Landry, Gabrielle Lapan, Elyse Laramie, Miranda Linde, Michael Lulu, Lucas Lyons, Cullen MacLeod, Philipos Makrodimitras, Mystic Marion, Emily McDonald, Madeline McDonald-Trimby, Kyle Mondor, Gianna Morelli, Tyson Moriarty, Chase Newman, Liam Nicoll, Sebastian Nieuwenhoff, Benjamin Nocchi, Kamryn Nourse, Matthew Obrycki, Kelsey Olson, Cole Paradis, Amari Pereira, Mariah Pereira, Adam Phaneuf, Jacob Pratt, Connor Reidy, Grace Retallic, Nathan Rouille Montoya, Jared Senosk, Luke Smolki, Keagan Standring, Nathan Steen, Gaige Thompson, Ashley Tingle, Josiah Torres, Yandel Torres, Ellie Vanvleck, Natalie Vigeant, Ava Wall, Ethan Wall, Hunter White, Trey Wilkin, Madison Williamson

**Principal's List**  
Violet Aucella, Rhianna Balliet, Nathan Bernard, Ryan Berthiaume, William Blash, Marianelys Cintron Perez, Hailey Costa, Connor Czechowski, Nicholas Dasilva, Samuel Davis, Heidi Ebbeling, Aedan Ellis-Morris, Matthew

Falcigno, Yandel Feliciano, Leia Foster, Rylee Fulmine, Tristan Garcia-Cruz, Hailey Gentile, Anna Guay, Carlos Guerra, Isaiah Harris-Harrington, Christian Johnson, Tabian Keegan, Ayden Kennedy, Callie Lambert, Alyssa Lopez, Mia Lussier, Cheyanne Mitchell, Sebastian Moniz, Jordan Nichols, Oskaryna Nunez, Connor O'Brien, Angelica Padilla, Aiden Perzanoski, Samuel Prefontaine, Samantha Reseigh, Taylor Richard, Marian Rodriguez Rivera, Sawyer Schultz, Jaxon Sitko, Braden Smith, Alexxis Spenard, Thadaeus Tweneboia, Elias Vega, Reece Verderber, Marcanthony Weld, Zaylie Whiteman

**SOPHOMORES NAMED TO  
BAY PATH HONOR ROLL**

**REAL ESTATE**

**AUBURN**

\$4,800,000, 4 Westec Dr, Weber Rt, and Weber, Ruth B, to 4 Westec Drive Rt, and Lundgren, Barry R.  
\$25,000, 296 Central St, Twenty One Haskell St Rt, and Giargiari, Susan L, to Furbish Jr, Daniel, and Furbish, Koby M.  
\$390,000, 87 Shore Dr, Giroux, Lindsey, to Kirk, Kevin, and Kirk, Yasmin.  
\$350,000, 2702 Forest Park Dr #2702, Gentossio, Janna, and Gentatossio, Patrick, to Blair, Scott, and Blair, June.  
\$222,000, 206 West St, Regan, Judith A, to Bombay LLC.

**DUDLEY**

\$12,700,000, W Main St, Hubbard Health Systems Re, to Umass Mem Health Care Inc.

**OXFORD**

\$480,000, 10 Lambert Cir, Dube, Melissa L, and Dube, Andrew J, to Roman, Melissa L, and Roman, Christian.  
\$395,000, 63 Depot Rd #63, Depot Road Rt, and Gavin, Suzann, to Ramos Jr, Joseph M, and Ramos, Mary K.  
\$350,000, 20 Ballard St, Leveillee Mildred R Est, and Leveillee, David J, to Rybak, Chelsea, and Rybak, Steven.

**WEBSTER**

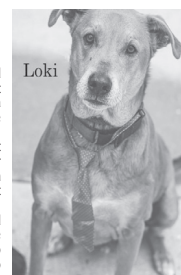
\$12,700,000, 340 Thompson Rd, Hubbard Health Systems Re, to Umass Mem Health Care Inc.  
\$500,000, 29 Goddard St, Scudder Bay Capital LLC, to Bueno, Esteban A, and Ventura, Carolina U.  
\$445,000, 12 Wakefield Ave, Belseth, Shannon, and Belseth, Andrew, to Cuzzupe, Mary T, and Tyndall, Brian R.  
\$382,000, 1 Boyden St, Nayfeh, Ghassan, and Chamoun, Rajaa, to Cruz, Carmen E.

**P.E.T. of the Week**

Sponsored by Cormier Jewelers

**Loki**

Hello there, lovely people! My name is Loki, and I'm here to introduce you to the joy and love that I bring into every room I enter. Despite being a senior, I've still got the heart of a puppy and the energy to match! You see, I've got a playful spirit that just won't quit. Whether it's chasing after a ball, going for a brisk walk, or curling up for some cuddles, I'm always ready for some fun and affection. Age is just a number, right? Now, I'll admit it - I can be a bit nervous around men. But with patience, understanding, and gentle care, I know I can overcome my fears and learn to trust again. All I need is someone who's willing to take the time to earn my trust and show me that there's nothing to be afraid of. If you choose to adopt me, you'll gain a loyal companion who will fill your days with endless joy, laughter, and love. I can't wait to find my forever home and become the cherished member of the family that I know I was meant to be. Oh, and did I mention that I love going on hikes? It's true! Exploring the great outdoors is one of my favorite pastimes. However, I do need to work on my leash manners a bit. You see, I get so excited while exploring that I can be quite strong on the leash. So, I'll need someone who can handle my exuberance and help me become the best hiking buddy I can be. So, if you're ready to open your heart and home to a sweet senior like me, please consider giving me a chance. I promise to fill your life with love, laughter, and unforgettable adventures. Let's make each day an exciting new journey together!



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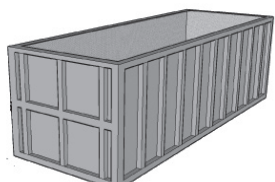
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# Worcester Polytechnic Institute students complete intensive research projects

WORCESTER — At Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology that addresses an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university's 50-plus off-campus project centers, which are located around the world. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people's lives and make a difference before they graduate.

curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge and to solve problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, professor of Integrative & Global Studies and associate dean of The Global School. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat - all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application."

The following students were part of a team that completed an intensive project:

Samuel Wing, class of 2025, majoring in Aerospace Engineering from Oxford, was part of a project titled Developing an E-Commerce Plan for MW/GW ReStore

William Tyrrell, class of 2025, majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Dudley, was part of a project titled Analyzing Beekeeping in Aotearoa New Zealand

Morgan Polinski, class of 2025, majoring in Biomedical Engineering from Webster, was part of a project titled Useability of Value Added Products to Reduce Seafood Waste

Juliana Fox, class of 2025, majoring in Industrial Engineering from Oxford, was part of a project

titled Determining Impact of Small-Scale Sustainability Efforts

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI, a global leader in project-based learning, is a distinctive, top-tier technological university founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems. Recognized by the National Academy of Engineering with the 2016 Bernard M. Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education, WPI's pioneering project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and

at more than 50 project centers around the world. WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. Its faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research to meet ongoing challenges in health and biotechnology; robot-

ics and the internet of things; advanced materials and manufacturing; cyber, data, and security systems; learning science; and more. [www.wpi.edu](http://www.wpi.edu)

## BOY SCOUT TROOP 273 SPRING YARD SALE

Saturday, May 25th

Universal Tag Parking Lot, 36 Hall Road, Dudley  
Early Birds (8am to 9am) \$10.00 per person fee  
9am until 3pm FREE We accept CREDIT CARDS!  
24,000 sq.ft. of yard sale items ONE DAY ONLY  
*Pick your items and Make an offer!*

Grouped Items: Electronics - stereos, speakers, etc. (no TV's)  
Tools - hand tools, lights, flooring etc... Furniture - Tables, chairs, bed frames, cabinets, hutches, etc...  
Housewares - glassware, dishes, pictures, mirrors, bowls, cups, small appliances  
Sporting goods - Bikes, skis, baseball equipment, golf, exercise equipment  
Clothes - shirts, pants, jackets, shoes, bags  
Kids toys and baby items - high chairs, bouncy, games, Antiques

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## Find out about "Those Bloomer Girls" May 16

DUDLEY — Why was women's "dress reform" so outrageously shocking? Join historian Linda Hixon to learn more about the history of "Those Bloomer Girls!" at the Black Tavern, 138 Center Rd. in Dudley, on May 16 at 7 p.m.

This free event is sponsored by the Black Tavern Historical Society, the Dudley Cultural Council, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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*Of Coins, tokens, medals and more, what is his favorite thing?*

AUBURN — The Auburn Historical Society and Museum's May 16 meeting will feature the renowned storyteller, Bob Moffatt.

Moffatt's expertise in coins, medals and tokens come with some interesting stories that he will be sharing and will lead up to what his favorite things are and how he acquired them. The meeting will be held at the Auburn Sportsman's Club at 50 Elm St. at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public.

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[www.tarentinocharitablefund.org](http://www.tarentinocharitablefund.org)

**Please join us for the 2024 Tarentino Strong 5K held in memory of Officer Ronald Tarentino, Jr. Sunday, June 9th @ Auburn Elks Kids Fun Run @ 9:30**

**5K @ 10:00 with chip timing and finish line photos Family Fun Event with DJ, Emergency Vehicles, Raffles, Coffee, Treats, Free Giveaways...**

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# GLADYS E. KELLY LIBRARY

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

in the lobby!  
Adult Programming YOGA – Saturday May 18th and 25th at 9:30 AM (May 11th class will start at 9:15 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.  
ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP— May 20th at 6:30 PM  
This month’s book discussion will be in the Library’s Community Room. The Group will be discussing West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge. Stop by the library, or reach out by phone at 508-949-3880, or by email to rcox@cwmar.org for inquiries.

like to cook or bake there will always be something for you! We will eat and discuss our favorite and our least favorite things of the cooking adventure. You can pick up your copy from behind the circulation desk.

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.

Contact Andrew at 508-949-3880, or atai@cwmar.org for more details.

STORYTIME--- May 14th 21st, and 28th at 10:00 AM  
Mornings will be filled with fun stories, songs, and activities perfect for ages 2-5. Siblings are welcome to join.

STUFFED ANIMAL STORYTIME --- May 22nd at 10:00 AM

Join Library Director Sondra Murphy for stories, songs, and fun with our plush pals! This story time is geared toward ages birth to 3, but siblings are welcome.

MUSIC TOGETHER--- Saturdays May 18th, and 25th at 11:00 AM

Fun, fabulous, uplifting, magical early childhood music class! For ages 0 to 6 and their families. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

SENSORY BIN EXPLORATION---May 20th 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.

Mario Kart Tournament May 16th at 4:00 PM

Kids ages 8-12 are invited to participate in a Mario-Kart tournament hosted by One-Up Games. While there is no limit to the number of players, participants must be present at the start to be placed on the roster. Please arrive 15 minutes early. Funded by the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library.

Touch a Truck- May 18th at 10:00 AM

Find all the action in the Town Hall parking lot, we’ll have fire trucks, police cars, an ambulance, and more!!

## 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@cwmar.org.

No Spice club this month, but check out our Geraldine Brooks display

# Dean College announces honor society inductees

FRANKLIN — Dean College is pleased to announce that Natalie Zona of Auburn has been inducted into the following honor societies for their academic achievements: Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society.

Founded in 1865, Dean College is a private, residential college located in Franklin Massachusetts, 45 minutes from Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.

COOKBOOK CLUB—May 14th 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

FRIENDS CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS: Crocodile River--- June 13th at 6:30 PM  
African rhythms, history, and culture merge into an evening of movement, cultural exploration, and joy. Internationally recognized, the group consists of members from Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Guinea, and the US. Crocodile River Music’s mission is to connect audiences with African artists and cultures through performance and education. They are a diverse group of people committed to presenting African art, music, and culture to audiences of all ages, backgrounds, and capabilities.

