

Auburn News

Friday, May 10, 2024

www.StonebridgePress.com

\$62.1 million budget goes to Town Meeting

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — As usual, the key item on this year's Annual Town Meeting warrant for May 13 will be the \$62.1 million town budget, which sparked a fairly long discussion at the April 29 selectmen's meeting.

According to Town Administrator Rick Lafond, the total will increase the tax levy about 2.8 percent, in part because of the increase in property values in town.

He spent much of his talk expressing dismay that Webster has "such a large piece of your overall revenue that's not in your control, it's a little concerning." Specifically, he was referring to the fact the town gets a lot (\$23 million) of its funding from the state, mostly for the schools; the actual tax levy this year is \$32 million. Much of the budget isn't "anything we can do much about" because it funds requirements the state imposes, contractual obligations, insurance and retirement, Lafond noted. That includes an \$876,000 increase in "fixed costs," including various assessments and contracts, which exceeds the \$800,000 increase in "unrestricted general government aid."

"It's safe to say it's a very, very difficult budgetary year ... and it's going to continue to stay that way," he predicted.

Additionally, Lafond said, there's still uncertainty surrounding cannabis agreements. A court case required a town to pay back some of the previously agreed payment money, so at least one firm in Webster "stopped paying us" and the town hasn't done anything about it yet, pending what the state does, he said.

Despite that, Randy Becker observed, "We've been very fortunate we haven't pitted the town vs the schools," as some towns have. By agreement, Webster splits state aid 70/30 between schools and town; this year's school budget is up 3.2 percent with 30 percent

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Courtesy

On May 3, Nico Kavadas, a first baseman for the Woo Sox, joined the students at Park Avenue for some face to face time. Kavadas was able to talk about several hardships throughout his life and relate hardwork and perseverance to his success; the students were able to ask questions at the end. "It was a wonderful event and you could feel the energy in the room," said one of the fourth grade teachers. A huge thank you to Emerson White and her team at The Woo Sox who were able to set this up for the Park Avenue fourth grade students - the students really enjoyed it and they were able to give Kavadas a great parting gift (signed ball from all the fourth grade students).

Dudley officials send PFAS waterline easement proposal to Town Meeting

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY — As Dudley prepares to head to its May 20 annual town meeting, one item that will be featured is the mitigation plan for PFAs contamination as town officials seek a waterline easement to provide public drinking water to homes on Eagle Drive.

The Eagle Drive area, also known as Rocky Hill Estates as labeled in a 1989 land survey, has been at the center of Dudley's PFAS contamination

issues for several years after the chemical compounds were detected in the ground water monitoring wells of Dudley's closed landfill in 2021. The discovery triggered tests of nearby properties that, over time, determined several homes had been contaminated while local company Gentex Optics was also issued an Immediate Response Action Order by the Department of Environmental Protection as a possible source of contamination. Dudley has been provid-

ing fresh drinking water to the effected homes as well as installing several point of entry, or POET, filtration system. Selectmen estimate that remediation has cost around \$500,000 to date shared between Dudley and Gentex. However, town officials are seeking a more permanent solution to the problem and have proposed an easement which would authorize the town to install a public water line along Eagle Drive and give those homes the option of hooking into

rather than depending on potentially contaminated private wells.

The Board of Selectmen held a public hearing in anticipation of the annual town meeting on April 22 where Selectman Kerry Cyganiewicz explained the town's intent in more detail.

"The permanent solution to the PFAS issue is to provide the impacted residents with a public water line so that treated water can be delivered to the residents' homes. It is a solution that the Department of Environmental Protection is recommending and ultimately going to require to resolve the PFAs issue. Because the

homes that are impacted are located on a private road and all but one home on that road has a private well, it will be necessary for the town to obtain an easement to install the water line and bring it to each private home," said Cyganiewicz.

Selectmen made it clear that the town will likely bear the cost of both installation and the ties for the waterline and that utilization of the line will be optional, meaning residents of Eagle Drive would be allowed to continue to use their wells if they chose. The easement would also not affect the private ownership of the road.

Town officials welcomed Licensed Site Professional (LSP) Sean

Healy from Weston & Sampson Engineers who provided a review of the PFAS issue to date and explained more details into the proposed project. His report stated that 59 homes had been sampled and 15 had POET systems installed. As of the April 22 meeting, a new round of sampling was underway, but Weston & Sampson believe they have a bubble radius map set and that no further extension of that testing radius will be necessary, meaning they believe they have found the limit of the impacted homes in the area. A Phase II assessment of the properties is set to begin this year to help establish the precise nature and extent

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School Committee confirms 2025 budget request

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley Charlton Regional School Committee has made its budget proposal official, as both Dudley and Charlton voters prepare for their respective annual town meetings, both on May 20.

In March, the School Committee decided to send a level service budget to both communities proposing a \$59.8 million spending plan and a \$2.4 million increase over the current year split between the two towns. Charlton subsequently approved a budget for consideration in April while Dudley was set to finalize their spending plan in the first week of May. However, during a meeting of the School Committee on April 24, Superintendent Steve Lamarche revealed that new state numbers had come in allowing the School Committee to propose more accurate esti-

mates and thus a more realistic budget. The result did not change the overall budget number, which remains at \$59.8 million, but did provide more precise tax levies for both towns with Charlton's proposed total share at \$18.5 million and Dudley's at \$12.2 million. That's an increase of \$248,088 for Charlton and \$1.3 million for Dudley for a total added assessment of \$1.5 million between the two towns.

"This does not change the overall budget. We used the most favorable numbers for fiscal year 2025, it therefore does change the assessments," said Lamarche, who explained that district representatives have been working closely with both towns and were patiently waiting for the House of Representatives to set its numbers over the last month to provide clarity as to what the district would receive from the state. "We feel very confident working with our towns that we do have

a plan for Fiscal Year 2025 going into Town Meetings."

The School Committee unanimously approved the amended budget which will be included in the spending plans for both towns at their respective May 20 annual town meetings. Both towns need to approve their spending plans for the education budget to be confirmed for Fiscal Year 2025.

The school committee also continued discussions concerning school fees which has been a consistent debate dating back to the fall and winter of 2023. The district's Budget and Finance Subcommittee examined three possible fee increases: pre-school, athletics, and high school student parking. The School Committee decided not to make a motion on athletic fees and parking fees increases but did approve increasing pre-kindergarten and preschool fees by \$200 annually.

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More funding for PFAS plant focus of special TM warrant

BY GUS STEEVES
CORRESPONDENT

WEBSTER — Extra funding for the already-approved PFAS treatment plants and several other capital projects will be a major focus of the Special Town Meeting May 13. As usual, that will lead directly into the Annual Town Meeting that same night (see the companion story on this week's front page).

Town Meeting approved the PFAS project, which aims to build plants at Memorial Beach and Bigelow Road, for \$33 million last year, but when the bids were opened, they came in \$3 million higher than expected. The actual warrant item calls for \$10 million, but that was a "placeholder" drafted before bids were opened.

According to Chair

Earl Gabor, municipal projects in general have been seeing higher costs lately, but "availability of these PFAS treatment columns are getting tighter and tighter." He noted the "construction community sees big [profits] on all these towns that are in this PFAS predicament."

In part, that's because the EPA recently announced they'd be reducing the PFAS quantity allowed in drinking water to just 4 parts per trillion. The EPA standard previously had been 70, and Massachusetts' standard was 20.

That level specifically covers just six of the best-known PFAS chemicals (four in Massachusetts) of a group that numbers in the tens of thousands. PFAS is an acronym meaning "per- and poly-fluoro alkyl sub-

stances," a manmade group of compounds which started being used in the 1950s in non-stick coatings (including on cooking pans), flame retardants, waterproofing, floor waxes and fire-fighting foams, among many other uses.

"Approximately 98 percent of Americans have PFAS in their bodies," reports the Silent Spring Institute website. "While their strong chemical bonds make them very effective at repelling water and oil even at high temperatures, these same characteristics also make PFAS extremely persistent, meaning they don't break down. Silent Spring Institute is studying this class of chemicals because some types of PFAS have been linked

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**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 under Employment Opportunities.

**Poets At Large presents new show
at Vanilla Bean Café May 25**

POMFRET — The Vanilla Bean Café, 450 Deerfield Rd. in Pomfret, and Poets at Large will host an evening of spoken word and poetry on Saturday night, May 25. This performance will be from 7-9 p.m. Admission is \$15, and includes a give-away. Poets at Large is a regional group of poets who read in Connecticut and Massachusetts, now in its fifth year. Featured poets will be authors Wendy Haller and Catherine DeNunzio. Haller, a resident of Canton, Conn., just released her first book, "Kiss You Love, Goodbye - a poetic journey through life." She says, "It took me 30 years to publish this book. It only came to fruition because of a promise I made to my son. Before he left

for college, he made me promise to write every day. Fear was holding me back. Nine months later, my poetic memoir has been released."

She is currently working on her second book, Ache, and has a children's book in the illustration phase.

Catherine DeNunzio lives in Ledyard, Conn., and is the author of "Enough Like Bone to Build On" (Antrim House 2022). Her poems have appeared in "The Breath of Parted Lips: Voices from The Robert Frost Place," Connecticut Literary Anthology," Delmarva Review Connecticut River Review, Italian Americana, Marin Poetry Center Anthology, Scapegoat

Review, and "Waking Up to the Earth: Connecticut Poets in a Time of Global Climate Crisis." She has poems forthcoming in Delmarva Review.

Contact Poets at Large coordinator Karen Warinsky if you are interested in reading in the open mic at karen.warinsky@gmail.com. There is a five-minute limit for open mic readers and these events are recommended for ages 14 and up.

Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts. This series is sponsored in part by bankHometown, Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, and Weiss, Hale & Zahansky Strategic Wealth Advisors.



Courtesy

RECONCILIATION AND ZION CHANGE THE BABIES

Throughout the Lenten season, the parishioners of Church of the Reconciliation, Webster, and Zion Lutheran, Oxford, collected more than \$1,000 in change for a diaper ministry at the Mampong Babies Home in the diocese of Kumasi, Ghana. "Change the Babies" is a sponsorship created by the Reverend Betsy Fisher to care for and comfort infants and toddlers whose mothers have died in childbirth. Many of these babies remain at the orphanage until reaching the age of five years or until their families are able to care for them. Our sincere hope is that our loose change will change the lives of these children.

**NORTH BROOKFIELD'S
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Facebook.com/NBPTOYARDSALE

Maps can be purchased in the center of town by the Town Sign and at 46 Mill Rd
Beginning at 7 AM



**Four Poets At Large
members receive
recognition at
National Baseball
Poetry Festival**

WORCESTER — Four members of Woodstock-based Poets at Large received recognition in the adult category for their poems related to the "national past-time" of baseball on May 3 in Worcester, Mass. The honors were given to a total of 20 poets out of 100 entries from across the United States at the National Baseball Poetry Festival held May 3-5. The National Baseball Poetry Festival is a creation of Biondolillo Associates, and the poems are now published on BaseballBard.com, created by entrepreneur Mark Sickman. This is the second time the festival has been held.

Honored at the DCU Lounge at Polar Park in Worcester were poets Tom Clark, Tom Driscoll, Tom Lagasse and Woodstock resident and coordinator of Poets at Large, Karen Warinsky. The National Baseball Poetry Festival is a celebration of poetry (and other short written and spoken-word pieces) whose themes focus on baseball, and can be written about almost anything connected to the game from hotdogs to the smell of fresh cut grass to a favorite coach. There were also Little League and Youth categories. The Festival punctuated National Poetry Month, during which the entire nation pays homage to the world's oldest and, arguably, most powerful art form!

Find Poets at Large on Facebook where it now has more than 460 members. Poets at Large is a project of Windham Arts.

**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!

Good Items: Electronics - stereos, etc. (no TV's) Tools - hand tools, lights, flooring, spec. 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

REAL ESTATE

AUBURN

\$4,050,000, 10 Prospect St, Bkrjt Inc, to Auburn Town Of.
\$4,050,000, 798 Washington St, Bkrjt Inc, to Auburn Town Of.
\$370,000, 4 Ashcroft St, Ortiz, Luis A, and Ferrante, Kelsey M, to Oconnell, Leah.
\$149,090, 8 Westview St, Ariel, Keith E, and Ariel, Deborah S, to Ariel, Keith E, and Ariel, Deborah S.

DUDLEY

\$579,900, 71 Dudley Hill Rd, Manzano, Nicholas A, and Manzano, Heather M, to Shelander, Chelsea, and Mitchell, Kyle.
\$170,000, Charlton Rd, Lavallee, Richard P, to Dudley Conservation Land.

OXFORD

\$6,563,100, 10 Sterling Way, 77 Leicester Street LLC, to Strategic Com Realty LLC.
\$550,000, 33 Westview Dr, Kozlov, Aleksandr, and Dorato, Emilia, to Scenna, Nicholas P, and Scenna, Lia M.
\$530,000, 716 Main St, Dussault Jr, Phillip R, and Dussault, Sandra J, to Khan, Malak A, and Khan, Saqib.
\$460,000, 28 Old Depot Rd, Sthilaire, David, and Tokles, Katherine, to Grautski, Zachary, and Meza, Stephanie A.
\$131,400, Sterling Way, Sterling Leicester Rt, and Defalco Jr, George F, to Strategic Com Realty LLC.

WEBSTER

\$2,400,000, 106 Douglas Rd, Finecamp Inc, to Douglas Forest Rv Resort.
\$600,000, 108 Douglas Rd, Finamore, Michael, to Forest Rv Resort LLC, and Hunter, Dianne.
\$500,000, 16 Henry Joseph Dr, Smart 4th, John, and Smart, Shawna-Lee, to Rubio Jr, Sergio.
\$325,000, 10 West Ave #C, Fitzgerald, Brendan T, and Dellaquila, Brea H, to Stanard, Ryan T.
\$43,500, Cody St, Braczyk Elizabeth G Est, and Sharkey, Christine G, to Lagasse, Roger.

PROPERTIES FOR RENT
Prince Edward Island, Canada
Summer/Fall Weekly Cottage Rental
2-bedroom newly constructed oceanfront cottage that sleeps 8. Sweeping views of the pond, ocean and lighthouse. Enjoy kayaking, bicycling and beach walking.
\$900/wk. Contact Scott at 603-254-5032 or scottm@plymouth.edu
TYBEE ISLAND, GEORGIA
YEAR-ROUND SHORT-TERM RENTAL
1-bedroom unit overlooking ocean in a gated community with pool and walkway to beach. Sleeps 4. Watch dolphins at play, freighters, pelicans and fishing boats. Prices vary.
Contact Oceanfront Cottage Rentals at 800-786-5889 or http://www.oceanfrontcottage.com/listings/218-bay-breezes

Friday's Child



Lexus
Age 12

Hi! My name is Lexus and I want a home where I can raise pet ducks and chickens.

Lexus is beautiful, kind, loving, and sweet. She thrives on receiving one-on-one attention from loving adults. Lexus is energetic, eager to please and does best with positive reinforcement. She enjoys coloring, arts & crafts, playing outside, listening to music and playing games. She loves animals, trying new things and

visiting with her brother. She is very outgoing, creative, and loves projects. Lexus would like her new family to help her with raising pet ducks and chickens. She also would like to take horse back riding lessons.

<https://adopt.mareinc.org/waiting-child-profiles#gallery/child/7511>

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

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

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



Auburn student explores mental health through art and creative expression

REGION — The Massachusetts Association for Mental Health (MAMH) and Massachusetts Health Council (MHC) are pleased to announce the winners of the 2024 “Mental Health Matters: Student Expression Contest” to promote youth mental health. This year’s artists looked inward to explore challenging periods in their lives, the importance of a having a trusted ally, and more themes around mental health and wellness.

Middle school and high school students from across the Commonwealth competed for \$2,400 in cash prizes in three art categories: audio/video, artistic still, and creative writing. Seventeen students were awarded prizes for their creative expression of ways they maintain their own mental health, how friends and family help them in each of their lives, and how to support a friend or family member going through a challenging time.

“The Student Expression Contest, now in its fourth year, is showing us that students understand the transformative power of art to communicate growing awareness of their mental health and how to protect it,” said Danna Mauch, PhD, MAMH President & CEO. “Students are processing their own emotions, supporting their peers, and having honest conversations with their parents and caregivers about mental health and well being. They inspire our advocacy and recognition of the vital importance of prioritizing mental and behavioral health supports when and where students need them, and investing in programs in our K-12 schools.”

This year we received over 80 entries from students in sixth through 12th grade. Guest judges included student advocates, staff, and partners of MAMH and MHC, including Omar Irizarry, Director of Cross Agency Initiatives at the Massachusetts Department

of Mental Health, and Pam Sager, Executive Director of the Parent/Professional Advocacy League (PPAL). Sample submissions can be found on the MAMH website.

“Every young person who entered this competition did a great job, and it was such a difficult decision to choose the winners,” added MHC’s CEO David Martin. “The students confronted some tough feelings and told some important stories about resilience, support, and access to mental health care. We’re happy to have provided an outlet for them to share what they’ve been through and how they support others.”

Among the winners in this year’s Middle School Artistic Still contest was Lillian Spitz of Auburn, who took third place.

MAMH and MHC have been engaged for more than 100 years in advocacy to increase understanding, eliminate

stigma, and improve support for people with mental health needs.

BOAT SLIP WANTED:

Looking for a slip on Webster Lake for a pontoon boat.

Call or text Adam at 774-696-6410.

Gladys E. Kelly Library welcomes Bartlett High School art students!



WEBSTER — The Gladys E. Kelly Public Library has partnered with Bartlett Art Department to display students’ creative visions in the Community Room and display cases upstairs. Thirty-eight students created different medias of art including digital, paint and sculpture. Come in and enjoy this exhibit through May 17. Big thanks to Sean Harrington, Brittany Gyllenhammer, and the students for this partnership.

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Estate/Yard Sale
Saturday and Sunday, May 18th and 19th, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
110 Leland Hill Road
Sutton, MA

Furniture, glassware, small kitchen appl, tools, TV's, snowblower, car (Hyundai Elantra)

The Pearle hosts artist reception for Lisa Kretchman

DUDLEY — The Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library in Dudley will display the art of Lisa Kretchman during the month of May.

Lisa is a mixed-media artist living in Dudley. She studied painting, illustration and digital media at the Mass. College of Art and Design. Her work has been displayed in local galleries, museums and events, including the Warwick Museum of Art, the Attleboro Arts Museum, the Rhode Island Convention Center and the Quinebaug Valley Council for the Arts & Humanities.

Lisa also participated in public art projects, such as the Putnam’s Fire & Ice Festival and the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular at the Roger Williams Park Zoo.

Much of her work is inspired by nature based in New England and the pieces on display throughout May focus on landscapes and flowers from the artist’s travels and her own garden.

The Pearle is hosting an artist’s reception at 6 p.m. on May 13 at the library, located at 40 Scholfield Ave. in Dudley.

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PAW of the WEEK

Meet: Blonde
Currently Available for Adoption
Blonde is from Pawfect Life Rescue. Blonde is a 4mo/26lb/Male/Lab Hound mix! Blonde is a friendly guy who has a knack for making anyone feel special and loved. Adopt Blonde and experience the joy of unconditional love and friendship that only a pet like him can offer. If you think you’d like to give Blondie a chance, please start the process today! To Learn more go to PawfectLifeRescue.org!

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Milford Federal Bank is proud to sponsor the Pawfect Life Rescue PAW of the WEEK!

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

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MilfordFederal.com

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OXFORD SENIOR CENTER

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

Open Monday – Friday
8:30am – 3:30pm
Email: seniorcenter@oxfordma.us
Website: www.oxfordma.us
Facebook: Oxford, MA Senior Center

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

Weekly Activities:
Mondays and Fridays @ 10:00 am – Cribbage
Tuesdays @ 9:15am – Strength & Balance w/ Donna Freeland – Cost \$3.00 per class
Wednesdays @ 9:15am – Chair Yoga w/ Heidi Gambaccini – Cost \$3.00 per class
Tuesdays and Wednesdays @ 10:00am – Needleworkers (Knitting, Crocheting, Needlepoint)
Bring your favorite project and come join the group for conversation and laughs.
Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm – Pitch

Wednesdays @ 1:00 pm – Chair Volleyball – Lots of laughs and only two rules (1) stay seated (2) have fun!
Thursdays @ 10:00 am – Dominoes
Thursdays @ 12:30 pm – Quilting Class

Monthly Activities:
Let's Talk Oxford History – 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 1pm - Sponsored by the Oxford Historical Commission
Blood Pressure Clinic – 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 11:00am
Senior Safety Education – 3rd Friday of each month @ 12:30 –

Sponsored by Oxford Fire & EMS
Men's Coffee Group – 2nd Wednesday of each month @ 10:30am – coffee and pastry are served.
Tri-Valley Inc. Options Counseling - 3rd Tuesday of each month from 12:30pm – 2:30pm. By appointment.
SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) – 3rd Wednesday of each month. By appointment.
Book Club – 1st Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – reserve your book from the Oxford Public Library
Movie Matinee –

2nd Friday of each month @ 12:45 – popcorn and M & M's are provided.
BEANO – 4th Friday of each month @ 12:45pm – arrive by 12:30pm to purchase your BEANO sheets.