Children’s and Young Adult Programming

Scavenger Hunt--- All Month Long

What’s more exciting than a scavenger

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

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

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

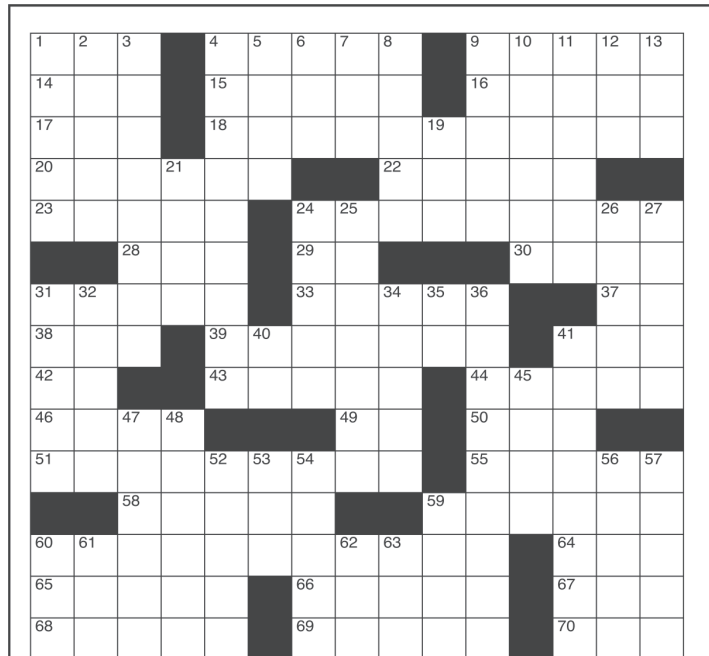
LEGO CLUB--- First two Tuesdays of the month at 3:30 PM

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.



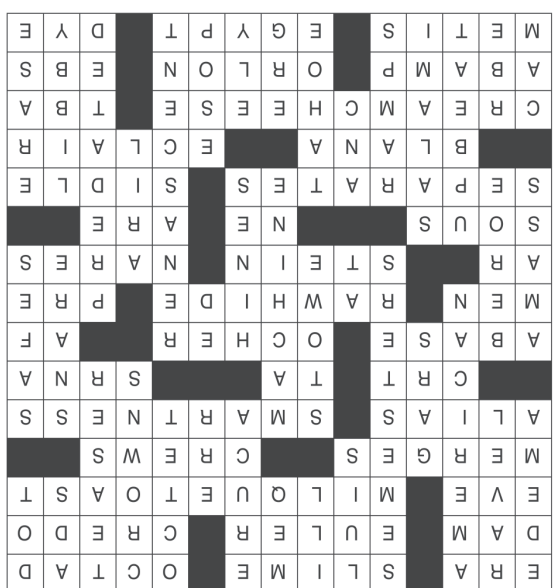
### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Geological time
- 4. Ooze
- 9. A set of eight
- 14. Obstruction
- 15. Swiss mathematician
- 16. Philosophy
- 17. The night before
- 18. A timid person
- 20. Unifies
- 22. Gangs
- 23. Alternative name
- 24. Acumen
- 28. Cathode-ray tube
- 29. Tantalum
- 30. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 31. Humiliate
- 33. Earthy pigment
- 37. Air Force
- 38. Adult males
- 39. Stiff untanned leather
- 41. Before
- 42. Atomic #18
- 43. Beer mug
- 44. Nostrils
- 46. Type of chef
- 49. Midway between north and east
- 50. They \_\_\_
- 51. Splits
- 55. Walk in a timid manner
- 58. Preserved animal skin with hair
- 59. Popular donut shop item
- 60. You smear it on bagels
- 64. Don't know when yet
- 65. Equal to 10 amperes
- 66. Synthetic acrylic fiber
- 67. One point south of due east
- 68. Of mixed ancestry
- 69. Home of the Pyramids
- 70. A way to change color

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- 2. Untangle
- 3. One from the U.S.
- 4. Academic terms
- 5. San \_\_\_ Obispo, in California
- 6. Not healthy
- 7. Self-assessment questionnaire (abbr.)
- 8. Arugula genus
- 9. VIII
- 10. Makes a monarch
- 11. Tormentor
- 12. Commercials
- 13. Sprinkle
- 19. Make a mistake
- 21. Freshwater fishes
- 24. Vermont town
- 25. Man-made device
- 26. Entrap
- 27. Places to store important things
- 31. Accumulate
- 32. Greek mythological nymph
- 34. Gregory \_\_, American dancer
- 35. Denotes past
- 36. Becoming popular again
- 40. Indicates position
- 41. Came before
- 45. An extra seed-covering
- 47. Cheerful
- 48. Deli sandwich staple
- 52. Skateboarders love them
- 53. Mandela’s party
- 54. Sierra lake
- 56. Nickname for Elizabeth
- 57. Remove from record
- 59. Employee stock ownership plan
- 60. Former NFLer Newton
- 61. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 62. Work unit
- 63. Town in Cambridgeshire

## PUZZLE SOLUTION



# WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER — The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of May 5-11.

A 19-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 5 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

John Edward Mason, age 60, of Webster was arrested on May 5 for Operating a Motor Vehicle after revocation of license as HTO.

Alize Lissette Mendoza, age 27, of South Grafton was arrested on May 7 for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and a Marked Lanes Violation.

A 29-year-old male whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 8 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

A juvenile, age 16, was arrested on May 9 in connection with a warrant.

Brett T. Knopf, age 52, of Pomfret Center, Conn. was arrested on May 10 for Open and Gross Lewdness, Disturbing the Peace, Disorderly Conduct, and a Number Plate Violation to Conceal ID.

A 57-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 10 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Vandalization of Property.

Bernard R. Krasnecky, age 57, of Webster was arrested on May 10 for Disorderly Conduct (subsequent offense), Disturbing the Peace (subsequent offense), Trespassing, and Possession of a Class C Drug (subsequent offense).

Adriel Daniel Fevrier, age 21, of Webster was arrested on May 11 in connection with a warrant.

Addie-Lee Solange Daniels, age 20, of Webster was arrested on May 11 for Assault with a Dangerous Weapon and Assault & Battery.

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OR send to Webster Times  
P.O. Box 90, Southbridge, MA 01550

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**Saturday and Sunday,**  
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**9:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
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Tuesday-Thursday ..... 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Friday ..... 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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# Internships to be offered at Auburn Historical Society and Museum

AUBURN — This summer will be the fourth year that the Auburn Historical Society will be offering an internship program for high school and college students at the Auburn Historical Museum, 41 South St. in Auburn.

Projects interns will work on include:  
Categorizing and organizing historic photographs and documents to prepare for digitization.

Researching topics in the history of the Town of Auburn  
Data input for our Holstrom Digital Archives

Assisting with creating and running public programs  
Learning and gaining hands-on experience in the creating, care, and maintenance of an historical museum's exhibits and facilities

Each unpaid internship is tailored to the individual and their interests. It is a great opportunity for high school and college students, scouts, youth groups, and those looking to fulfill community service hours or to gain work experience.

For more information on this program, please contact Helen, internship coordinator at auburnmuseum@verizon.net.

The Auburn Historical Society and Museum is open year-round every Tuesday and Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and offers free admission.

## Belmont University announces Dean's List honorees

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Belmont University recently released the Dean's List for the spring 2024 semester. Approximately 44 percent of the University's 7,338 undergraduate students qualified for the spring 2024 Dean's List.

"Earning a place on the Dean's List is a testament to the unwavering diligence, tenacity and commitment to scholarly distinction exhibited by Belmont's promising students," said Belmont University Provost Dr. David Gregory. "The ability to excel both inside and outside the classroom emphasizes these students' exceptional character and drive, and it is an honor for me to extend my heartfelt congratulations to each one. Whether they are contributing to the arts, pioneering groundbreaking research or championing important causes, they have consistently demonstrated the same level of passion and excellence that has brought them to this momentous academic achievement."

Dean's List eligibility is based on a minimum course load of 12 hours and a quality grade point average of 3.5 with no grade below a C.

About Belmont University  
Located two miles from downtown Nashville, Tennessee, Belmont University comprises nearly 9,000 students from every state and 33 countries. Nationally ranked and consistently recognized by U.S. News & World Report for innovation in higher education, the University offers more than 115 areas of undergraduate study, 41 master's programs and five doctoral degrees. With a focus on whole person formation and data-informed social innovation, Belmont is committed to forming diverse leaders of character equipped to solve the world's complex problems. For more information, visit [www.belmont.edu](http://www.belmont.edu).

Nicole Dube of Dudley  
Isabel Go of Dudley  
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## Local 4 Life presents "The Need to Grow"

WEBSTER — Local 4 Life, a Dudley-based non-profit organization, and Andy's Neighborhood Canteen are co-hosting two showings of the award-winning environmental documentary, "The Need To Grow." This film relates the story of three pioneers who use cutting-edge technology as they fight to localize sustainable food systems and educate the public about the importance of preserving the Earth's soil.

The film will be shown upstairs at Andy's Neighborhood Canteen, 9 Frederick St., Webster. The two showings will take place on Saturday, May 18, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 25, at 7 p.m. Andy's will offer a \$15 bar beverage & popcorn package deal to attendees.

Proceeds from the film showings support Local for Life's mission - to cultivate local connections through agriculture and business partnerships that provide educational outreach that promotes conservation and fosters community.

Visit the organization's Web site at [www.local4life.org](http://www.local4life.org) to learn more about the non-profit or call (508) 341-5347.



Courtesy

The Webster/Dudley Veterans Council announces the following veterans who received full graveside Military Honors during the month of April: Ronald Mallas, Jr. (USMC); Ronald Langlois (Army); James Greenwood (Army); and George Lorkiewicz (Army).

## MERCURY RECOVERY PROGRAM

Mercury is an element that can be harmful to human health and the environment if not disposed of properly.

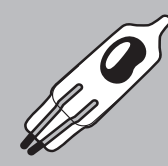
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FRANK G. CHILINSKI  
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE  
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

# Embracing nature's flourish: The case for No Mow May

As we wind down the month of May, a rare opportunity has presented itself, with a chance to change our relationship with our lawns and embrace the beauty of nature's unruly charm. "No Mow May" is a movement that encourages homeowners and communities to refrain from mowing their lawns for the entire month. While it may initially sound unconventional, this initiative carries several benefits for both our environment and our well-being.

No Mow May supports biodiversity. By allowing our lawns to grow freely, we create habitats and food sources for a variety of insects, birds, and small mammals. Native wildflowers, clovers, and grasses flourish, attracting pollinators such as bees and butterflies that are crucial to our ecosystem's health. Through this simple act of not mowing our lawns, we actively contribute to the preservation of local flora and fauna, helping to restore balance to our landscapes.

No Mow May presents an opportunity for us to reconnect with nature and foster a sense of wonder in our surroundings. As we witness the transformation of our lawns into vibrant meadows, we are reminded of the cyclical nature of life and the beauty found in untamed spaces. Stepping outside and immersing ourselves in these naturally evolving environments can be a source of inspiration, relaxation, and a respite from the demands of our daily lives.

Further, No Mow May holds significant environmental benefits. By refraining from mowing, we reduce our carbon footprint and conserve valuable resources.

Critics may argue that unkempt lawns present a sense of neglect or an invitation for pests. However, it is important to distinguish between neglect and intentional cultivation of natural spaces. No Mow May encourages us to redefine our perception of what a "perfect" lawn looks like, allowing for a shift in aesthetics that prioritizes the health of our ecosystems over conforming to conventional norms.

Let your lawn be a canvas for nature's masterpiece, even if just for a few weeks!