BUS TRIPS:
Blossoms & Butterflies - June 6th, lunch @ Deerfield Inn, \$149pp
Mobsters & Lobsters Trolley Tour - September 26th, lunch @ The Venezia \$169pp
Please call or visit the senior center for more information or to sign up (508)-987-6000

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

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

WEBSTER SENIOR CENTER

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

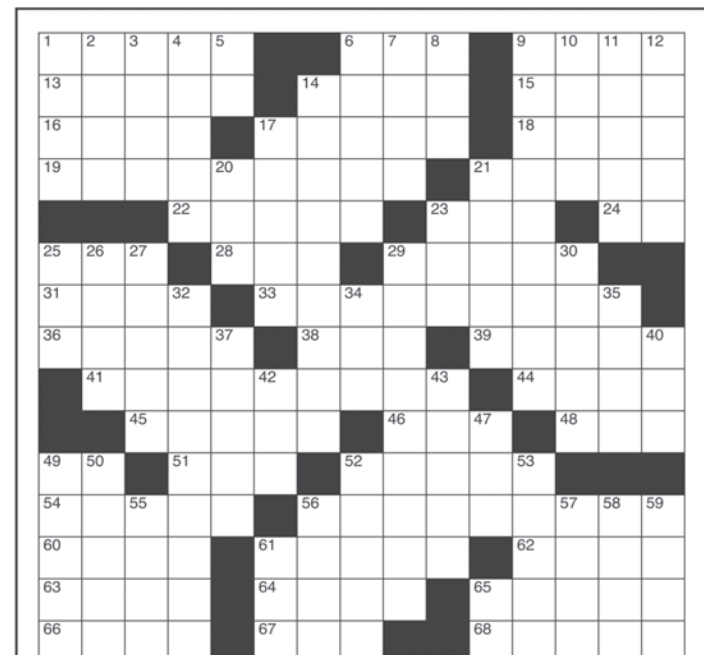
newsletter online. You do not have to be a resident of Webster to participate in our activities and programs. ALL Seniors are welcome!
Webster Senior Center will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.
Tri-Valley Lunches are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 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, 5/14 Chicken Milano, veggie couscous, spinach. Wednesday, 5/15 Teriyaki Beef, steamed rice, broccoli. Thursday, 5/16 Salisbury Steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas & mushrooms. Friday, 5/17 Lemon Pepper Fish, potatoes au gratin, mixed veggies.
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.

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.
Join the Friends of the Webster Senior Center "Let's Celebrate Mother's" Coffee and Tea party on Monday, May 13th at 1:00 pm. Live music and refreshments. Please sign up at the front desk.
Free Blood Pressure Screenings at the Webster Senior Center on Friday, May 17th from 9:30 – 11:30 am. Sign in when you arrive.
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



- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. It takes you up
 - 6. A place to sleep
 - 9. Czech village
 - 13. Appetizer
 - 14. African country
 - 15. Dark brown or black
 - 16. Parent-teacher groups
 - 17. Saturates
 - 18. ESPN personality Kimes
 - 19. Songs to a lover
 - 21. Cavalry-sword
 - 22. Begat
 - 23. Patriotic women
 - 24. Famed Princess
 - 25. One who does not conform
 - 28. Neither
 - 29. Nigerian monetary unit
 - 31. Body parts
 - 33. Hit Dave Matthews Band song
 - 36. Depicts with pencil
 - 38. Make into leather without tannin
 - 39. Plants grow from them
 - 41. Alias
 - 44. Fingers do it
 - 45. More dried-up
 - 46. Clod
 - 48. Senior officer
 - 49. A way to listen to music
 - 51. The bill in a restaurant
 - 52. Historic center of Artois region
 - 54. Cyprinid fishes
 - 56. Poisonous perennial plant
 - 60. Scottish Loch
 - 61. Heads
 - 62. Extra seed-covering
 - 63. Wings
 - 64. Britpop band
 - 65. Forearm bones
 - 66. Small immature herring
 - 67. Female sibling
 - 68. Hymn

- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Vipers
 - 2. Not on time
 - 3. Resembling a wing or wings
 - 4. Tears down
 - 5. Professional designation
 - 6. Noise a sheep made
 - 7. Type of lodge
 - 8. Speak poorly of
 - 9. Ties the knot again
 - 10. Apron
 - 11. Studied intensively
 - 12. City in Finland
 - 14. One who monitors
 - 17. 18-year astronomical period
 - 20. Trent Reznor's band
 - 21. Takes to the sea
 - 23. Split pulses
 - 25. Valentine's Day color
 - 26. Wyatt
 - 27. Type of rail
 - 29. One from the Big Apple
 - 30. Asteroids
 - 32. Made more sugary
 - 34. Change in skin pigment
 - 35. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
 - 37. Koran chapters
 - 40. A place to relax
 - 42. Young woman ready for society life
 - 43. Female horses
 - 47. Half of Milli Vanilli
 - 49. Icelandic poems
 - 50. Indiana town
 - 52. Golden peas
 - 53. Closes tightly
 - 55. It's mined in mountains
 - 56. Cliff (Hawaii)
 - 57. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
 - 58. Monetary unit
 - 59. Primordial matter
 - 61. TV station
 - 65. Rise

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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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!

WEBSTER POLICE LOG

WEBSTER— The Webster Police Department reported the following arrests during the week of April 28 to May 4.

April Lynne Brown, age 39, of Webster was arrested on April 28 for Violation of a Harassment Prevention Order.

Mariah Marie Adair, age 28, of Webster was arrested on April 29 in connection with a warrant.

A 64-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 29 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member, Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, and Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official.

A 27-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on April 29 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

Melissa J. Pardee, age 51, of Southbridge was arrested on May 1 in connection with a warrant.

A 42-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 2 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Assault & Battery with a Dangerous Weapon.

A 50-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 2 for Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member and Intimidation of a Witness, Juror, Police Officer, or Court Official.

A 26-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 2 for Assault & Battery on a Pregnant Victim and Assault on a Family or Household Member (subsequent offense).

A 59-year-old male from Webster whose identity has been withheld from publication was arrested on May 3 for Assault & Battery on a Person Older Than 60 and/or Disabled and Assault & Battery on a Family or Household Member.

ALMANAC

OPEN TO CLOSE

DUDLEY

DUDLEY TOWN HALL (508) 949-8000
Monday: 8:00 AM-6:30 PM (second floor offices),
Tuesday-Thursday: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Friday: 8:00 AM-12:00 PM.
DUDLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-4411)
Dudley 24 hours a day, seven days a week
DUDLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-8040)
Monday-Sunday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

OXFORD

OXFORD TOWN HALL (508) 987-6027
Board of Selectmen and Town Clerk Hours!
Monday, Tues., Thurs..... 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

OXFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT (987-0156)
For emergencies, call 911
OXFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT (987-6012)
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WEBSTER

WEBSTER TOWN HALL (508) 949-3850
Office Hours:
Monday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

WEBSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT (943-1212)
For emergencies, call 911
WEBSTER FIRE DEPARTMENT (949-3875)
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Stonebridge Press

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TO THE EDITOR:
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Busy summer ahead for Auburn Recreation

AUBURN — The Auburn Department of Recreation and Culture will offer an eight-week summer camp from June 24 through Aug. 16.

Please join us for a great summer with new and exciting themes! Our full day and half day camp will provide children with many activities

from sports and games to arts and crafts in a fun, safe environment.

Each day the children need to bring a lunch, sneakers, sunscreen, snacks, water bottle and a smile. Refrigeration will be available for lunches. Water will be made available also.

Camp will take place at Auburn High School at 99 Auburn St. Camp hours are from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Half days are available, as is extended care until 5pm. We also offer early drop off beginning at 7:30 a.m. Children must be at least entering kindergarten in the fall of 2024 to attend. Please enclose child's immunization record and current physical with registration.

There will be a 20 percent reduction for residents meeting eligibility

requirements.

Staff ratio is one staff for every six younger children (under 10) and one staff for every ten older children (10+). It is important to preregister in order that we may provide adequate staffing.

The camp begins June 24 and runs until Aug. 16. A full week's payment is due at sign up. We are not able to refund money if your camper cannot make camp after he/she has signed up. Registration is required two weeks prior to the start of camp. We look forward to a great summer. Thank you so much!

For pricing and registration forms, please go to Auburnma.gov, call (508) 832-7736, or visit us at 4 Goddard Dr./104 Central St.

The annual Independence Day

Celebration will be held at the Dr. Arthur and Dr. Martha Pappas Recreation Complex Friday, June 28 (rain date Saturday, June 29) from 5-9:30 p.m., with food, vendors, kids' games, Rock and Roll racing, and train rides, all culminating with fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Free WRTA & AA Transportation shuttle service pickup from Pakachoag Street, the Senior Center, and the Auburn Mall. No pets allowed with the exception of service dogs. For further details and parking maps, please visit Auburnma.gov or call (508) 832-7736. Thank you to sponsors bankHometown and the Auburn Mall.

Start, learn, or play with a Tennis in the Parks program for brand new or beginner youth tennis

players. Led by a USTA-approved coach, we focus on fun and learning the basics. We use age-appropriate equipment, court sizes, and activities that makes learning and play easy. Plus, all players in their first session receive a free tennis racket and ball. May 4 to June 15 from 8:30-10 a.m. at the Auburn High School courts, 340 Southbridge St. Register by visiting Auburnma.gov.

The Auburn Farmers' and Cultural Market returns every Thursday from 4-7 p.m. at the Dr. Arthur and Dr. Martha Pappas Recreation complex starting June 6. Concerts start at 6 p.m. For more information on farmers' markets, please e-mail Kpappas@town.auburn.ma.us or call (508) 832-7736, or visit Auburnma.gov.

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.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!

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

No Spice club this month, but check out our Geraldine Brooks display in the lobby!

Adult Programming
YOGA – Saturday May 4th, 11th and 18th 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@cwmmars.org for inquiries.

ADULT BOARDGAME NIGHT— (No May Meeting) June 24th at 6:00 PM

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

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 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.

FRIENDS CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS: Sally Roger— May 9th at 6:30 PM

Sally Rogers performs an evening of traditional, contemporary and original ballads and song, interwoven with stories taken from her life as a performer, a wife and a mother. Throughout her concerts, she accompanies herself on guitar and Appalachian dulcimer, or performs without accompaniment in a voice that needs no further enhancement.

ONE BOOK ONE COMMUNITY PRESENTS GERALDINE BROOKS: June 6th at 6:30 PM

Join Pulitzer prize winner Geraldine Brooks for a moderated discussion of her book "Horse". Register for early access and priority seating. Register via our website or by calling the Library at 508-949-3880

Children's and Young Adult Programming

Scavenger Hunt— All Month Long

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

TAKE AND MAKE CRAFT— All month long

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

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

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

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

Come play with the library's Legos. If you like, we can put your work on display!

No registration Required

BUILD TUESDAYS – from 3:30-4:30 PM

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

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 8th and 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 13th and 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.

FRESHMEN NAMED TO BAY PATH HONOR ROLL

CHARLTON — Bay Path Regional Vocational Technical High School congratulates the following grade 9 students for being named to the honor roll for the third quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

High Honors

Kennadie Balcunas, Alyssa Bonneville, Missage Budimbu Mpolo, Clara Burlingame, Bella Calnan, Miya Chauvin, Morgan Chlapowski, Jenna Cianci, Ian Clark, Madelyn Creelman, Trinity Crompton, Brianna Dwomoah, Molly Dwyer, Hailey Ferrara, Samantha Fleck, Aria Fournier, Brooke Fuller, Kelsey Karlowicz, Finnian Keefe, Owen Kennedy, Jayme Kenney, Jack Maroney, Shaun McGrath, Thomas Nault, Johnny Nhan, Anastasia Nieuwenhoff, Corey Ntim, Katie Putnam, Jason Richard, Kayla Schroeder, Isabella Sepulveda, Travis Tong, Nicholas Tremblay, Kyle Twombly

Honors

Saltete Alves, Trevor Amaral, Lacie Andrews, Lillian Araujo, Winifred Aucoin, Vincent Balducci, Boden Barrell, Nolan Barton, Liam Beals, Lyla Beauchene, Samantha Belanger, Brett Beltzer, Kayleigh Bissell, Alexandria Blanchard, Alexia Brown, Ariana Byrnes, Keziah Chipman, Dominic Cincotta, Aidan Clyne, Liam Colon, Naomi Cooper, Benjamin Cryan, Liam Cunniff, Destiny Daviau, Eric Day, Hunter Defosse, Livia Deluca, Madison Drewry, Elizabeth Eccleston, Jackson Edwards, Ava Erkoç, Dylan Filipkowski, Aliyah Gauvin, Ely Gemboski, Jinnette Goguen, Adrian Golemo, Jady Goodwin, Liam Greenwood, Emma Grensavitch, Emm Harrington, Kaylee Hoffner, Colin Hurley, Vikram Jha, Alexander Kowalski, Abena Kwarteng, Benjamin Labbe, Sangey Lama, Owen Lemansky, Ethan Lemire, Jaxon Leonard, Andrew Levitzky, Damon Libby, Perry Lima, Apollo Logan, Jared Magnusson, Emily Malia, Julie-Anna Marchetti, Christopher Martin, Aaron Mazur, Colin McIlvaine, Ava McKellick, Johannys Melendez, Nicholas Meneguzzo, Jayden Minardi, Alexis Moore, Miles Moriarty, Miguel Mosqueda, Kaiya Murphy, Melany Ngo, Daniel Nowlan, Jacey Okyere-Tawiah, Aylah Patraw, Mayli Pedersen, Kiera Pederson, Iban Pelaez, Grace Perron, Raquel Provencal, Ava Rennie, Isabella Richard, Devin Robinson, Leilani Rohena Torres, Josphelys Rosario Negron, Jennavicia Roseberry, Jaelynn Royea, Jordyn Sabotka, Owen Sanford, Anthony Savasta, Michael Scott, Lucas Silva, Zachary Sirard, Addisyn Skeates, Hadleigh Splaine, Amelia St. Peter, Kayley Suprenant, Rachel Torres, Isabella Vangel, Brady Weeks, Connor Welsh, Dashiell Williams, Jazzelle Wolverson, Jackson Young, Lucy Zaleski, Payton Ziemski

Principal's List

Collin Bachand, Michaela Carter, Anthony Correnti, Maya Cronin, Camden Decarolis, Tobias Falco-Foreman, Marcus Feliciano, Cole Going, Julia Holton, Alex Kirejczyk, Ella Komssi, Maximilian Lapriore, Kiya McCart, Sarah McDaniel, Joshua McLaughlin, Alysia Melendez, Jose Mercado Lopez, Samantha Morley, Nathaniel Munson, Elijah Ofori, Noah Peck, Jacob Perry, Kyla Pierre, Dane Potenti, Gianna Rosario, Benjamin Rucho, Logan Schoff, Ella Schofield, Allison Smith, Skyla St. Francis, Alexander St. Jacques, Cayden Stewart, Sean Sullivan, Marley Talbot, Isaiah Torres, Eskil Tranes, Kara Trevarthan, Ryan Ugrinow, Bryce Vautour, Nico Yacavace

Democratic Town Committees to host voter apathy program Thursday

DUDLEY — The Dudley & Webster Democratic Town Committees will host election expert, Dr. Rachael Cobb's talk on "Promoting Political Participation to Combat Political Apathy" at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 16 at the Pearl Crawford Memorial Library, Fels Room, Dudley

Some of us have chosen against participating in a local or national election. This choice may include include crummy weather, or more importantly, people may have limited confidence or motivation to participate.

In order for our democracy to work, we need an engaged public. Yet in recent years, only a small percentage of eligible adults have exercised their right to vote. Why is that? And what can we do about it?

Come hear Rachael Cobb, PH.D., Assistant Professor of Government at Suffolk University, specializing in U.S. elections, electoral politics, and civic engagement speak about promoting political participation to combat apathy.

In an especially crucial political year, let's learn -

- * Who votes, who doesn't and why?
- * What factors mobilize people to vote?
- * What policies promote voting?

Please join us!

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

GFWC Junior Woman's Club to hold annual duck race

AUBURN — The GFWC, Auburn Junior Woman's Club is holding their 21st Annual Duck Race on Memorial Day, May 27, this year! After the Memorial Day Parade is finished our duck race will commence at Mirror Pond behind the Auburn Public Library on Southbridge Street.

The duck race is our largest fundraising event. Proceeds from the event go towards scholarships for Auburn Seniors.

Curry College welcomes Michaela Sampson of Auburn into Sigma Theta Tau

MILTON — Curry's School of Nursing welcomes Michaela Sampson of Auburn into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing's Theta-at-Large Chapter. Members must be in the upper 35 percent of their class and have completed at least half of the nursing curriculum.

Sigma Theta Tau's mission is to advance world health and to celebrate nursing excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service. The Theta-at-Large Chapter, which includes Curry College, Boston University, and Simmons College, has more than 900 active members and supports local nursing scholars through its ongoing research and academic awards program.

About Curry College

Curry College, founded in Boston in 1879, is a private, co-educational, liberal arts-based institution located on 131 acres in Milton, Massachusetts. The College extends its educational programs to a continuing education branch campus in Plymouth. The College offers 24 undergraduate majors in specialized and liberal arts programs, as well as graduate degrees in accounting, business, education, criminal justice, and nursing to a combined enrollment of nearly 2,500 students. The student body consists of 1,700 traditional and nearly 800 continuing education and graduate students. The College offers a wide array of co-curricular activities ranging from 16 NCAA Division III athletic teams to an outstanding theatre and fine arts program. Visit us on the Web at www.curry.edu.



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FRANK G. CHILINSKI
STONEBRIDGE PRESS PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

EDITORIAL

Fashion flashbacks — The timeless appeal of retro trends

In the ever-evolving world of fashion, one thing remains constant: the cyclical nature of trends. From bell-bottoms to neon windbreakers, retro styles from past decades have made a triumphant return to the forefront of fashion, appealing to a new generation of style enthusiasts.

What is it about retro fashion that continues to captivate our imagination? Perhaps it's the allure of bygone eras, where style was synonymous with individuality and self-expression. From the glamorous silhouettes of the 1950s to the rebellious spirit of the 1990s, each decade offers its own unique aesthetic, ripe for reinterpretation in the modern age.

Social media has played a significant role in the resurgence of retro trends, providing a platform for fashion enthusiasts to share their love of vintage-inspired looks and connect with like-minded individuals around the globe.

Beyond the allure of aesthetics lies a deeper appreciation for the sustainability aspect of embracing retro fashion. As the fashion industry grapples with issues of environmental impact and overconsumption, repurposing and reimagining clothing from past decades offers a more eco-conscious alternative to fast fashion. By breathing new life into vintage pieces through upcycling and thrifting, we not only reduce waste but also celebrate the craftsmanship and history of fashion.

The resurgence of retro trends has sparked a renewed sense of creativity and individuality in the way we approach style. From mixing and matching vintage finds with contemporary pieces to putting a modern twist on classic looks, the possibilities are endless. Retro fashion allows us to express our personalities and tell our own unique stories through the clothes we wear, bridging the gap between past and present with each outfit choice.

Whether you're channeling the glamour of Old Hollywood or the laid-back vibes of the '90s grunge scene, remember that style knows no bounds and creativity knows no limits. So, dig into your grandmother's closet, scour thrift stores for hidden gems, and embark on your own fashion flashback journey. The past is calling, and it's time to make it your own.

Letter submission policy

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

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

VIEWPOINT

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

The two ways

"There are two ways, my soul, my soul, and they are not the same. One leads to everlasting life. One leads to dust and shame. One leads to dust and shame."

This is the first verse in a song that my old friend and co-missionary Peter Gilbert wrote, as he reflected on the ancient Christian writing called "The Didache, or the Teaching of the Twelve Disciples." This early 2nd century writing opens with the line "There are two ways, one of life and one of death, and there is a great difference between the two ways."

Well, what are these two opposite ways of life and death? The way of the world verses the way of Jesus Christ. The way of a society that welcomes an easy, wide path that most people choose to take, a path which leads to self-destruction and death. While the way of our Lord Jesus is quite counter-cultural, it goes against the grain of society. It is the narrow, difficult path that few will follow, yet this path leads to eternal life.

This may sound a bit harsh and extreme, yet we see these opposite ways again and again throughout the life and teachings of Jesus. He contrasts the way of the world with the new way He reveals. We can see this in the Gospel story when Jesus is with His disciples and they are approaching Jerusalem during his final days. Jesus offers a juxtaposition to the two very different ways and worldviews of living.

First, we see Jesus warning his disciples of what is going to happen to Him — "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise."

This path of Jesus Christ doesn't seem too appealing. Actually, this talk about betrayal and suffering and a disgraceful death all goes right over the heads of his disciples. They don't understand, or possibly they choose to not hear what he is saying because they aren't interested in talk about suffering and death. They still have a worldly mindset. Thus, right after Jesus talks about His impending death, two of his closest disciples pull Christ aside and ask if each of them can sit, one at his right and the other at his left when He comes into all His glory. The Apostles John and James are interested in worldly position and power. They're not interested in hearing about sacrifice, suffering, and death. They want to focus on worldly glory and



BEYOND THE PEWS

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

fame and power. The ten other disciples all get angry at John and James, but not because they ignored Christ's words about his upcoming Passion. Instead, they're angry because of the presumption of these two brothers to ask for the first seats of honor around Jesus. Maybe the other disciples also wanted that worldly honor and glory.

We see how the disciples reflect our own egocentric desires, desires which the world often promotes — desires to be first, to be in positions of power so we can be comfortable and can be served by others. Yet, Jesus is trying to teach them that living under the reign of God, living according to the Kingdom of Heaven, is all about being counter-cultural. He invites His followers to understand divine love — divine love which is ready to sacrifice oneself for the other, divine love which joyously serves one another as a slave, divine love which willingly takes the last place, not the first place, and divine love which is ready even to offer one's life as a ransom for others.

Do we hear this message of Christ in our own lives, or are we like the disciples who seem to ignore it or choose not to hear it. Their minds, and ours, have been so formed by society's egocentric desires, the deception that says a pursuit for position, power, influence and fame will bring happiness. And yet, Jesus is inviting us to a completely different path of the world.

We hear this when Jesus asks us to forgive one another and reconcile with our enemies, not holding on to any bitterness or anger or hatred toward anyone. We hear this when Jesus reminds us that anyone who wants to come after Him must deny themselves, deny our egocentric desires and carry whatever Cross He gives us in our lives in order to follow Him. We hear this when Jesus asks His followers to take on the role of a slave in serving others, strive not to become the first but accept the humble role of being the last, walking a path of willingly sacrificing for others even to the point of death.

It may not sound like an enticing road, according to our worldly viewpoint, and yet, this is the path that leads to life — an abundant life here and now and an eternal life in the future.

"There are two ways, my soul, my soul, and they are not the same. One leads to everlasting life. One leads to dust and shame. One leads to dust and shame. So, bless the Lord, my soul, my soul, and bless His holy name. And leave the path that leads to death and walk the righteous way. And walk the righteous way."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sleeping Bag Ministry needs your help

To the Editor:

Due to the generous nature of our community, we would like to let them know once again of the need we have to support our sleeping bag ministry.