## 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

## Rejoice always

A couple decades ago, during the years of communism, a certain old Romanian priest would never greet anyone with the typical "Hello" or "Good Morning." Instead, he greeted anyone he met with a radiant smile and the words "Rejoice always!" Now this may seem like an unusual way to greet someone, but it is even more incomprehensible when one learned that this priest was in terrible prison, while his son and daughter, along with two sons-in-law also suffered in prison. Even though his entire family endured horrible persecution, the priest still greeted everyone by saying, "Rejoice always!"

We hear St. Paul offer similar words - "Rejoice in the Lord always" - to the persecuted Christian believers in Philippi, even while he himself languished in a prison cell.

How can anyone in prison, someone suffering, anyone facing difficult circumstances, exhort others to "rejoice?" What is this holy joy that such people as St. Paul, and that Romanian priest radiated.

"Rejoice always! Rejoice in the Lord always." Such phrases obviously imply JOY, yet in our world today too many people don't understand what brings joy. Many think joy comes with constant pleasure, and thus busy themselves with trivial and meaningless pursuits to occupy and fill their time. Others think that material success and excess will make their lives joyful, while still others say that popularity and fame are the only way for true happiness.

Think for a moment about those who you know who may reflect a deep inner, authentic joy, and tell me who they are. Over the years of my life, I have been blessed to meet a few such people - people who exemplified and exuded holy joy. I knew three dear simple old women who endured the horrors and fears of communism in Albania, yet carried an inner joy during all their years of uncertainty and suffering. Archbishop Anastasios of Albania is another model for me. I stayed close to him during numerous difficult times in East Africa and in post-communist Albania, yet I witnessed how he exuded an inner joy during the most challenging times. Then there was Bishop Gerasimos, a simple, gentle, humble retired bishop during my seminarian years who exuded joy. I developed a nice relationship with a dear nun of Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity and she was another great example of someone with joy. Most of these people were individuals with very little material wealth, yet all possessed a great faith that acted as the source of their true joy!

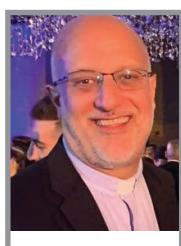
Ultimately for us followers of Jesus Christ, there is only one source of everlasting impenetrable joy - and that source is God Almighty. To know Jesus Christ in the depths of our souls, to allow Him to enter into our hearts and guide our lives, and to be filled with his Holy Spirit is the ultimate definition and experience of joy, because He is precisely the source.

When someone abides in God, he/she is connected to all that God has created, and thus, the entire world becomes a beautiful place. Even in the midst of chaos and darkness, sadness and evil, when logic tempts us to despair, our relationship with Christ gives us a different and refreshing perspective, filling us with hope and love. This is why the saints radiated joy in spite of their hardships and martyrdoms. This is why St. Paul and that Romanian priest under communism could rejoice under any and every circumstance.

These saints discovered the secret of the Christian life - that God is always with us, and that faith in Him chases away all fear, despair and hopelessness. When we abide in His love, we discover the security and comfort to rejoice even in the midst of tragedy or uncertainty.

I don't say we rejoice because of tragedy, but instead, we can rejoice in the midst of tragedy. In any and every situation, we will be able to see something positive and good. If God is with us, there is always hope and a glimmer of light.

The 300 million Orthodox Christians around the world are now journeying



### BEYOND THE PEWS

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

through Holy Week, which takes us through the darkest days of humanity, and reminds us of this unquenchable joy in the midst of tragedy. On Good Friday we travel through the passion of Christ, when everything seems dark and hopeless. Jesus is betrayed by one of his dear friends, his followers abandon him, and his closest companion denies knowing him. Christ is put on trial, condemned, ridiculed, beaten, tortured and crucified by his own people. Yet the story does not end with suffering and death. Although evil seems to prevail, God has the final say!

Our sadness and despair turn to inexpressible joy as we hear on Pascha (Easter) night (which is May 5 this year for Orthodox Christians), "Come receive the light from the unwaning light, and let us glorify him who is risen from the dead!"

From a human perspective, the situation seems hopeless. From God's point of view, victory was certain. Here is the secret of how the saints could rejoice in even the worst of situations. If we know the Risen Lord, and have His Spirit abiding within us, then we automatically have His Joy shining from our lives!

So how can we make joy a central part of our lives? Let me offer three concrete suggestions:

First, we need to allow Christ to ENTER INTO AND rule our lives. On Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem as a king. People lined up on the streets to greet and praise him. "Hosanna to God in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." We are called to join with the crowd in praising Him, yet just like the crowd, we have a decision before us. Will our cry of "hosanna" be a sincere cry, where we ask Christ to come and dwell at the center of our lives, or will we cry out in a superficial manner like they did 2000 years ago, honoring him for a day, but rejecting, denying and even crucifying him later in our lives.

If Christ is truly our king, we need to find time throughout the entire year to commune with Him through prayer and meditation, Bible study and frequent participation in the Holy Sacraments, no matter how busy our schedule is. Excuses of being too busy simply reflect our insincerity.

A second way of being filled with joy is to never allow the anxieties and troubles of life drown out our faith and trust in God. In the same passage where St. Paul says to "Rejoice in the Lord always!" he also counsels "don't about anything, but in everything, through prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God that passes all understanding will abide richly in your heart." In other words, holy joy comes when we learn to place all our concerns and troubles in God's hands, and then to believe that he is in control!

A third way to discover joy is to be thankful for everything in our lives. An incredible example of gratitude is the Romanian priest I mentioned. When a fellow prisoner asked this priest how he could rejoice when he and his family suffered so much, he replied, "Rejoicing is easy if we follow St. Paul's lesson to 'Rejoice with those who rejoice.'" When we learn to rejoice with all those who rejoice, we have plenty of motivation for joy. For example, I sit in jail yet I rejoice with those who are free. I can't go to Church and am not able to receive Holy Communion, but I rejoice with the millions of people around the world who go to Church and receive Communion every week. I can't see my children and my grandchildren, but I rejoice with those surrounded by their loved ones. . . . When we rejoice with those who rejoice, we can find many reasons to radiate joy."

Let us seek for Jesus Christ to enter more fully into the depths of our hearts and live as our Lord and King! If Jesus abides there, guiding us every moment of every day, then we will truly discover the source of ineffable joy! We will be able to "rejoice always" and give thanks in every circumstance.

## Toms are looking for love



Courtesy

Peter with a nice smallmouth bass from Wachusett Res recently!

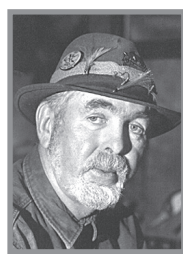


This week's second picture shows Alex with his first turkey ever. Nice bird!

Turkey hunting is starting to improve as toms start to find new areas to look for love. Many hens are already sitting on their eggs. More sightings of turkeys roaming fields and side roads, are a sure sign that toms are on the hunt for romance with a new lady.

Freshwater fishing for trout, and numerous other species of fish have anglers becoming more serious about their sport. Wachusett Res is providing better action for lakers, salmon and as this week's second picture shows smallmouth bass.

Local ponds and rivers are also producing some nice trout for anglers to enjoy catching. Mass. will continue to stock



### THE GREAT OUTDOORS RALPH TRUE

trout until Memorial Day in most areas, and will stock areas a bit later if the trout become available.

Deer are also having their young this month, and residents are asked not to get too close to a young deer, or attempt to pick it up if they think the fawn is abandoned. The mother is not too far away and often hides their young as they do every year.

Waterfowl are also having a very good year hatching out their young. Local geese have been spotted with a good family of goslings, and ducks also seem to be having a good hatching of their young.

Numerous ospreys in the Uxbridge area have been spotted catching fish in local ponds and carrying them off to feed their young. Ospreys were nearly wiped out locally when the DDT poison was used to kill mosquitos and other insects. Watching ospreys diving into the water at high speeds to catch fish is extremely entertaining, and they can dive down up to three feet to catch a fish.

Wildlife is in good shape locally & with the help of sportsmen's money, they should stay that way.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

## Ask the Assessor

BY LISA L. BERG  
PRINCIPAL ASSESSOR  
DUDLEY

**Q: Why have I received a "Residential Data Verification Report" letter from the Assessor's Office with information containing my home's interior information and why was someone at my property to measure my home?**

**A:** The state Department of Revenue requires every City/Town in MA to conduct cyclical inspections once every 10 years. These inspections are to ensure the Assessor's Office has accurate data for each property. Accurate data ensures accurate assessments.

Prior to COVID, the Assessor's Office would visit your home and ask to conduct an interior inspection. After COVID, we felt it best to mail a Residential Data Verification letter con-

taining the interior information of the property instead. We ask the taxpayer to review the information and make any corrections if necessary. Such interior items examples are heating/cooling systems, bathroom count, bedroom count, flooring, finished basements, etc.

This letter states the Assessor's Office is contracted with Vision Government Solutions to conduct the exterior inspections.

At some point during the year, after receiving the letter, a data collector will come to your property to measure your house exterior as well as, pools, sheds, decks, patios, etc. to ensure our measurements are correct. They will be looking also at the condition of the home as well as adding or taking away any outbuildings that may have been added or removed.

These cyclical inspections require an inspection of each property once every

ten years. Instead of conducting this over a 10-year period, we chose to do it over a 5-year period. Our first year started last year.

All contracted data collectors have "Assessors Office" magnetic signs on their car. They have badges identifying themselves and will have a letter from the Assessor's Office stating who they are. This letter contains their name, vehicle make, model and registration number. They are also registered with the Police Department.

If at any time you have questions regarding these inspections, please don't hesitate to contact my office. We will be happy to answer any and all questions or concerns you may have.

(Do you have a question for the Assessor? Please send questions to Assess1@dudleyma.gov or call us at 508-949-8006.)



# Readers Share Favorite Hacks and Hints

It's time to take a peek into the 'Take the Hint!' snail mail and virtual mailboxes. Thanks to all the readers who have taken time from their busy schedule to send in their great tips for dealing with the little nuisances in life. And remember readers, your tip puts you in the running for a three course dinner for two at the Publick House! From reusing common items to adding creativity to keeping the birdbath clean, the following tips from readers are sure to make the season's hassles a little easier to handle!

Warmer weather is right around the corner and so are the ticks! A friend told us to put toothpaste on area as soon as you discover a tick biting. You will soon see movement of the tick as they willingly escape the

A reader offers her tried and true strategy (using an unexpected household item) to safely remove ticks:

Warmer weather is right around the corner and so are the ticks! A friend told us to put toothpaste on area as soon as you discover a tick biting. You will soon see movement of the tick as they willingly escape the

dreaded toothpaste. My husband and both had success with this method last summer. It really works. Good luck and stay safe!

Nancy Asplund  
Brimfield, MA

This medley of creative reuse and recycling tips save time and money!

1. Dryer wipes: I don't use them in the dryer; I put them in plastic totes when I store clothes, Christmas items, curtains, etc. They give a pleasant smell to the clothes.

Then when I remove the wipes from the totes, I use them to clean the bathroom sink and tub and/or use them dry on a Swiffer (use two and push into holes on back) for a quick pick up.

2. Used tissue paper: I cut it up into a convenient size and use to wipe grease out of pans and as a quick way to clean the kitchen floor when food drops there,



TAKE  
THE  
HINT

KAREN  
TRAINOR

3. Alcohol pre-moistened towels: Restaurants sometimes give these out with messy foods. Use to wipe your hands after making meatballs, meatloaf, cutting chicken up, etc. I wet the ones that have dried up. They also can be used for doing a quick kitchen counter or floor pickup.

These ideas enable one to recycle items normally discarded after one use.

Cynthia Vlasaly  
Whitinsville, MA

This reader's tip uses copper's natural algicide properties to solve a common garden challenge:

Love birdbaths but hate potential mosquito infestation due to standing water? Toss three or

four copper pennies into your birdbath, it keeps the water clean, clear, and mosquito free!