The Sleeping Bag Ministry at United Church of Christ, Fed. in Webster ("the Golden Bees") needs help! They are in desperate need of sheets, blankets, bedspreads and comforters so they can continue making sleeping bags as well as ties which are used to secure the sleeping bags. Last year, they made and gave out over 300 sleeping bags. This year they are already closing in on 200 sleeping bags being distributed, which has decimated their supply. Donations can be dropped off at the church, 4 Church Street in Webster, Tuesday

through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or, if you'd like to learn more about the Golden Bees, you can drop off donations on Monday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. by using the right hand stairs in the courtyard up to Fellowship Hall where the Golden Bees do their work.

People may feel free to call the church at 508-943-0061, Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., if they have any questions regarding the Sleeping Bag Ministry or this request.

We are grateful for your continued support!

LYNN SACKMAN-APER
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, FED.
Webster

Should life be all work and no play?

Life seems busier than ever, and it's not slowing down. Despite technological advances, our workload doesn't seem to lighten. Business owners might find AI tools helpful, yet often, they handle these tasks themselves instead of hiring additional help. With rising inflation and economic pressures, what was a full-time job for one person has now become just an hour's task a day for many CEOs. As technology simplifies processes, the burden of multiple tasks increasingly falls on just a few shoulders.

While staying busy can be rewarding, the overwhelming pile of tasks can make you feel perpetually behind. Catching up seems possible only with extra help, maybe even an assistant. The expectations placed on many of us often surpass what one person can manage. I might even need a Teslabot to handle my household chores—come on, Elon, I'm drowning in responsibilities here!

What happens when a loved one falls ill? Suddenly, you're forced to reprioritize to take care of them. If it's a severe illness, the time it demands can feel overwhelming. In such

situations, lowering your expectations about what you can accomplish becomes necessary.

But should life be all work and no play? The concept of work-life balance is frequently discussed, and for many years, for me it was nonexistent. My life was like a seesaw stuck to the ground, burdened by an overload of work without any relief. Is this truly fulfilling? I guess it depends on what you find fulfilling.

A friend of mine used to watch me exhaust myself and would eventually ask, "Why? What's the point?" To me, the sense of accomplishment was all the fulfillment I needed.

There was a time after my acting career when I didn't need to work and wasn't worried about finances, but I found that period somewhat empty.

But I digress. Let's ask the question again. Should life be all work and no play?

This reminds me of an old U2 T-shirt. It read, "Smell the flowers while you can." Once, as I was walking by, an

Financial freedom: a gift to your family



FINANCIAL FOCUS
DENNIS ANTONOPOULOS

Here's a sobering statistic: 72 percent of retirees say one of their biggest fears is becoming a burden on their families, according to a study by Edward Jones and the consulting firm Age Wave. If you are near retirement, how can you prepare yourself to become financially free, so you won't have to depend on grown children or other family members?

Here are a few suggestions to consider:

Keep adding to retirement savings. Today, with a greater awareness of healthy lifestyles, many people are spending two, or even three, decades in an active retirement. To help pay for those years, then, you'll likely need to build your retirement savings as much as possible. So, while you're still working, try to contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. If you are in the later stages of your career, possibly close to your peak earning power, you may be able to put in sizable sums every year.

Choose an appropriate withdrawal rate. While it's obviously important to build your retirement savings, it's just as essential to make the money last. Once you retire, you'll want to establish an appropriate withdrawal rate — that is, the amount you can take out each year from your 401(k) and other investments without running the risk of outliving your money. The amount you can safely withdraw each year will depend on a variety of factors, including your age, your account balances, Social Security benefits, inflation, income tax rates and spousal income. In any case, selecting a suitable withdrawal rate can help go a long way toward preserving your financial freedom throughout your retirement.

Think about downsizing. One possible way to boost your savings and add liquidity is to downsize your living arrangements. This may be an attractive option if your children are grown and your current home feels too large. Of course, downsizing is a highly personal decision — if you've lived in your home for many years, have fond memories of raising a family in it and still enjoy the neighborhood, it can certainly be hard to leave. Consequently, you'll need to weigh these emotional factors against the potential financial benefits of moving into a smaller, less expensive space.

Prepare for long-term care costs. If you were ever to need some type of long-term care, such as an extended stay in a nursing home, you could face some sizable expenses, most of which may not be covered by Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan. And clearly, you would not want to put your grown children in a position where they might feel the need to step in financially. To help avoid this possibility, you may want to consult with a financial professional about addressing these costs through strategies that may be appropriate for your needs.

These aren't the only ideas to consider in helping maintain your financial independence and reducing your potential dependence on your family during your retirement years. But taken together, they can give you a good start — so think about putting them to work.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Dennis Antonopoulos, your local Edward Jones Advisor at 5 Albert St., Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com.



Courtesy

This week's photo shows Duston Tourville with a nice striper he caught in the Providence River this past Sunday while fishing with his fishing buddy, John Gareri.

From tautog to turkeys

Stripers are biting very well up and down the coast, but you need to use the correct bait. The Providence River remained absent from Menhaden last weekend, at least for a couple of local anglers. When they tried trolling umbrella rigs, action picked up, with a pair of anglers landing seven stripers last Saturday. They returned the following day and did even better retaining their two fish in a matter of a couple of hours. If you want to catch stripers, the Providence River is

the place to go now!



THE GREAT OUTDOORS
.....
RALPH TRUE

Wild Turkey hunters are limiting out with their season limit of two birds early this year. There is very little competition by other hunters, making the hunts productive. Tautog fishing remained very good this past week, with reports

of some larger fish. Crabs seem to be the top bait again this year, but the trick of cutting crabs in half revealing the inners of the crab is working well. Haddock fishing on the North Shore remains strong!

The Uxbridge Rod & Gun Club will hold their annual Kids trout fishing derby this Saturday May 11, starting at 8 a.m. Breakfast will be served at 7 a.m.

Take A Kid Fishing & Keep Them Rods Bending!

Planting Pointers

After a long season of browsing through seed catalogs and plot planners, outside planting time is almost here! (I can still hear Dick Lamoreaux's mantra of "no planting until after Memorial Day!" ringing in my ears.) It's no wonder the backyard gardener is dreaming of lush gardens and neatly planted garden rows. While we are still a few weeks away from safely sowing seeds or transplanting seedlings, now is the perfect time to ponder planting strategies for the prospect of sunny days digging in the soil.

The following tips are geared toward helping you get the most out of your early gardening chores.

If you start your seeds indoors in flats, here's an easy way to gauge spacing seeds in large flats:

Cut a piece of one-inch chicken mesh wire the size of the flat. Simply lay it on the soil and plant a seed inside each hole for instant one-inch spacing. For two or three inch spacing, simply skip the correct number of holes.

If you have leftover seeds, you can quickly and easily test their viability by dropping them in a container of water. The good seeds will sink to the bottom, while the bad ones will float.

To up the odds this year's leftover seeds will sprout again next year, store them in the refrigerator in a tightly closed jar with a packet of silica gel. The gel packets can be recycled from vitamin bottles, electronic and shoe boxes, etc.



TAKE THE HINT
.....
KAREN TRAINOR

If you're germinating seeds, don't spend your hard earned money on a plant heat mat. A heating pad can do the job at a fraction of the cost. Just be sure to cover it in plastic to prevent any water spills.

Here's a helpful tip for storing, and sowing, seeds. Simply put seeds in a clean, empty spice, seasoning or Parmesan cheese shaker. If you have tiny seeds, add little cornstarch to keep them from clumping together. When it's time to plant, just shake them

evenly over the soil.

Believe it or not, you might want to consider planting a chrysanthemum plant in the vegetable garden this year. The beautiful chrysanthemum is a garden helper as it acts as a handy water gauge. Because the flower wilts before other plants during a dry spell, it's a red flag to tell you to irrigate.

Want more visual impact for cash output in the garden? If you're planting Azaleas, consider the fact that white azaleas bloom longer than any other color of the plant.

Here's an old farmers tip: If you plant your lettuce near tall growing vegetables, the big plants will give off shade, allowing the lettuce to keep its cool

and prevent bitter leaves.

Did you know planting pennyroyal in the garden naturally deters mosquitoes? When evening falls, simply break off some leaves and scatter them on the porch or ground where people sit.

If you have backyard pets and flies are a problem, try planting yarrow to deter the collection of flies. Tansy also works to discourage mosquitoes.

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.

Boost the beauty and comfort of your outdoor spaces

Add some comfort and beauty to your outdoor spaces this year. Look for options that fit your lifestyle, budget, and schedule. Even simple changes can make a positive impact on the time you spend relaxing and entertaining on your patio, deck, or other outdoor spaces.



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

a couple of pots, or a section of fencing rather than a long hedge or length of fencing.

Soften the look of fencing with some wall-mounted planters, a few potted plants or shrubs, and in-ground plantings if space

allows. Use a diverse selection of plants when creating a living screen. This provides more seasonal interest and makes it easier to replace that one failed plant in a mature hedge of evergreens like arborvitae.

Water is another way to add a bit of serenity to your space. A wall-mounted fountain, small container of water plants, or container fountain will add noise-blocking sound and a sense of serenity to any space.

To control pesky mosquitoes in water features (or in any standing water), add a mosquito control like Mosquito Dunks and Bits (SummitResponsibleSolutions.com) that contains a naturally occurring bacterium called *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* to the water. This active ingredient kills mosquito larvae, preventing them from transforming into biting adults. Mosquito Bits quickly knock down the mosquito larval population, while the Mosquito Dunks provide 30 days of control. They both are safe for pets, fish, wildlife, and children.

Extend the time you can spend outdoors by adding a heat source for those chilly days and nights and a fan to keep air moving and the space cooler on hot days. Adding a fan also provides some relief from mosquitoes. These weak fliers can't fight the breeze which will keep you out of their reach and much more comfortable.

Include lighting so you can enjoy your outdoor space in the evening. Consider a string of lights overhead, rail lights around the deck, or strategically placed



Melinda Myers

Fountains add serenity and noise-blocking sound to gardens and outdoor entertainment spaces.

illuminated plant containers. Create a more intimate experience with a few votive candles displayed in unique holders like old punch cups.

Light a few citronella candles for a bit of ambiance and mosquito control when enjoying your outdoor space in the evening. Citronella oil and the scented candles have some mosquito-repelling properties. Scatter lots of candles throughout the space when entertaining. Position the candles within a few feet of yourself and your guests for some short-term relief from these pests.

Start with a list of improvements you want to make. Then get busy researching the various options so you will be ready to boost the comfort and enjoyment of your patio, deck and other outdoor spaces this year.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books,

including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

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Courtesy

Oxford Middle School recently celebrated its March Students of the Month. Students recognized for this award have either exemplified OMS Be the Three—Respect, Responsibility, and Safety, have demonstrated strong qualities of leadership and citizenship, or have shown growth and improvement in areas of scholarship, attendance, effort, and attitude. Congratulations to our Oxford Middle School Students of the Month!



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DWC hosting blood drive May 19

DUDLEY — The Dudley Woman's Club is partnering with the Rhode Island Blood Center, and will host a blood drive at the Dudley Town Hall, 71 West Main St., Dudley, on Sunday, May 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign up at ribc.org/drives and use code #5171. Blood donations play a vital role in helping patients with various medical conditions including those undergoing surgeries, trauma victims, and individuals with chronic illness.

The DWC is open to all women from Dudley and surrounding towns; we welcome your presence!

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

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	LG TOP FREEZER 18 CU. FT. \$699.99 WAS \$899.99	AMANA GAS RANGE #AGR1533CBAS • Stainless Steel \$599.99 WAS \$699.99	GE FRONT LOAD WASHER #GFWSS0SSNWW \$749.99 WAS \$999.99	20 CU. FT. CHEST FREEZER \$899.99 WAS \$1099.99	LG SMOOTH TOP ELECTRIC STOVE \$729.99 WAS \$999.99	OVER THE RANGE MICROWAVE \$199.99 WAS \$279.99

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LEGALS

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

The Massachusetts State Lottery Commission (MSLC) has received a KENO License application from:
Sydney & Rio Club
103 N. Main Street
Webster, MA 01570
Estimated weekly traffic: (number of people):500.

Current No. of Cashier positions selling Lottery products: 0
Percentage of floor space currently devoted to Lottery sales: 0%
Percentage of floor space for KENO sales: 5%
Estimated annual gross revenues of current Lottery products: \$0.
Estimated percentage of gross revenues from sales of Lottery products: 7%
Estimated net income to be derived from sales of KENO products at this location: \$6,000.

If you object to these agent(s) receiving a monitor, you must do so, in writing, within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of this letter. If applicable, please address your written objection to the Massachusetts State Lottery Commission, Legal Department, 150 Mount Vernon Street, Dorchester, MA 02125 and send via email to Leslie Zella at lzella@masslottery.com or by mail. Should you have any questions regarding this program or any other issues relative to the Lottery, please call the Lottery's General Counsel, Greg Polin, at 781-917-6057 or via email at gpolin@masslottery.com. We look forward to working with you as the Lottery continues its efforts to support the 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth.
May 10, 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

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. WO24P1411EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate of:
Paula Ann Coughlin
Also known as:
Paula A. Coughlin
Date of Death: 01/27/2024

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Christopher J. Coughlin of Reading 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:
Christopher J. Coughlin of Reading 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 05/28/2024.

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: April 29, 2024
Stephanie K. Fattman,
Register of Probate
May 10, 2024

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT 24 SM 001668 ORDER OF NOTICE TO: Ashley A. Hinton and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. c. 50 §3901 (et seq) Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. claiming to have an interest in a mortgage covering real property in Dudley, numbered 11 Delaney Avenue, given by Ashley A. Hinton to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Loandepot.com, dated July 30, 2020, and recorded at Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 62914, Page 369, and now held by Plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's 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 June 10, 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 April 26, 2024
Attest: Deborah J. Patterson Recorder
May 10, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Shawn W. Cierpich to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., dated February 3, 2006 and recorded in Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 38497, Page 289 (the "Mortgage"), as affected by a Loan Modification Agreement dated August 28, 2012, and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 50089, Page 62 of which mortgage US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust is the present holder by Assignment from JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. to Nationstar Mortgage LLC dated February 10, 2015 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 53443, Page 107, and Assignment from Nationstar Mortgage LLC to Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. dated November 19, 2019 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 61450, Page 81, and Assignment from Select Portfolio Servicing, Inc. to US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust dated March 22, 2022 and recorded at said Registry of Deeds in Book 67505, Page 389, for breach of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same, the mortgaged premises located at 180 Ramshorn Road, Dudley, MA 01571 will be sold at a Public Auction at 12:00 PM on May 21, 2024, at the mortgaged premises, more particularly described below, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:
The land situated in Dudley, Worcester County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:
LOT #4
BEGINNING at an iron pin at the northwest corner of tract here-

in described on the Easterly side-line of the 1936 Worcester County Highway layout of Ramshorn Road at the Southwest corner of Lot #3; THENCE S 70° 15 minutes 20 seconds E along said Lot 3 a distance of one hundred one and ten hundredths (101.10) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE N 87° 38 minutes 47 seconds E along said Lot 3 a distance of two hundred fifty and no hundredths (250.00) feet to a drill hole in a stonewall; THENCE S 14° 34 minutes 09 seconds E along a stonewall and land of Charles J. and Annabelle Moninski, now or formerly, a distance of five hundred forty-nine and fifty-seven hundredths (549.57) feet to a point in said stonewall; THENCE S 15° 43 minutes 48 seconds W along a stonewall and said Moninski land a distance of one hundred and ninety-seven hundredths (100.97) feet to an iron pipe in a corner of walls; THENCE S 79° 09 minutes 14 seconds W mostly along a stonewall and said Cierpich land a distance of one hundred forty-nine and seventy-four hundredths (149.74) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE S 78° 14 minutes 58 seconds W mostly along a stonewall and said Cierpich land a distance of two hundred forty-one and forty-one hundredths (241.41) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE N 17° 20 minutes 48 seconds W along said Cierpich land a distance of one hundred sixty and nineteen hundredths (160.19) feet to an iron pipe;
THENCE N 12° 09 minutes 48 seconds W along said Cierpich land a distance of one hundred eighty-three and thirty-five hundredths (183.35) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE N 23° 50 minutes 04 seconds W along said Cierpich land a distance of one hundred forty-four and three hundredths (144.03) feet to an iron pipe; THENCE N 83° 25 minutes 32 seconds W along said Cierpich land a distance of one hundred fifty-six and forty-nine hundredths (156.49) feet to a point; THENCE N 26° 52 minutes 29 seconds E along said Cierpich land a distance of sixty and forty-one hundredths (60.41) feet to an iron pipe on the easterly side-line of Ramshorn Road; THENCE running northerly along the easterly side-line and said Ramshorn Road on a curve to the left having a radius of 530.00 feet and a length of 245.23 feet to the point of beginning. The above described tract contains an area of 6.5734 acres. BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO SHAWN W. CIERPICH, UNSTATED BY DEED FROM SHAWN W. CIERPICH AND LESLIE J. CIERPICH RECORDED 09/15/2000 IN DEED BOOK 23002 PAGE 127. IN THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS PLAN FOR WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

For mortgagor's title see deed recorded with the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 23002, Page 127.

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

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

Other terms to be announced at the sale.

US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust
Korde & Associates, P.C.
900 Chelmsford Street
Suite 3102
Lowell, MA 01851
(978) 256-1500
Cierpich, Shawn W., 16-027448
April 26, 2024
May 3, 2024
May 10, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
Mandatory Water Restriction
Effective May 1st the Webster Water Department will institute a mandatory water conservation restriction in order to keep up with daily water system demand while our largest water source (Bigelow Well) remains offline

in emergency standby mode awaiting infrastructure improvements for PFAS treatment. We appreciate your support and patience while we plan and implement system improvements.

These mandatory water restrictions are for daily "non-essential" water use from public water sources and shall be in effect through September 30, 2024.

Non-essential outdoor water uses that are subject to mandatory restrictions include:

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

When you CAN use water outdoors:

The following "essential uses" as defined by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) may be allowed, before 9:00am and after 5:00pm, when mandatory restrictions are in place:

- a. for health or safety reasons
- b. irrigation to establish a new lawn and new plantings during the months of May and September;
- c. irrigation of public parks and recreation fields by means of automatic sprinklers;
- d. by regulation;
- e. for the production of food and fiber
- f. irrigation of gardens, flowers and ornamental plants by means of a hand-held hose or drip irrigation system; and irrigation of lawns by means of a hand-held hose;
- g. for the maintenance of livestock; or
- h. to meet the core functions of a business.

Nonessential uses are those other than essential uses.

Enforcement will include:

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

May 10, 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

For Legal Advertising Information

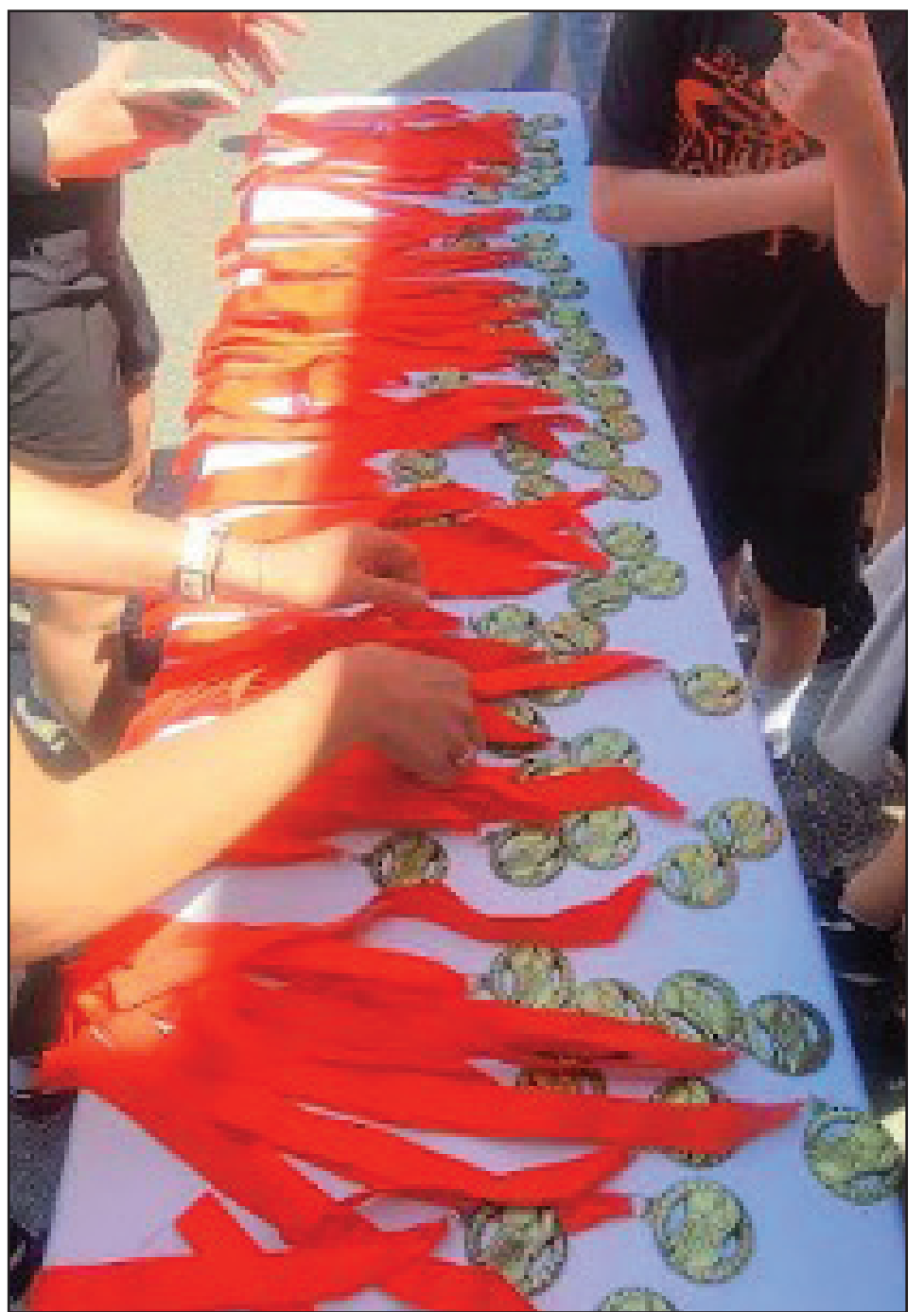
Call 508-909-4127

email: legals@stonebridgepress.news

Courtesy

BARTON ON THE RUN

The second annual "Barton on the Run" Race was held on Thursday, May 2 at Clara Barton Elementary in Oxford. We had 60 runners, four coaches and more than 300 spectators in the crowd to support them. Students ran one, two, or more miles around the school and all participants received a t-shirt and medal. It was the perfect weather for the race. This was a great event for our community as the staff and students not running made signs and cheered on our runners.



LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Melissa Glidden to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, dated May 25, 2021 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65266, Page 278, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, by assignment from: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC, its successors and assigns to Rocket Mortgage, LLC, FKA Quicken Loans, LLC, recorded on March 9, 2022, in Book No. 67240, at Page 3 for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosure, the same will be sold at Public Auction at 1:00 PM on May 28, 2024, on the mortgage premises located at 10 Elm Street, Webster, Worcester County, Massachusetts, all and sin-

gular the premises described in said mortgage, TO WIT: A certain parcel of land with the building thereon of every nature and description and all the privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, situated in Town of Webster, Worcester county, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, further bounded and described as follows: Beginning at an iron pin in the ground on the Northerly side of Elm Street at the Southwest corner of the granted premises; Thence Northerly by land of one Daniel F. Casey, now or formerly, one hundred thirty-nine (139) feet, more or less, to a pin at wall on land of A.J. Bates Company, now or formerly; (by field survey 129 feet); Thence Easterly by said wall fifty (50) feet to an iron pin; Thence Southerly by land of said Daniel F. Casey, now or formerly, one hundred forty-five (145) feet to said Elm Street at an iron pin: (by field survey 134 feet); Thence by said Elm Street Westerly fifty (50) feet to the point of beginning.

For mortgagor's(s)' title see deed recorded with Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 65266, Page 275. These premises will be sold and conveyed subject to and with the benefit of all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, covenants, liens or claims in the nature of liens, improvements, public assessments, any and all unpaid taxes, tax titles, tax liens, water and sewer liens and any other municipal assessments or liens or existing encumbrances of record which are in force and are applicable, having priority over said mortgage, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the deed. TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand (\$5,000.00) Dollars by certified or bank check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance is to be paid by certified or bank check at Harmon Law Offices,

P.C., 150 California St., Newton, Massachusetts 02458, or by mail to P.O. Box 610389, Newton Highlands, Massachusetts 02461-0389, within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Deed will be provided to purchaser for recording upon receipt in full of the purchase price. The description of the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of an error in this publication. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale. ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC Present holder of said mortgage By its Attorneys, HARMON LAW OFFICES, P.C. 150 California St. Newton, MA 02458 (617)558-0500 24650 April 26, 2024 May 3, 2024 May 10, 2024

OBITUARIES

George V. Milios



George V. Milios of Dudley passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on May 4, 2024, after a long and courageous battle with Cholangiocarcinoma (Bile Duct Cancer). George leaves his wife, Julie Johnson Milios, with whom he was blessed with 32 years of marriage, and his son, Niko Milios, who were the loves of his life.

He also leaves his beloved parents, Vasilios "Billy" Milios, Evdokia "Grace" Milios, a brother, John Milios, of Webster, who fought the long hard battle right by his side; his mother in law and "second Mom", Maureen Johnson; a brother in law, Jeffrey Johnson; a niece, Drew Belair; his "cousins like brothers", John Sgouritsas and Thomas Valaouras; his wife's cousins, Jonathan, Kasey and Ryan Phelps of Manchester, CT, who he adored and considered his "nephews"; and many cousins, locally, and from as far away as Greece and Australia.

George also leaves and thanks his dear friends, David Tonkin, Kristine Remy, Gerald Berube, Paul and Kathy Gerhard, and the Wajer and Gauthier families who were there for him for his daily needs and provided strength and support while fighting the battle beside him.

George deeply loved Julie and Niko,

and his best times were with his family and friends enjoying time together in Dennisport / Cape Cod, particularly at the beach, which George so very much loved. George was also a New England Patriots fan and adopted Tom Brady's motto, "LFG", which he quoted and used in strength as he battled cancer.

George graduated from Bartlett High School where he was Senior Co-Captain of the football team. He later graduated from Worcester State University, earning a BSBA degree. George was a long-time employee of MAPFRE Insurance, holding several positions before having to retire in 2019, but where he created many cherished friendships. He also enjoyed working Friday nights for many years alongside "Billy" in the kitchen at his family's restaurant, Billy's Burg-O-Rama, in Oxford until 2015 when his family retired.

Calling hours were held on Wednesday May 8, 2024, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, Webster, MA, with a funeral service at the church on Thursday May 9, 2024, at 11:00am. In lieu of flowers, donations may be offered to the Adam Bullen Foundation, 8B Concord Ct., Webster MA 01570 (adam-bullen.com) or to Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church, P.O. Box 713, 37 Lake Parkway, Webster, MA 01570. Bartel Funeral Home 33 Schofield Ave. Dudley is directing arrangements. www.bartelfuneralhome.com "Ouzo Power"

Lois Irene Robbie, 97



AUBURN – Lois Irene (Booth) Robbie, 97, longtime Auburn resident, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 with her loving family by her side.

She leaves her devoted sons, Wayne A. Robbie and wife Judith, of Sandia Park, New Mexico, and Douglas S. Robbie and wife Cheryl, of Jacksonville, Florida; ten grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; a daughter-in-law, Paula Barry and her husband Tim, of Fairhaven; and a dear friend, Karen Girardi, of Milbury. Lois was predeceased by her beloved children, William C. Robbie, Jr. and Diane L. Maddern; her brother, Alfred Royal Booth, Jr.; and their parents, Alfred Royal Booth, Sr. and Martha Irene (Smith) Booth. Lois was the last remaining member of the Booth families who resided on Hilltop Farm.

Lois was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, raised and educated in Auburn. She was a graduate of Auburn High School, Class of 1945. She went on to attend Colby College (now Colby-Sawyer College) and graduated with a B.S. degree in Medical Technology in 1948. Following graduation, Lois began her clinicals and residency at Boston Medical Center in 1949 during which time she stayed at the Franklin Square Women's House.

In her early career, she worked as a Substitute Teacher at Auburn High School for several years, prior to working as a Hematologist at Fairlawn Hospital. Lois then began working at UMASS Medical Center as one of the

original hires when the hospital microbiology lab opened in 1975. She worked diligently as a Microbiologist during a lengthy career: she was influential and at the forefront of identifying the cause of Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS), as well as discovering and documenting new diseases from Vietnam refugees who were evacuated to the U.S. following the end of the war in 1975. Lois was incredibly talented at her work, and when she went to retire after twenty plus years, the hospital kept her on for two more while they found new hires that were able to match her skill set, finally retiring at age 70.

Lois was a longtime member of the American Society for Clinical Pathology, and was a lifetime member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Auburn, now Good Shepherd Church in Oxford.

In her free time, she was an avid skier and gardener. Lois also enjoyed connecting with relatives from Aquidneck Island (Newport, Middletown, Portsmouth), Rhode Island.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Auburn Fire and Rescue Department, 47 Auburn Street, Auburn, MA 01501.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with the Robbie family from 10:30 to 11:30 AM on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at Good Shepherd Church, 270 Main Street, Oxford, with a service beginning at 11:30 AM. Burial will follow at Hillside Cemetery, Auburn. The Britton-Wallace Funeral Home is honored to be assisting with arrangements. To leave a note of condolence for her family, please visit <http://brittonfuneralhomes.com>

Gregory C. Stone, 83



CHARLTON – Gregory C. Stone, 83, of Gale Road, died Saturday, May 4, 2024, in his home. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Carolyn F. (Wells) Stone of Charlton; six children, Gregory C.

Stone Jr. and his wife Olivia of Florida, Scott W. Stone and his wife Mary of Charlton, Dawn A. Stone and her partner Walter of Holland, Donna M. Coye and her husband David of Bourne, Michael A. Urella and his wife Joanne of Webster, and Scott J. Urella and his wife Lori of Oxford; fourteen grandchildren, Gregory C. Stone III and his partner Katie, Christopher Stone and his wife Jennifer; Erin Stone, Sarah A. Stone-Seaman and her husband Matthew, Rebecca Stone and her fiancé Joseph, Abigail M. Stone, Elizabeth R. Stone, Marvin F. Lowell, Alison L. Coye and her fiancé Benjamin, Brandon J. Coye, Alicia E. Urella, Marissa M. Urella, Stephanie A. Lawless and her husband Derek, and Anthony M. Urella and his fiancée Alexis; thirteen great-grandchildren, Elijah, Logan, Landon, Nathan, Makenna, Aubree, Emmett, Sophia, Oliver, Madison, Grayson, Teagan, and Liam; and two nieces, Michelle and Nannette.

He was born in Webster, son of the late Alfred L. and Ruth E. (Munn) Stone, and lived in Oxford before moving to Charlton in 1974. He graduat-

ed from Oxford High School in 1959. He was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving during the Vietnam War and the Cuban Missile Crisis as a hospital corpsman and third-class petty officer.

Mr. Stone was a custodian at Oxford High School, Clara Barton School, and Woodward School in Oxford for 18 years, retiring as head custodian in 2003. Previously, he worked at the Oxford Drug Store counter during high school where he was a friendly face to the customers. He also supervised the Worcester Telegram office in Oxford for 7 years. Mr. Stone was a member of the American Legion Post 58 in Oxford. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, target shooting, and enjoyed spending time at his cabin in Maine and home in Florida.

A funeral service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, May 13, 2024, at Paradis-Givner Funeral Home, 357 Main St., Oxford. Burial with military honors will follow at North Cemetery in Oxford. Calling hours are Monday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the funeral home prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to VNA Care and Hospice, 100 Trade Center Drive, Suite G-500, Woburn, MA 01801, or to UMass Memorial Health, Cancer Care Fund, One Biotech, Suite 301, 365 Plantation St., Worcester, MA 01605.



POSITIVELY

continued from page A6

older gentleman shouted, "Ain't that the truth!" while pointing at my shirt.

"While you can..." The implications of that phrase are vast. What does it mean? Will the flowers vanish one day? Will we no longer be around to enjoy their scent? At this point, nothing would surprise me.

The weight of "while you can" hit home a couple days ago when a dear friend of mine passed away unexpectedly. It's a stark reminder: We never truly know the future.

Finding balance is essential. It doesn't have to be just vegging out on the couch watching reality TV although occasionally that's what is needed. Ultimately, it's going to look different for each of us. It's a personal journey

to discover what that balance means.

Reflecting on a quote by Jim Rohn, whom I often cite and had the fortune to meet as a boy, might offer some guidance.

He said, "Something my parents taught me, that they practiced all their life, and now I practice. Don't miss anything. Don't miss the game, don't miss the concert, don't miss the performance, don't miss the show. Don't miss the conversation, don't miss the sermon, don't miss the class...don't miss anything. Go look, see, learn, try, taste. Let that flavor of life be part of your lifestyle."

Why pursue balance? It's about personal enrichment and development, about becoming a person of value. True, thriving in our workplace demands education, hard work, determination, and dedication. But what

about beyond the office?