Note: Pre 1982 pennies were made of copper, KJE

No address submitted

Talk about Yankee Ingenuity! From a quick fix to a creative keepsake, this reader always comes up with useful ideas:

Here's a solution I found for when the hard plastic ring on a new pump shampoo bottle cracked: Luckily, in my odds and ends drawer, I always tuck in one spare pump from a previous empty bottle just for such emergencies. I was able to remove the broken and put on the replacement in seconds! Time to watch for a new spare. This works for hand lotion or glass or kitchen cleaners too!

I recently dug into my sewing and craft basket to embellish a child's

book. I simply attached a heart of craft fur to a Baby Animal book with open and peek windows. This easy addition offered a touch sense to go along with the peek and surprise to the story book. Personalize it more by writing a personal inscription.

Viola Bramel  
Northbridge, MA

Prize Winner

Congratulations to Nancy Asplund, whose name was drawn for Dinner for Two at the Publick House. She shared her tick removal method above.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Help establish an Audit Advisory Committee in Dudley

To the Editor:

Residents of Dudley will be asked to approve the creation of an Audit Advisory Committee at the Monday May 20 Town Meeting at 7 p.m. at Shepherd Hill High School.

Please come to Town meeting and help me get this passed by voting yes on this article.

The time has come for higher standards in Dudley. For greater transparency and communication.

Recently, the Town of Dudley announced that the Massachusetts Department of Revenue is conducting a financial audit of the town. This is an excellent first step. We had repeatedly told town officials that the State had numerous resources available at NO COST to the town to review financial practices and procedures of the town. Residents remained firm in the belief that there was no harm in getting a 2nd set of eyes to look at our books and practices.

But this audit is only the first step. To date... there has never been a public discussion, review or any accountability for last year's crisis. In many aspects, was swept under the rug. That's not good, transparent government. We, the residents, ordinary citizens, deserve better.

With this in mind, the time has come for Dudley to do what dozens of towns have already done across Massachusetts. It's time to create a Permanent Audit Advisory Committee.

This new committee would be responsible for hiring the Town Auditor and reviewing them every 3 years. (Our current Auditor Scanlon & Associates was hired 17 years ago, and their contract has been automatically renewed by Selectmen during this time.)

With the MA DOR now doing an audit, it's perfect timing for the creation of this committee.

If the committee is approved at

Monday's 5/20 Town Meeting, they should be in place when the MA DOR Audit is completed. It's perfect. They could be the board that ensures a true public discussion occurs on any MA DOR findings and recommendations.

This audit committee does not perform the actual audits and will be made up of three resident volunteers, one independent member each appointed by Town Moderator, the FAA and BOS.

Their duties shall include

- \* Responsible for selecting an independent town auditor every 3 years and the scope of services for that independent auditor.

- \* Review the annual financial statements and reports prepared by the independent auditor and make recommendations with respect thereto.

- \* Report to the town on findings, recommendations and corrective action taken during the preceding 12 months.

- \* Make recommendations for areas of operations where expanded scope audits or reviews of the internal controls may be appropriate.

- \* Review and make recommendations with respect to the Town's financial management practices and controls.

- \* Ensure independence of the auditor, while enhancing accountability and proper stewardship over public funds.

- \* Review and make recommendations with respect to the Town's Public Records Compliance obligations.

We need you to come to the town meeting on Monday. I need your support to pass this Warrant Article. We have faced some ferocious opposition to the formation of this committee from certain officials, and without your support, might not prevail.

Thank you for your time, consideration and I ask for your affirmative vote on this Warrant Article.

JOHN BRIARE  
DUDLEY

### Irony is lost on Dudley's selectmen

To the Editor:

If you're not impressed by the competence of Dudley's selectmen, you might be amused by their irony.

They met May 6 to approve the warrant for the May 20 town meeting, which, by the way, includes another jolting tax increase sponsored by the perpetually shameless Dudley-Charlton Regional School Committee. But much of the discussion focused on a petition to create a town audit committee — something of a citizens' watchdog agency that would provide a certain level of oversight of the town's spending. The committee, would comprise three unpaid volunteers, one each appointed by the selectmen, the Finance Appropriation and Advisory Committee (FAA) and the Town Moderator. Its role would be purely advisory. Nevertheless, the very suggestion that a committee of citizens, independent of the town's administration, could review their budget decisions, seemed to strike terror in the hearts of a majority of the board.

Selectman Steven Sullivan was alarmed that an audit committee would have access to public financial records. He seemed unable to grasp the fact that virtually anyone could have access to them because, well, they are public records.

Meanwhile, Selectman Kerry Cyganiewicz, as well as Sullivan, was concerned that the committee might gain access to personal information that might be included in the public records. Nice try. Unfortunately, that horse left the barn a long time ago. Identity thieves don't need to peruse Dudley's public documents to get access to personal information that abounds on the Internet and floats aloft in cyber clouds all over the globe. And if everybody else in town hall already has access to that information what's the harm of allowing three more people, vetted by many of these officials, to have access?

And then there was Selectman Mark Landry, who opposed the idea because he said the state Department of Revenue has told him over and over again that no community needs an audit committee unless they have already had some sort of accounting problem. He said the very idea was "irresponsible" because it disrespected dedicated and competent town officials who already pay the bills and make purchasing and hiring decisions.

### Russ Rheault is committed to Oxford

To the Editor:

I first met Russell Rheault in 1998, while he was delivering Meals on Wheels to my Mom and I. He volunteered to deliver meals for 10 years. Over the years, I have seen him as Moderator at town meetings, an office he held for fifteen years, I was always very impressed with how knowledgeable he was.

Russ has also served as a member of the School Committee for nine years, a member of the Board of Selectman for three years, and the Oxford Council on

Aging for three years. For fourteen years he has assisted the Oxford Ecumenical Council Food Shelf.

Russ is a lifelong resident of the town of Oxford, and I have no doubt of his commitment and dedication to the people of Oxford. I support his candidacy for Selectman, and urge my fellow citizens to vote for Russ on May 21.

ROBERT J. SHEDD  
OXFORD

### Rheault is the leader Oxford needs

To the Editor:

As the selectman election on May 21 approaches, I find myself remembering a time when the Oxford Select Board acted with integrity and respect. We collaborated towards common goals and were aware of the impact our decisions had on the community, as well as its residents.

We need a leader who can not only bring this respect and dignity to our board, but who is also focused on what is best for our town, its schools and its citizens. As a lifelong resident, Russ Rheault is the best candidate for this position. He cares about our community, and has the experience to continue to move it forward.

I have known Russ for quite some time, as we both served on the select board together for a year in 2001-2002. We may not have always agreed, but we were able to disagree civilly, working for the greater good of our town and its

residents. He was always respectful and willing to listen to other people's points of view and cared about doing the right thing for our community.

Russ has been an avid contributor to our community for decades, serving on the Oxford School Committee for nine years, and as our Town Moderator for 15 years. He has volunteered his time to the Oxford Ecumenical Council Food Shelf and Meals on Wheels, as well as serving on the Oxford Council of Aging for three years.

As a small business owner in town for 40 years, his commitment to our community is evident. His dedication and experience, combined with his ability to respectfully collaborate, are what the Oxford Select Board needs now.

Please vote for Russ Rheault at the upcoming Oxford Selectmen election on Tuesday, May 21.

HANK LAMOUNTAIN  
OXFORD

### Vote Russel Rheault for Oxford Selectman

To the Editor:

Russ Rheault is a lifelong resident who has productively served Oxford in many capacities and genuinely cares about our community. We have had many conversations about our town, and even though we have disagreed on certain things, we have always been able to find common ground and reach a solution respectfully. Russ has always been willing to take the time to consider various perspectives, work with differ-

ent people, and seek win-win solutions.

I trust he will bring a sensible approach to the board and focus on the things that truly matter to our town while maintaining a courteous and respectful environment.

Please vote Russell Rheault for Oxford Selectman on Tuesday, May 21. Thank you for your consideration.

NORMAN LEBLANC, JR.  
OXFORD

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# Nurse educators learn about experiences of English language learners



LINCOLN, R.I. — Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy faculty, in photo from left, Dr. Ana Oliver of Rutland, Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina of Douglas, and Dr. Adelina Healy of Dudley all completed the workshop for Nurse Educators presented by: Practical Nurse Education Committee of the Massachusetts Rhode Island League for Nursing (MARILN) on Friday, May 10, 2024, at the Kirkbrae Country Club, 197 Old River Rd., Lincoln, R.I. The Experiences of English Language Learners: The Nurse Educator's Role in Facilitating Learning's main speaker was

JoAnne Mulready-Shick, EdD, RN, CNE, ANEF. As described by MARILN, "Dr. JoAnn Mulready-Shick is currently a Clinical Associate Lecturer in the RN-BSN Program at UMass Boston where she was a Clinical Professor and Undergraduate Program Director for sixteen years, and previously, dean and faculty at Roxbury Community College for sixteen years. She also has served as a visiting professor at Framingham State in their MSN Nurse Educator Track and as a Nurse Scientist for the VA Boston Healthcare System from 2019-2022. Dr. Mulready-Shick is a certi-

fied nurse educator, and a Fellow in the Academy of Nursing Education. Currently she is an NLN Research Grant Reviewer and has served on NLN's Nominating, Constituent League Leadership, and CNE Test Writing Committees. For MARILN, she has served in numerous roles, including the Faculty Awards, Strategic Planning, Mini-Workshop Committees, and the Board, serving as President from 2019-2021. Her current passion lies in mentoring students and novice nursing faculty at all levels. She co-created MARILN's Mentoring Program and has been a MARILN Mentor for the past three years. JoAnn has published in Nurse Educator, Nursing Education Perspectives, and the Journal of Nursing Education. Her nursing education research and scholarship has centered on student success, faculty development, and clinical education innovation." The workshop learning objectives included to examine the evidence related to students who identify as English Language Learners, engage in reflection and self-awareness exercises, dialogue about programmatic and class concerns, articulate strategies to enhance instructional practices, professional development, and self-care incorporating diversity, equity.

# Veterans Council members recognized for service



From left, Randolph Snow, Ronald Prest, and Andrew Kozlowski.

REGION — The Webster/Dudley Veterans Council and its members recently recognized three of their own for their dedication to serving veterans.

Randolph Snow, Ronald Prest, and Andrew Kozlowski were each acknowledged for their service.

"Their years of continuous service to helping veterans, whether it was holding office, placing flags on veterans' graves, performing Military Honors for our deceased brother and sister veterans, or any task bestowed upon them, they carried out those duties without hesitation," read a statement released by the organization. "Their selflessness and honor, alongside with their fellow veteran members of the Council, is exemplary and makes all Americans proud."

# Remember the Auburn Historical Society when you're cleaning

AUBURN — This is the time of year when many of us do Spring Cleaning, and maybe even consider downsizing.

The Auburn Historical Society and Museum may be interested in items concerning Auburn's past. Documents, pictures, memorabilia especially of businesses that have closed would be a wonderful contribution to the museum, for future exhibits. That old matchbook that's been sitting in the drawer, an engraved souvenir glass from a reunion, program from a town event are just examples of items that would be welcomed. Any Auburn related photographs you find can be scanned and returned to you. We can add them to the Holstrom Archives.

Consider dropping the items off any Tuesday or Saturday morning from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. to the Auburn Historical Society's Museum at 41 South St.

www.StonebridgePress.com



Courtesy

On Saturday, May 4, representatives of local town government and the Veterans' Council of Webster and Dudley proudly participated in this year's annual Little League Parade. The Little Leaguers were escorted onto the ballfield where they were greeted by many happy and proud parents and friends who were eager to enjoy their first game of the season. This was a special day for the veterans as well as it is the beginning of the Memorial Day events that are taking place throughout the entire month of May. Thank you to all who came out to support the children for the Dudley Little League. Have a safe and happy summer! Pictured, left to right: VFW Post 654 Commander Richard Norton; Dudley Selectman Mark Landry; Webster and Dudley District Veterans Services Officer Stephen Rogerson.

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# OBITUARIES

## Mary Wedda, 92



WEBSTER – Mary (Macuga) Wedda, 92, died Wednesday, April 24, 2024 in Care One, Millbury after a short illness. Her husband of 35 years, Edward J. Wedda, died in 2001.

She leaves nieces and nephews including her caregivers Frank A. Czechowski, Jr. and his wife Kathleen and their children Frank A. Czechowski III, Joseph Czechowski, Melissa Czechowski and Kimberly Czechowski; and great-nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by 4 brothers, Joseph, William, Stephen and “Butch” Macuga and by 2 sisters, Victoria Czechowski and Frances Robson.

She was born at home on December 3, 1931, the youngest of the 7 children

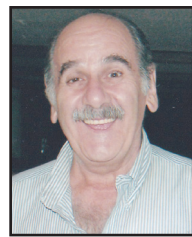
of Albert and Mary (Schmidt) Macuga and graduated from Douglas High School. She lived in Webster for over 60 years.

Mrs. Wedda was an assembler at the former Webster Shoe Company for many years before retiring.

She was a communicant of Saint Joseph Basilica. She loved and cared for Frank and Kathleen’s children and especially their 9 grandchildren.

Her funeral was held on Saturday, April 27, from the Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, with a Mass at 11:00 AM in Saint Joseph Basilica, 53 Whitcomb Street. Burial was in Saint Joseph Garden of Peace. Visitation was held from 9:00 to 10:30 AM in the funeral home Saturday before the Mass.

www.websterfunerals.com



## Norman H. Desrosiers, Jr., 83

DUDLEY – Norman H. Desrosiers, Jr., 83, passed away on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at Notre Dame Health Care in Worcester after a period of declining health. He leaves his wife of 41 years, Barbara

A. (Vesho) Desrosiers; a daughter-in-law, Brenda Desrosiers of Auburn; 2 grandchildren, Tyler and Emily; a sister, Suzanne Lessard of Berlin; 2 sisters-in-law, Constance Bailey of Westborough and Susan McDonald of Webster; and nephews and nieces. He was preceded in death by his son Michael Desrosiers in 2012, by his sister Jeanne M. Wheeler in 1999, and by his roommate Norman Gagne in January. He was born on February 13, 1941 in Worcester, the son of Norman H. Desrosiers, Sr. and Laurette (Berube) Desrosiers and attended Worcester Boys’ Trade School. He moved to Dudley in 1982. In his youth, he was an altar boy at the former Saint Joseph Church, now Holy Family Parish, on Hamilton Street. He was a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War.

A maintenance technician, Mr. Desrosiers was the manager of the welding department at PRECO Company in Auburn. He then set up the shop at James Monroe Wire & Cable in Franklin before retiring in 2006. He gave his all to his work. Norman was a devoted family man and loving husband. He always thought of others before himself. He enjoyed hunting and fishing trips to Maine with his friend Fred Brunelle for many years. The funeral was held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, May 14, in Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 37 Lake Parkway, Webster. Visitation was from 10:00 to 11:00 AM in the church prior to the service. Burial was in Mount Zion Cemetery, Webster, with the military honors provided by the Webster-Dudley Veterans Council. Arrangements are under the direction of Sitkowski, Malboeuf & Hickey Funeral Home, 340 School Street, Webster. REST IN PEACE

www.websterfunerals.com



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

# We’re all “built differently”

Whenever we see individuals excelling in their fields, people who are highly skilled—whether in athletics, business, stock trading, acting, writing, culinary arts, scientific research, medicine, education, or trades—we often dismiss their success with a wave of the hand and a remark: “Well, they’re just built differently.”

Of course, in certain cases, that might hold some truth. For instance, I once had the privilege of getting to know an Olympic Gold Medal-winning swimmer, the fastest man in the world at the time. I assumed

POSITIVELY  
SPEAKING

TOBY  
MOORE

his success mainly stemmed from his meticulous diet, rigorous supplement regimen, and relentless training routine.

I was surprised to learn I was only partially correct. Indeed, he was built differently in many ways, possessing the physical and mental attributes that few can claim.

While it’s good to recognize the greatness in others and to admire their natural advantages, the core of their success often lies in relentless perseverance and an unwavering commitment to their goals.

Consider how there may

have been others with the raw talent of Tom Brady, but without his extraordinary work ethic and dedication, they never reached similar heights.

I can’t help but think that sometimes, when people remark, “They’re just built differently,” they are perilously close to crafting excuses for their lack of success. This mindset undermines their potential and creates a barrier to personal achievement by attributing success solely to inherent qualities rather than effort and determination.

If, by “built differently,” you mean athletes who meticulously analyze game footage to improve their tactics, who spend

extra hours practicing beyond team sessions, and who focus on both mental and physical conditioning, then yes, they’re built differently.

If it refers to a businessperson who relentlessly networks and fosters relationships, always the first to arrive and the last to leave the office, continuously scouting new market trends and innovations to stay ahead—yes, they’re built differently.

If you’re talking about artists or writers who commit to daily practice, constantly seek feedback, find new inspirations, and balance their intuitive gifts with a rigorous work ethic to hone their craft—indeed, they’re built dif-

ferently.

Or perhaps you mean the entrepreneur who is a perpetual learner, not deterred by failure but using it as a stepping stone, managing to keep their passion ignited, driving innovation, and inspiring others. Then, absolutely, they are built differently.

Sometimes, people are simply willing to do whatever it takes to reach the next level. They’re what you might call go-getters.

Many times, their only natural gifts are drive and desire and their willingness to put their ego aside and continue to learn.

But does that mean they’re built differently because they possess the

drive that others lack? Perhaps, but it’s not always so clear-cut.

Many behaviors, choices, addictions, and habits can severely undermine motivation. I’m sure we’ve all experienced this in our way. While I generally consider myself a motivated go-getter, I’ve learned that engaging in certain behaviors zaps my willpower.

These actions trigger what feels like a chemical imbalance that leaves me struggling to get out of bed, moping around with a bitter attitude, and wondering what the point of it all is.

For me, specific behaviors can devastatingly

Turn To **POSITIVELY** page **A11**

# 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. WO24P1275EA  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR  
FORMAL ADJUDICATION  
Estate of:  
Elsa R. DeJesus  
Date of Death: 03/23/2024**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** been filed by **Robert J. DeJesus of Oxford MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that: **Robert J. DeJesus of Oxford MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/04/2024.**

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

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**  
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.  
**WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.**  
Date: May 03, 2024  
Stephanie K. Fattman,  
Register of Probate  
May 17, 2024

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and 11990 (Wetlands) and Federal Emergency

Management Agency’s (FEMA) implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides final notice of its decision to provide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for an action located in a floodplain and wetland Funding would be provided through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to the Town of Dudley to improve three culverts across Potash Brook.

The action is located at three sites near New Boston Road and MA Route 12 in Dudley, MA. The project is to replace all three undersized water crossings with larger, open-bottom, concrete culverts. The openings of the improved culverts would be 10-21 feet wide and 5-6 feet tall to accommodate the unrestricted flow of a 1% annual chance storm. Construction at one culvert will cause minor encroachment on open wetlands. Work would include the removal of a pile of vegetative debris from the waterway approximately 90 feet upstream from one culvert.

The project is within a mapped special flood hazard area (1% or greater annual chance of flooding), and one site overlaps a known emergent freshwater wetland area. The proposed action would alleviate the restriction of floodwaters at the crossings. This is expected to reduce water surface elevation during a 1% annual chance storm between the culverts and to increase water surface elevation by up to ½ foot for a stretch of approximately 80 feet between the lowest culvert outlet and the confluence of Potash Brook with the French River. This minor increase is not expected to impact any development, and flood levels in the French River would not be measurably affected. Due to the project’s proximity to mapped wetlands, direct disturbance of wetlands is expected during construction. Wetland delineation will be required as part of the permitting process to assess the extent of disturbance. A map of the area of available upon request.

The project must be in a floodplain and wetland because the culverts must be located near water to function. Alternative culvert configurations were considered but did not change the project’s effects on the floodplain and wetlands. The “no action” alternative was also considered but failed to alleviate the risk of flood damage to the structures that the proposed action addresses. Grant conditions will also require compliance with all federal, state and local laws, including coordination with the local floodplain administrator. Map requests and comments about this project and potential floodplain and wetland impacts should be submitted within 15 days of the date of this

publication to:  
Alexander Miller, Environmental Protection Specialist  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Cambridge, MA  
Alexander.Miller@fema.dhs.gov; (202) 746-6856  
May 17, 2024

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
LAND COURT  
DEPARTMENT OF  
THE TRIAL COURT  
DOCKET NO. 24 SM 001792  
ORDER OF NOTICE**  
TO: Irene A. Savageau  
and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq): Mortgage Assets Management, LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Oxford, numbered 19 Millbury Road, given by Roland E. Savageau and Irene A. Savageau to Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corporation, a Subsidiary of Indy Mac Bank, F.S.B., dated May 8, 2006, and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38950, Page 272, and now held by the Plaintiff by assignment, has/have filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant’s/Defendants’ Servicemembers status.  
If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before 6/24/2024 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of non-compliance with the Act.  
Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Chief Justice of this Court on 5/7/2024.  
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson, Recorder  
May 17, 2024

**NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER G.L.C. 255, SECTION 39A**  
Notice is hereby given by: School Street Towing 17-31 School Street, Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, Section 39A, that on: 25 May 2024 at 9:00 AM at 17-31 School Street, Webster MA by private sale the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.  
Vehicle description: Year 2004  
Make: BMW Model: 745

Registration#/State: Un Reg.  
VIN: WBAGN63514DS54192  
Name and address of vehicle owner  
Rolon Noberto  
45 N Main St Apt2  
Webster, MA 01570  
By Frank A Czechowski  
29 April 2024  
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L.c. 255, Section 39A.  
May 10, 2024  
May 17, 2024  
May 24, 2024

**NOTICE OF SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER G.L.C. 255, SECTION 39A**  
Notice is hereby given by: School Street Towing 17-31 School Street, Webster MA 01570 pursuant to the provisions of G.L.C. c. 255, Section 39A, that on: 25 May 2024 at 9:00 AM at 17-31 School Street, Webster MA by private sale the following Motor Vehicle will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.  
Vehicle description: Year 2001  
Make: Porsche Model: Boxster  
Registration#/State: Un Reg.  
VIN: WPOCA29871U620465  
Name and address of vehicle owner  
Solano Hugo  
587 Lincoln St Apt2  
Marlborough, MA 01752  
By Frank A Czechowski  
29 April 2024  
This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L.c. 255, Section 39A.  
May 10, 2024  
May 17, 2024  
May 24, 2024

The Dudley Board of Health will hold a public hearing on May 21, 2024, at 5:30pm to discuss and take public comment relative to a proposed local “Practice of Bodywork” regulation, that will require any person or business representing themselves as a bodyworker or bodywork therapist, or the practice of a person using primarily touch to manipulate tissue, which does not constitute Massage as defined in M.G.L., c. 135, in the course of treatment or therapy provided to another person. Bodywork may include the affectation of the human energy system or acupoints or Qi meridians of the human body.  
The Board, in conjunction with the Department, will maintain a list of treatment and therapy modalities considered Bodywork for the purposes of these Regulations.  
May 10, 2024  
May 17, 2024



# Latest antiques and collectibles auction news

Before I discuss the latest auction news, I'd like to thank Dotti Durst and everyone from the Learning in Retirement group who attended my presentation on downsizing hosted at Quinebaug Valley Community College in Danielson, Conn. last week.



ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & ESTATES  
WAYNE TUISKULA

Now diving into recent auctions news, a piece of history from a tragic event from over 100 years ago recently set an auction record. John Jacob Astor IV was the great grandson of John Astor, the fur trader that founded the family fortune, according to Britannica. Astor IV was on the board of several corporations and

founded several restaurants including the Astoria, which later became the Waldorf Astoria. He was the wealthiest man aboard the Titanic when the ill-fated ship sank in 1912. Astor IV perished when the ship hit an iceberg. When his body was recovered, he had a Waltham 14-karat gold "pocket watch, diamond ring, gold and diamond cufflinks, 225 pounds in English notes, and \$2,440," according to CBS. Astor IV was in his 40s and had married an 18-year-old woman in 1911. The couple went on an extended honeymoon in Europe and Egypt while waiting



for gossip about their marriage to die down. They were on their way back to New York when the Titanic sank. Astor IV reportedly asked if he could join his wife on a lifeboat because of her "delicate condition." When he was told that he needed to wait for women and children first, he is said to have thrown his gloves to his wife and lit a cigarette while the ship sank. Astor IV's watch sold for \$1.46 million last month, an auction record

for any object from the Titanic.

Some rare collectibles are now being offered in an online auction that ends on June 1st, according to Fox News. A wide variety of collectibles are already reaching impressive figures with three weeks of bidding remaining. A 1986 Nintendo NES Entertainment System unopened in the box is at \$17,000. An engraved silver and gold-plated belt buckle worn by Harry

Houdini has already reached \$27,000. A painting by Bob Ross, who taught painting on his "Joy of Painting" television show, has a current bid of \$45,000.

Other pieces from that sale are expected to bring even more. In 1953, Marilyn Monroe appeared on the cover of the first issue of Playboy magazine. The highest graded copy at a 9.6 out of 10 is expected to sell for half a million dollars. A jersey that Mickey Mantle wore during his 1957 MVP season is expected to bring in the millions. A high-grade Michael Jordan rookie card sold for over \$1 million in 2022. A newer but rarer Michael Jordan card surpassed that mark. Only one 2003-2004 Upper Deck Logoman (NBA logo) patch card with a Michael Jordan signature was ever

printed. It's expected to sell for between \$3 million and \$5 million. It's been over 20 years since Michael Jordan played in the NBA and he's still setting records.

Our sports memorabilia, sports cards, and comic books online auction begins soon. There is still time to consign coins, art, gold jewelry, sterling silver, historical items, advertising signs, and other antiques for our summer online auction. Please visit our website <https://centralmassauctions.com> for links to upcoming events.

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

# Gardening helps grow healthy, happy kids



Corona Tools — Courtesy

Research has shown that gardening and spending time in nature is beneficial to kids, including but not limited to better vision, increased focus, and a stronger immune system.

Gardeners know and research is proving that gardening, even viewing a garden, as well as spending time in nature is good for the mind, body, and spirit. It improves strength and flexibility, lowers blood pressure, and elevates our moods.

This is also true for the youngsters in our lives.

Recent studies found that school-aged children who participate in outdoor activities have better vision than those who spend most of their time indoors. Children who engage in nature and gardening are more focused, score better on exams, and are less likely to develop or exhibit symptoms of ADHD. And kids who play outside and get a bit dirty also have stronger immune systems.

Help get the kids in your life involved in gardening. There are a variety of ways to get youngsters involved no matter how much space or time you have.

Consider giving each child their own garden space or a container garden to design, plant, and tend. Containers are a great option when planting space and time are limited. And just about anything can be grown in a pot. An old 5-gallon bucket or washtub with holes drilled into the bottom, recycled nursery pots, or a colorful raised planter make great gar-



GARDEN MOMENTS  
MELINDA MYERS

dens. Provide them with some kid-sized tools and equipment. The tools' smaller scale will be easier for them to handle and having their own tools that match yours makes gardening even more special. Consider investing in a set of kids' gardening tools including hand tools, long-handled tools, and even a wheelbarrow like those at Corona Tools USA ([coronatools.com](http://coronatools.com)).

Keep in mind the goal is for kids to have fun and develop an interest in gardening. You may need to bite your tongue when their combinations are rather unique, or plants are spaced improperly. Provide some guidance but be prepared to let them experiment and learn from their failures as well as successes.

Kids like to water even at an early age. The biggest challenge is getting the water to the plant but that will come with time, practice, and a few water-soaked outfits. Your efforts will be rewarded when your child takes over watering your container gardens.

You may notice kids often find bugs and worms more interesting than plants. Use this as a gateway into gardening. Get kids involved in worm

composting or hunting for earthworms in the compost pile. They will have fun on the worm hunt while helping you turn your compost pile.

Use the "Pluck, Drop and Stomp" method to manage garden pests. Point out the bad guys and the damage they do. Be sure they know to watch for the good guys and leave them be to help the garden grow. Then have the children pluck the bad bugs off the plant, drop them to the ground, and stomp on them.

This eco-friendly pest management strategy also burns some of that excess energy.

Include lots of color in the garden and containers. Michigan State University surveyed kids before creating their children's garden. They found kids were much more excited and likely to participate when a garden is filled with color.

And as the flowers are maturing and your family is overrun with vegetables, consider sharing the harvest and a few bouquets of flowers. Giving helps children grow into caring, well-rounded adults. And food pantries in your community are always in need of fresh produce. Most of the food-insecure peo-

ple in our communities are kids and seniors who greatly benefit from fresh nutritious vegetables.

Be sure to end the growing season with a harvest party. Use your home-grown produce to prepare a picnic or fancy dinner for family and friends. Then use some of those beautiful flowers you grew to decorate the table.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released *Midwest*

*Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Corona Tools for her expertise in writing this article. Myers' Web site is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).*

## POSITIVELY

continued from page A10

impact my motivation, plunge me into depression, and rob me of the desire to engage with life.

It's easy to make excuses, succumb to bitterness, feel tired, angry, or depressed, and convince yourself that you don't have what it takes, but at the end of the day, being 'built differently' can be a choice.

The fundamental difference between someone who is seen as 'built differently' and someone who is caught up making excuses

often lies in their mentality.

Ultimately, being 'built different' means choosing to be different. It means choosing the harder path, the one less traveled, and the one that leads to genuine, hard-earned success.

The next time you admire someone who seems effortlessly successful, remember that we all possess unique capabilities. Each of us has the potential to excel in ways that are distinctly our own. We're all built differently, and embracing that fact allows us to unlock our own paths to greatness.

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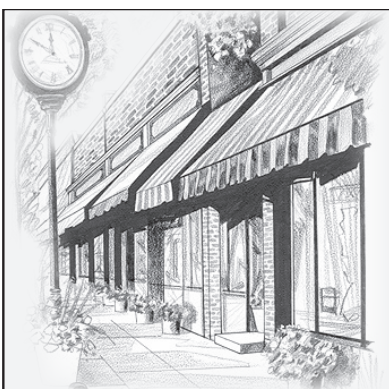
## TOWN OF WEBSTER Principal Clerk Town Accountant's Office

The Town of Webster is seeking a full-time (35 hours a week) Principal Clerk in the Town Accountant's Office who will work under the direct supervision of the Finance Director. The Principal Clerk is responsible for various types of skilled administrative and record-keeping services in support of the Accounting Department. Qualified candidates should have a working knowledge and experience with databases, payroll programs, Microsoft Office and office equipment used by the department. In addition, they should possess the ability to manage multiple tasks, meet deadlines, and pay careful attention to details despite interruptions. Strong mathematical and accounting skills are essential. Some essential functions of the position include but are not limited to:

- Processes biweekly expenditure warrants for municipal departments and the school district;
- Process, reviews, and/or audits invoices by all departments for accuracy, availability of funds, proper coding, departmental authorizations, compliance with purchasing rules and regulations, completeness of documentation, etc.;
- Assists with and performs payroll-related functions including, but not limited to, payroll entry, review of departmental payroll vouchers, and completing back-end payroll processing, reporting, and reconciliation;
- Responsible for processing Town and School payroll in the absence of the Assistant Town Accountant/Payroll Coordinator
- Provides assistance to municipal departments, as requested;

Qualifications/abilities: High School diploma and 2 to 3 years of related experience; or any equivalent combination of education, training, certification (finance related preferred), and/or experience. A Full job description can be found on the Town's website: [www.webster-ma.gov](http://www.webster-ma.gov).

Candidate will be subject to pre-employment physical, drug screen, CORI and comprehensive background check. Interested parties should submit an employment application by 12:00 PM on May 31, 2024 to: Webster Town Hall, Town Administrator's Office, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA 01570. Webster is an EEO/AA employer.



# Community Connection

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# One Book, One Community presents author Geraldine Brooks

WEBSTER — The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library's "One Book, One Community" event on June 6th is hosting Pulitzer Prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks. Due to overwhelming interest and support for this event, registration is now closed for Community Room seating. The Library will offer a very limited number of overflow seats for

walk-in guests on a first come, first served basis. Walk-in attendees will be able to watch a livestream of the event in the Library Lobby. All attendees will be welcome to participate in the Q&A and purchase copies of the author's books to have them signed after the moderated talk. For those looking to enjoy this program from the comfort of their own

home, the event will be livestreamed on YouTube available only at the time of the event. The link to the livestream can be found on social media and on the Library's website.

The Library opened up the event for 'optional registration for advanced seating' on May 6, and after only three days, registrations

had reached capacity! Geraldine Brooks, author of March and Horse, is the third New York Times bestselling author hosted by the Library. In 2022, the One Book, One Community event featured Christina Baker Kline, author of Orphan Train, with 43 attendees. In 2023, author of The Dog Stars, Peter Heller, attracted 54 guests.

The Library will be closing early on June 6 to the general public at 5 p.m. to prepare for this event. Attendees are encouraged to park in the St. Louis Church parking lot, Negus Street lot, and at the Town Hall. Pre-registered guests may take their seats by entering through the Community Room side door. Walk-in guests may line up at the Library's

main entrance. All are encouraged to arrive by 6 p.m. or earlier.

The Library is grateful to be able to host Geraldine Brooks, with funding and support from the Friends of the Gladys E. Kelly Public Library, the Janet Malsr Humanities Trust, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the Webster Cultural Council.

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## Allie Provost recognized at Western New England University's Distinguished Golden Bear Awards

SPRINGFIELD — Allie Provost of Dudley received the Excellence in Media and Arts Award at the prestigious Distinguished Golden Bear Awards Ceremony on May 2 in River's Memorial Hall. The Excellence in Media and Arts Award recognizes the individual with notable contributions to student media or arts with a significant positive impact on student awareness or experience. The award was presented by Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Jessica Hill.

Organized by the Office of Student Involvement and Connections, the Distinguished Golden Bear Awards ceremony is a hallmark event that acknowledges a year of leadership, community service, and student programming by over 70 active clubs and organizations on campus. The award ceremony not only celebrates individual and collective achievements but also underscores Western New England University's commitment to fostering leadership, diversity, and community engagement among its student body.

Provost is working toward a BSBA in Marketing.

Western New England University (WNE) is a private, nationally ranked, comprehensive institution with a focus on preparing work-ready and world-ready graduates. Founded in 1919 in Springfield, Massachusetts as a division of Northeastern College, WNE's 215-acre suburban campus serves more than 3,700 students, including over 2,500 full-time undergraduates. More than 47,000 alumni have earned degrees through its 90+ undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs at Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and School of Law. Students come from 39 U.S. states and territories and 23 countries. Of 45,104 living alumni, 30% remain within the region, residing in the four Western Massachusetts counties and northern Connecticut.

WNE is classified among nationally ranked universities in US News and World Report, and among the Top 100 Undergraduate Engineering programs, and in the Doctoral/Professional Universities category in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

## 'Afternoon of Brass' Concert Series returns to Boston, Worcester Memorial Day Weekend

WORCESTER — Building on critically and commercially acclaimed shows since 2019, the team at Northbridge Brass Endeavors is proud to present the Afternoon of Brass #3 concert series. Concert goes and volunteer musicians will experience an unforgettable afternoon filled with the rich sounds of brass music. Three afternoon concerts are planned: May 24 and May 25 at the Old South Church in Boston and May 26 at Mechanics Hall in Worcester. New for this year is a call for volunteer singers and brass players who will join forces with the professional brass onstage at Mechanics Hall.

Featuring WGBH/WCRB's Brian McCreath as emcee, Lawrence Isaacson as resident conductor, Stephen Bulla as guest conductor and selected Boston Symphony Orchestra and Pops brass players, the concert series will be nothing less than ... spectacular! Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to experience the power and beauty of brass music live in

person either as a participant or spectator.

Paying homage to the spirit of the Memorial Day holiday, the program begins with "Taps" and "Retreat" (Butterfield) arranged for "The President's Own" United States Marine Band brass by former USMC arranger Thomas Knox. The program includes some of the most demanding works ever written and arranged for brass including: "Festive Overture" (Shostakovich), "Polovtsian Dances from Prince Igor" (Borodin), "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" (Handel), "Grand March from Tannhäuser" (Wagner) and "Pictures at an Exhibition" (Mussorgsky). While all concerts feature "Adventures on Earth from E.T." (Williams), "Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral" (Wagner) and "Gathering of the Armies on the River Scheldt" (Wagner), only the final concert at Mechanics Hall will feature the volunteer musicians onstage with the professional brass ensemble.

Volunteer singers will add operatic glory to "Adventures on Earth." Guest conductor Stephen

Bulla leads the musical adventure with his unique arrangement for brass, chorus and piano. Volunteer brass players will add reinforced power to "Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral" and "Gathering of the Armies on the River Scheldt" under the direction of producer, conductor, and trombonist Patrick Smith. "We've got about a hundred volunteers so far and we have room for another hundred," said Smith who added "to register and receive more information just complete the Interest & Availability form at our website." Volunteer musicians must be at least 13 years of age.

For tickets and more information go to Afternoon of Brass #3: Memorial Weekend Spectacular. There is no option for cash at the door. Tickets must be purchased in advance online. Discounted tickets are available to active-duty military and veterans, first responders, dependent family members, as well as EBT, WIC, and CC cardholders, and residents of towns

5 Church St.  
(508) 949-3845  
Open Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Email: SeniorCenter@Webster-MA.gov

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!

Webster Senior Center will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.

Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 11:30 am. Please call (508) 949-3845 at least 48-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, 5/21 Meatballs with onion gravy, bowtie pasta, roasted brussels sprouts. Wednesday, 5/22 Fish with crumb topping, Delmonico potatoes, honey glazed carrots. Thursday, 5/23 Chicken with BBQ sauce, mashed potatoes, country blend vegetables. Friday, 5/24 Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, green peas.

Need Transportation? Contact SCM Elderbus at 1-800-321-0243 at least 2 business days in advance to schedule transportation. Elderbus is available Mondays – Fridays 8:30 am to 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. Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays by appointment only from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Call (508) 341-8724 to schedule an appointment.

Our second Genealogy Workshop, "Working With Census Reports" by Seema Kenney will be held on Friday, May 24th at 9:30 am. Please sign up at

the Senior Center front desk or by calling (508) 949-3845.

The REC Farmer's Market is on pause for the month of May and will return in June.

Mondays and Wednesdays: Exercise Classes with Forty Arroyo – Chair Dancing – the perfect workout for any fitness ability! Cost: \$3.00 per class.

Mondays: Knitting/Crochet Social 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Bingo: Every Tuesday, 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 6-card or 13-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!

Webster Senior Center Trips! Trip 1: Jimmy Buffett Tribute & Maine Lobster Bake at Foster's on Monday, July 15th. Cost: \$137.00 per person includes show ticket, transportation, luncheon, meal taxes & gratuity. Trip price does not include bus driver gratuity. Trip 2: Happy 2 Gather, 60's Flashback Show at Lake Pearl, Wrentham MA on Wednesday, September 18th. Cost: \$131.00 per person includes show ticket, transportation, luncheon, meal taxes & gratuity. Trip price does not include bus driver gratuity. For more information call (508) 949-3845.

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 if you are interested in having a house number sign made for you. (508) 949-3845.

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, at no cost to you! All you have to do is give them a call at (508) 949-3875

## Relay for Life returns June 15

SOUTHBRIDGE — The 27th Relay For Life of Southern Worcester County will take place on Saturday, June 15 from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at McMahon Field, 25 Cole Ave, Southbridge.

We would like to invite and survivors to our continental breakfast which will happen after our opening ceremony and

the Survivor lap. We also invite them to have dinner with us at 5 p.m.

Survivor T-Shirts will no longer be available at the Relay, we ask that survivors either register on the Relay website [www.relayforlife.org/swc](http://www.relayforlife.org/swc) or to call 1-800-227-2345. Please allow a few weeks for delivery.

ChichiWow Hot Dogs

will be with us during the day.

Our one-pound auction is happening at 1 p.m.

There will be a hula hoop lap, two legged lap, crazy hat lap, tutu lap, purple slime bucket challenge and more.

For more information, please visit our Website, [www.relayforlife.org/swc](http://www.relayforlife.org/swc).

## Coast Guard offers boating safety checks

REGION — Get your free 2024 Vessel Safety Check and enter to win a Safe Boating Award at the Memorial Beach Boat Ramp Saturday, June 15 at Nipmuc Cove, Webster Lake, and the Wallum Lake Boat Ramp Saturday, June 22 at Douglas State Forest.

Bring any type of watercraft from kayaks, canoes, PWCs, sailboats, cabin cruisers, to ski & pontoon boats for a stern check of equipment for compliance to federal and state safety regulations. Vessels can be inspected on a trailer as well as afloat.

Trailered vessels, not having Webster access sticker and not launching, can be examined at the entrance gate to Memorial Beach. Personal Watercraft, not allowed to launch at the Wallum Lake Ramp on weekends, can also be examined at the gate. Both locations can accommodate boats arriving by water. The stations will be active from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at both the locations, with the following Sundays as rain-dates if needed.

Vessel Examiners are qualified and experienced to answer any boating related questions or concerns along with being trained to spot any potential problems. They will award your vessel with a 2024 VSC decal if it meets Auxiliary standards on items such as: registration & hull numbering, life jackets, fire extinguishers, expiration dates on flares (if required), working nav-

igation lights, overall vessel condition, etc. A VSC is conducted only with your consent; no reports are filed with any law enforcement agency. There are no citations, legal obligations, or penalties on violations or potential problems found. A VSC decal might result in a boat insurance discount and will indicate to law enforcement on the water that your vessel complies with safety regulations. The Examiner will give the vessel owner options and information on correcting any issues. Often a quick trip to the nearest boating supply vendor is all that is necessary to obtain missing safety items and easily pass a re-inspection, sometimes on the same day.

Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Examiners will be around the local lakes at various, un-scheduled times during the boating season; they are few in number and not readily available inland. Cannot make it to the station... schedule a VSC online at the link below, or you can connect with a Tri-State Examiner by call or text to (508) 864-0782.

Best to take advantage of this scheduled opportunity and start your boating season with a visit to our station, a 2024 VSC Decal, and a chance to win one of several great rewards.

As a reward for getting a VSC from one of our Tri-State Examiners or at one of our two stations this year, you will be entered to win one of several gift certificates

from local marinas, venues, and restaurants. One entry for each vessel examined, winners will be determined and contacted following a drawing on September 24 at our flotilla meeting. It is a WIN for knowing that your boat is equipped properly, and a possible WIN for dinner, or boating equipment & services.

Safe Boating Supporters for this reward program are: Hazard Marine, Lakeview Marine, Indian Ranch. Restaurants: Point Breeze, Eighty Ates Bistro, Waterfront Mary's, & Saloon No. 6 in Webster.

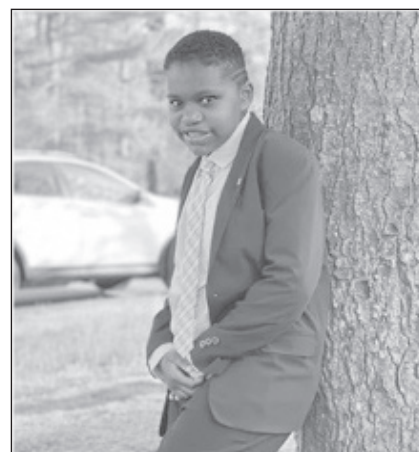
Lakeside Kids Event at Memorial Beach

Thursday, June 6, 4 – 7 p.m.

Sponsored by Lakeview Marine this event has been planned to introduce the kids of our community to the fun that can be had on and around the water! Learn the many ways to enjoy our beautiful lakes - sign up for swim lessons, try out a kayak, learn fishing casting techniques, "Touch a Boat" get up close to recreational & public safety boats from the police and fire departments. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla will have a boating safety tent with information, handouts, and CG coloring books for kids.

The posted activities are subject to change based on weather conditions and vendor availability.

## Friday's Child



Marie  
Age 13

Hi! My name is Marie and I love dancing!

Marie, whose pronouns are she, he, they/them, is kind, engaging, and resilient. Marie's foster family and teachers describe them as friendly, playful, and affectionate. Marie loves dancing and will dance for hours in the afternoon but is shy to show off their dance moves. They also enjoy going on daily walks for fresh air. Marie's favorite restaurants include Chinese buffets and McDonalds and their favorite meal consist of fried chicken sandwiches with coke products.

[https://](https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6138)

[/adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6138](https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/6138)

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](http://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.





**NICHOLS**

continued from page A1

Executive MBA program. Cropper, who comes from a family of lifelong learners, spoke about the value of continuing to embrace education in life and how the students of Nichols should strive to help the world around them.

“For me to stop learning is to stop living, so continue your own learning. Don’t let it stop today,” Cropper said, later urging the students to see ways to make a difference in the world. “The best days of my life are when I made a positive difference in the life of another. So, I challenge you to consider ‘how can I help another.’ The research on happiness is clear: to experience enjoyment, satisfaction, and purpose seek ways to serve another.”

The ceremony featured a special address from Commencement Speaker Ralph Crowley, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of

Polar Beverages. He is the fourth generation of the Crowley family to lead the company, which was founded in 1882 by his great-grandfather and has since become a staple of the Worcester community. Crowley said the company has succeeded because of its ability to hire the right people who, in turn, hire even more great employees to help build a winning culture. He said creating these positive relationships, working as a team, and understanding that things can’t be accomplished alone are his keys to business success and elements of life that Nichols has taught students simply by being on campus.

“Some of the most important lessons you’ve learned already are from your fellow students here at Nichols just by living, studying, playing sports, watching sports, I hope you keep those friendships and cherish them,” said Crowley, who later gave the students words

of advice on seeking the right job for their futures. “Time is your most valuable and precious asset. Once it’s gone it can’t be regained. Do not waste time on a job you do not love. Your occupation is more than financial stability. It should provide you with personal satisfaction, even an identity, a chance to grow, a sense of purpose. Most of all, my message to you is business is fun and enjoy it.”

Before the graduates took the stage, Crowley was presented with an Honorary Doctorate in Business Administration alongside Amy Pitter, former Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants. Then it was time for the students to be honored, each receiving their respective degrees as they were greeted by representatives of the Nichols College staff, administration, and

Board of Directors.

Closing out the ceremony, President William Pieczynski wished the graduates well commending them for their dedication to their education and recognizing that many began their college experience in 2020 as the school was returning to limited in-person learning during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. President Pieczynski leaned on the school’s popular mascot, the bison, to give his assessment of the Class of 2024.

“You’re all here today as a testament to your grit. Grit is a trait we like to think is embodied in our namesake, the bison. Bison has endured for over tens of thousands of years. They’re loyal, extremely smart, and pragmatic. They’re resourceful and dedicated to the pursuit of success. You, the Nichols Bison, have not only survived, but thrived in the face of unprecedented challeng-



Ellis Cropper who graduated Nichols College’s Executive MBA program, served as one of two student speakers during the graduation ceremony.

es, challenges that have deterred others,” said Pieczynski, who urged the graduates to remember those who helped them along the way and

be humble and thankful for all who assisted them in their journey to success.

**DUDLEY**

continued from page A1

earlier this year but was tabled as the board decided the public needed to have a say on the use of the land at the town meeting.

Article 16 proposes a Solicitor Bylaw supported by the Dudley Police Department. The bylaw will permit the police to enforce the policy by defining the term soliciting and requiring a license for any solicitation or canvassing in the town. It would also limit the hours when solicitation would be deemed appropriate in Dudley and clarify any exceptions to the rule as well as establish penalties for those who fail to comply. The Police Department is also proposing a noise bylaw which would define and regulate any unnecessary, excessive, or “annoying” noise deemed to be disruptive and will include details on enforcement and penalties.

The final seven articles on the warrant are all citizen petitions which could change several aspects of Dudley’s taxation and elected offices. Article 18 is a petition to impose term limits that would prevent any individual

from holding public positions for more than two terms and limit working in any one department in Dudley to fifteen years. Article 19 will seek to have the town clear all streets, private or public, of snow and sand during the winter months. Later articles will seek to reduce the real estate taxes on primary homes by 50 percent for those aged 65 and older; reduce the town real estate taxes by 20 percent, require that any vote to override Proposition 2 ½ require a vote of 75 percent of all registered voters, and vote to install a Permanent Audit Committee into the town bylaws. Another bylaw would require that only registered citizens of the United States of America presenting photo identification can vote in town elections and seeks the removal of all calculating machines, require in-person voting, and that all votes be tallied the same day they are cast.

Dudley’s annual town meeting will be held on May 20 at 7 p.m. in the Connie Vancogalli Auditorium in the Shepherd Hill Regional High School at 68 Dudley Oxford Rd. A copy of the warrant is available on the Town of Dudley Web site.

**OXFORD**

continued from page A1

specifically referring to his previous tenure as selectmen, when Oxford built the high school; at that time Oxford got 80 percent state reimbursement, but if it had not approved the work that year, reimbursement would’ve fallen to 50 percent, he recalled. He added that similar luck benefited Oxford during the police station project, when bids went out during the 2008 recession and came back low enough the town could also afford to furnish it.

Today, Rheault said, “the schools definitely need help.” But he feels there’s “always been a sort of us vs them attitude between the schools and the departments” that is “not good.” The town as a whole needs to “help the students of today who are the Oxford of tomorrow” have the same kinds of opportunities he had. Specifically, he cited the fact Oxford Middle School opened while he was in 8th grade, giving him exposure to his first darkroom. That opened the door to his career in photography, he said.

At the same time, though, “the roads definitely need help,” he added. “We’re all paying that hidden tax of front-

end alignment and tires being ruined.” He supported both of the efforts a couple years ago to fund roadwork over several years; both passed at Town Meeting but were soundly defeated at the polls.

Over the next 10 years, Rheault said he’d like to see Oxford “keep a lot of the character it has now” while expanding business. Specifically, he’d like to see another restaurant plus other enterprises that don’t “cause a lot of [extra] traffic.” He also noted there might be some areas the town could look at regionalizing to buy equipment and maybe even improve the schools.

Many things can be done without high cost. “Sometimes, low-tech works. You don’t have to throw a lot of money at a problem to make it better,” Rheault said. “...I’ve always been good at problem-solving. If I don’t have the idea, I’ll go to someone else.”

**MARK ROBBINS**

Robbins seems to come from a similar mindset, saying his campaign promise is to “listen, be open to and be honest with everyone who wishes to contact me with any issues. We all deserved to be informed and valued.” To him, “everyone

should be willing to serve their community in one way or another.” Before throwing his hat in the political ring, he did so for 21 years as a state trooper, retiring in 2015, with 12 years in the Marines before that. Since then, he’s worked in corporate and executive security, including for “some high-profile clients during a national election,” he wrote.

Specifically, he said he chose to run this year because he sees the town government “not wanting or being open” to the citizens.

“Our government officials need to remember that they work for the public, and the public doesn’t always get what they want,” he wrote. “There’s some things that just can’t happen, but the public still needs to be treated with respect and decorum.”

To him, that concept fuels running for office, where the elected people “work for us” but citizens get “an unwelcome feeling in our town hall.”

He admits he has no elected or appointed experience, quipping, “My experience in politics is simply sitting on my couch yelling at my TV.” But he argues his police and military background taught him how to lead people, set goals and teach various kinds

of skills while earning his people’s respect “because of the way that I treated them, the way I responded to them, the way I listened to their complaints.”

“Our society is not uneducated, and they understand more than people believe,” he wrote. “What does it cost to give someone 5 minutes to vent or explain their opinions. I am not naive enough to believe that I alone can change the world. I just want to make my little part of it a better place for everyone around me.”

Besides them, the ballot is uncontested, all of the candidates up for re-election. David Grenier seeks to return to the Bay Path School Committee, Palmina Griffin to the Oxford School Committee, Wayne McFarland to the Housing Authority, and Harry Williams as Library Trustee. This year’s two remaining candidates, both for Oxford School Committee, were technically appointed to fill vacant seats, but are now seeking their first election to those seats – Todd Proctor (three years) and Leah Filipkowski (one year).

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

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**Help Wanted  
Truck Driver/Laborer  
Highway Department**

The Town of Dudley seeks to fill two (2) Truck Driver/Laborer positions for the Highway Department. Under the general direction of the Highway Superintendent, he/she is responsible for operating equipment in connection with construction, maintenance and repair of streets and related facilities. Perform general maintenance and repair work on equipment for snow removal, cleaning and patching, installing drainage system and other related work.

**Qualifications:**  
High School Diploma or Equivalent, one year of highway experience in municipal government is preferred,  
Valid Driver’s License: CDL – Class B with Airbrake Endorsement – Ability to obtain CDL Class A required.  
Prior experience in the operation of equipment, materials, and tools relative to road construction and maintenance.  
Knowledge of basic safety standards, practices and procedures, Ability to understand and carry out oral and written instructions. Ability to work with other town employees and the public.  
Ability to work independently; prioritize tasks and meet deadlines.  
Coordination, alertness, physical strength, and stamina  
Ability to withstand exposure to adverse weather conditions.  
To be considered please submit resume to  
Michelle Jervis, Asst. Town Administrator/HR Director,  
townadmin2@dudleyma.gov or call 508-949-8001.  
A full job description can be found on [www.dudleyma.gov](http://www.dudleyma.gov) under Employment Opportunities.  
Salary Range: \$23.09 – 25.08  
The Town of Dudley is an equal opportunity employer.  
Job Type: Full-time

**HELP WANTED  
TOWN OF DUDLEY  
TOWN ACCOUNTANT**

The Town of Dudley is seeking a qualified leader who is collaborative -minded and self-directed for the critical position of Town Accountant. Under the direction of the Town Administrator the candidate would be responsible for day-to-day activities of the town’s accounting function as to maintenance of all financial records, accounts payable, internal and external audit and compliant with applicable State laws and town policies.

A bachelor’s degree in accounting or related field is required, master’s degree preferred. An understanding of GAAP and GASB and knowledge of Massachusetts municipal finance laws and MA. General Laws. Also, familiar with municipal financial software applications and Uniform Massachusetts Accounting Standards (UMAS). Knowledge of VADAR Systems a plus.

Salary range is commensurate with experience and qualifications, beginning within established salary range – Grade 4 - \$86,000.

This is a full-time position with competitive benefits. Applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to Michelle Jervis, Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director at townadmin2@dudleyma.gov. A complete job description can be found on [www.dudleyma.gov](http://www.dudleyma.gov) under Employment Opportunities.

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Seeking Quality Homes Throughout Central MA To Provide Foster Care To Children In Need. 24/7 Support Generous Reimbursement, \$1000 Sign-On Bonus. Call For Details.  
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12:00 to 1:30**

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\* June Cazeault \* Laurie Sullivan \* Matthew Ross \* Lori Johnson-Chausse \* William Gilmore II \* Bryan Pelletier

**WEBSTER  
18 EASTERN AVE.**



This property offers a whole lot more than meets the eye! 2 BRs & 1 Bath, 1st flr. 1 -2 Brs & 1 Bath 2nd flr. A rear open porch provides a private space & scenic views has DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL.

**\$375,000.**

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OPEN HOUSE SAT 5-18, 12:00 to 2:00**



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**WEBSTER  
17 BRODEUR AVENUE**



BEING BUILT!!  
SPRAWLING 2000 SF RANCH HOME!  
1/2 acre Lot! OPEN FLOOR PLAN. Living room, dining room, upscaled kitchen with 7' island, 3 bedroom, 2 baths, Beautiful Hardwood Floors! central air. 2 car garage  
**\$614,500**



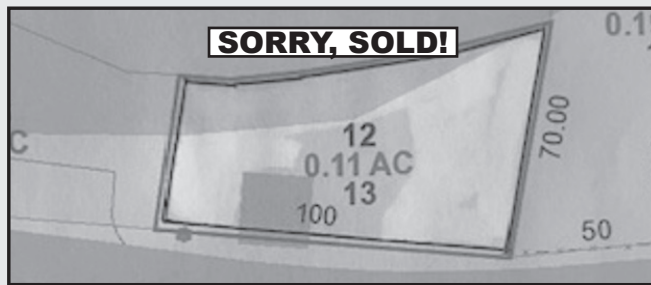
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96 CHASE AVE**

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# Master Masons host recognition night for veterans and first responders

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE  
QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — On Monday night, May 6, family and friends and guests gathered at Quinebaug Masonic Lodge in Southbridge to honor their Veterans and First Responders. The lodge was packed with Brethren in all kinds, past and present uniforms to represent their branch of service. There were indi-

viduals from the Army, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard, Airforce, National Guard, along with Firefighters, Paramedics, Emergency Response personnel. Special guests included representatives from the Boy Scouts of America, Charlton Troop 165, and Charlton Troop 338. These young men are Americas future, there motto is duty to country and duty to citizenship. Wow what a sight

to see, all these brethren and guests showing their pride in some type of uniform or article of clothing to represent their service.

The best part of the evening was watching the Color Guards march into the room to a standing ovation holding the flag of their branch of service. A roll call of names was read of 32 Master Masons veterans and 1st responders.

Their branch of service and ages ranging from 90 years young to 37 years of age all are active members of the Quinebaug

Masonic Lodge. We are proud to continue this tradition for our veterans and 1st responders of our lodge. If you would like

more information about Freemasonry, go to www.massfreemasonry.org and find a lodge nearest you.



Courtesy

Master Masons in some type of article of clothing representing their branch of service. Also, special guest representatives of the Boy Scouts of America Charlton Troop 165 and Troop 338 standing proudly with the Masons with the Color Guard flags in the background.

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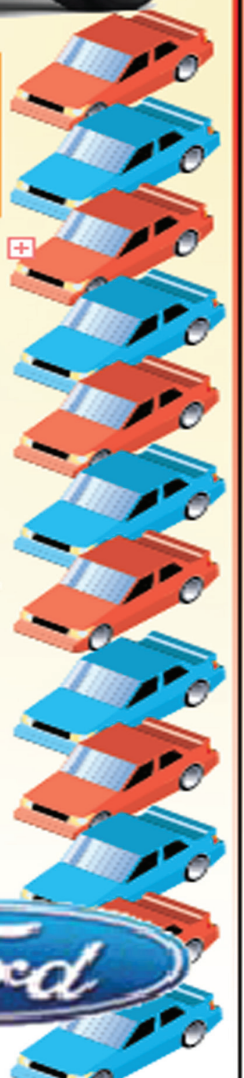
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