Consider the value added to your life when you're not only accomplished at work but also knowledgeable in the arts, skilled in playing chess, experienced in gardening, or have read the greatest book upon that which western civilization was founded upon. You've set down the path of enriching your whole self, making you a more rounded and insightful individual, and what is that truly worth?

Can we quantify it? No, but consider this: being a cultured individual stimulates fresh thoughts, inspires new actions, and fosters new ways of being and can help you get out of a rut. This not only adds layers of value to your personality, but also introduces a much-needed balance. What's it worth? I'd say it's priceless.

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



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Kyle Novakoski recognized for academic excellence

EASTON — Kyle Novakoski of Auburn, a graduate student in Stonehill College's Master of Professional Studies in Data Analytics program, was recently honored with a certificate of achievement at the 2024 Scholars Celebration, held Tuesday, April 30.

Visit Stonehill College's Web site for more about this year's Scholars Celebration. About Stonehill College
Stonehill College, a Catholic institution of higher learning, was founded by the Congregation of Holy Cross in 1948. Located on the beautiful 387-acre campus and former estate of Frederick Lothrop Ames in North Easton, Massachusetts, it is a community of scholarship and faith, anchored by a belief in the inherent dignity of each person.
Through more than 100 academic programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business and pre-professional field, Stonehill College provides an education of the highest caliber that fosters critical thinking, free inquiry and the interchange of ideas for over 2,500 students.
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BUDGET

continued from page A1

of it for special education, he said.

Some of the major budget items this year are: schools, \$26.7 million; health insurance, \$6.5 million; Debt interest and principal, \$4.5 million; police, \$4.5 million; fire \$1.3 million; and DPW \$1.4 million. Separate items also fund the water and sewer systems. One area being pulled from the budget is inspectional services; a separate article calls for putting that into a revolving fund to make it de facto self-funding. (That item also eliminates a list of revolving funds that haven't been used in years.)

Other items on that warrant include correcting a legal issue surrounding the creation of May Street Park so Webster can get a PARC grant to do the work; and to discontinue a section of Davis Street.

Town Meeting opens at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 13 at Park Avenue School (not Bartlett because of the ongoing construction there).

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

SCHOOL

continued from page A1

Superintendent Lamarche shared his thoughts on the increase.

"This recommendation comes forward with the belief that the fiscal year 2025 budget is within reach through our two communities. The pre-kindergarten and preschool fee increase is warranted and continues to fall within reasonableness for participation in said program from the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District," said the Superintendent.

The preschool fee increase is the first since 2018 and will bring the two-half-days-per-week plan from \$1,000 to \$1,200 annually and the four-half-day-per-week plan from \$2,200 to \$2,400 per year.

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Brookfield Ecumenical Food Pantry
St. Mary's Church
4 Howard Street, Brookfield, MA 01506
Distribution: Wednesday 9 AM-11 AM:
Saturday 9AM-11AM

CHARLTON
Chip - In Food Pantry
McKinstry Building
37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

LEICESTER
Leicester Food Pantry
St. Joseph-St. Pius X Parish
759 Main Street, Leicester, MA 01524
Distribution: Tuesday 5 PM-7 PM

NORTH BROOKFIELD
St. Joseph's Food Pantry
Located in the church hall at 296 North Main St. North Brookfield
Distribution is the 1st Thursday of the month from 5:00-6:30PM
the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12 Noon-1:15PM
Any questions should be directed to the Rectory office 508 867-6469.
St. Joseph's Food Pantry is a community partner affiliated with the Worcester County Food Bank.

ROCHDALE
The Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry
Greenville Baptist Church
674 Pleasant St.
Rochdale, MA

SOUTHBRIDGE
Saint John Paul II Food Pantry
Saint Vincent de Paul
279 Hamilton St, Southbridge, MA 01550
Distribution: Tuesday 3 PM-5 PM, Wednesday 9 AM -11 AM

Southbridge Food Share Pantry
79 Elm St, Southbridge, Ma. 01550.
Distribution: MWF from 10:00AM - 11:15AM

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60 Maple St, Spencer, MA 01562
Distribution: Thursday 10 AM-12 Noon

WEST BROOKFIELD
Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry
First Congregational Church
36 North Main Street,
W.Bookfield, MA 01585
Distribution: Wednesday 10 AM-11:30 AM
- Thursday 7 PM- 8 PM



PFAS

continued from page A1

of contamination. If residents choose to embrace a public water line, Healy said that will put an end to sampling and testing.

Healy noted that the added significance of the waterline project is that while the EPA has embraced new drinking water standards regarding limits of PFAS, the MassDEP site cleanup in Dudley will occur this year prior to those new standards being adopted. This will result in 25 additional homes needing POET systems if a public water source project. Those new systems would cost the town \$130,000 for

installation and another \$110,000 for monitoring and maintenance annually, assuming the cost sharing continues with Gentex. That would bring an additional annual cost of the remediation to roughly \$425,000 a year when considering the 15 existing and 25 potential new POET systems. This cost could be avoided through access to a public water supply.

The lengthy hearing included input from residents of Eagle Drive who showed mixed feelings towards the proposal for a variety of reasons. One citizen commented on the cost difference between utilizing a private well versus town

water. Another asked if the town's drinking water was any safer and Water & Sewer officials confirmed town water is tested monthly. Selectmen were also asked if they did or intended to survey Eagle Drive residents to see if they even wanted the public water line which Town Council Jeff Blake of KP Law confirmed was not conducted and the plan was proposed as the recommended solution by the DEP. One commentator defended Gentex and felt that the town was blaming the business for the problem, but it was clarified that the DEP ruled Gentex may have played a role in the contamina-

tion, not the town, and that Gentex was invited to the hearing but did not attend.

There was also the question of how the waterline will be funded. Town Administrator Jonathan Ruda said that is work in progress, but the town was being proactive to gain approval that will allow for a more effective search from funding.

"We need to move forward now and not wait until we've identified a source of funding because there's a lot of things that have to take place first, but we're working every day to get grant funding. There are no-interest loans, there's

loan forgiveness, and we're trying to find the best deal for the town," said Ruda.

He went on to explain that the engineering scope is expected to be completed within the next twelve months.

The proposed easement will now go to the May 20 annual town meeting where voters will decide whether to move forward with the project. Concerned residents are encouraged to view the April 22 Board of Selectmen meeting on the Town of Dudley, Ma YouTube channel for more details on the proposal.

WEBSTER

continued from page A1

to cancers, including breast cancer, immunotoxicity in children, thyroid disease, reproductive problems, and other health effects."

Science has found the chemicals have similar effects on a wide range of species and typically considers them endocrine disruptors. Therefore, the state and federal governments are also looking into requiring treatment of sewer outflow.

Webster's project was originally promised a 19.8 percent cost "forgiveness" and zero interest, but Gabor said the former might be reduced to 9.8

percent "because there's going to be more communities fighting for that money" and because of the state's budget issues.

Although the bids came in high, Town Administrator Rick Lafond said he was "very relieved" they won't need the full \$10 million extra. He did note, however, that the project does include contingency for "unexpected" issues that come up during construction.

Randy Becker said the warrant's \$10 million figure anticipated the bids would come in about a third higher than originally planned; he described it as "the best estimate at the time."

Gabor said the project will likely add about 15

percent to water rates "for the next handful of years." He also noted part of the project cost hike is coming from the gas company's rerouting and enlarging of a gas line serving the plant so that it will come from Route 12 now.

The rest of that warrant includes a long list of less costly items. The largest is a \$1.2 million fire pump truck. Gabor said that was originally rejected last fall, but the deputy chief came back with more detailed needs and cost estimates from two or three manufacturers, and it will replace two existing vehicles. To him, "this is in a much better place than last time."

Nearly as costly are

proposals to rehabilitate the sewer collection system (\$1 million), the Narrows Pump Station (\$990,000). About half that much is being sought in the form of stabilization transfers to fund two special education deficits - \$600,000 for tuition and \$550,000 for transportation - and a \$400,000 sewer retained earnings transfer for phase 2 of the sewer plant's aeration project design. Seven projects are in the \$100-200,000 range, including replacing police phones, buying new patrol boats, redesigning and upgrading the town's internet, senior center renovations, snow and ice deficit, and work at Park Ave School. Several more

items fall under that level.

The warrant will also include an item to rescind unused borrowing from 2019 and 2020, but the selectmen decided to recommend passing that over until the fall to determine why some work they'd expected to be done with those funds wasn't.

Town Meeting opens at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 13 at Park Avenue School (not Bartlett because of the ongoing construction there).

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



BODY FACT:

THIS CURVED PART OF THE EYE BENDS LIGHT AND FOCUSES IT ON THE RETINA TO HELP A PERSON SEE CLEARLY.

ANSWER: LENS

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Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the words to reveal the sentence.

EEY
5 4 2

SOIINV
8 6

EAXM
3

NAOTCTCS
1 9 7

H
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 3 2 8 9

Answers: Eye, Vision, Exam, Contacts. The eyes see it.

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- 1962: MARVEL COMICS PUBLISHES THE FIRST ISSUE OF "THE INCREDIBLE HULK."



HYPEROPIA

farsightedness, or an inability to see things clearly, especially if they are close to the eyes

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Tear

SPANISH: Lágrima

ITALIAN: Lacrima

FRENCH: Larme

GERMAN: Träne

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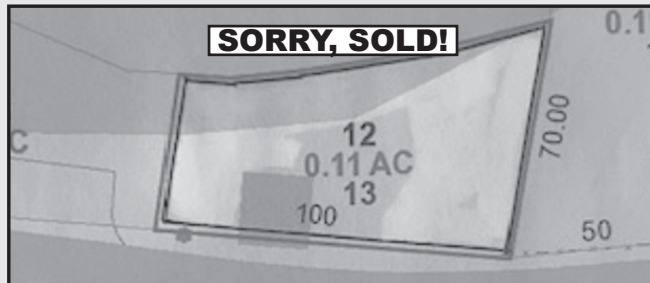
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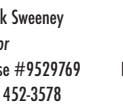
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Dreams really do come true



Courtesy

Hannah when she was a young teenager selling snacks, sandwiches, and candy at one of the many movie nights held on the weekends at Quinebaug Masonic Lodge.

BY BRO. JIMMY FALZONE
 QUINEBAUG MASONIC LODGE

SOUTHBRIDGE — Here is a story of a young girl named Hannah Langevin of Oxford, and the love she has for animals that gave her a dream.

Ever since Hannah was a little girl, she knew she had a love for animals. Whenever her family planned a vacation she would research zoos, aquariums, or animal sanctuaries that they could spend a day visiting. She would spend hours using her Fisher Price veterinary set playing doctor with her stuffed animals or even with the family dog. Growing up her family was very involved in Freemasonry. As Hannah got older, she realized the fraternity the Quinebaug Masonic Lodge her father, uncle, and grandfather belongs to does a lot for the community. As a teenage back in 2018, she watched the funer-

al service of our late President George W. Bush on television. She saw his Therapy Dog Sully laying on the floor in front of the casket and it brought tears to her eyes. Hannah approached her father who is a Master Mason and decided to start a fundraiser by starting a family movie night one day a week and it went on for many months. She sold snacks, candy, sandwiches, etc., at the Quinebaug Masonic lodge in Southbridge to help raise money for the animals. All proceeds went to the nonprofit organization MSPCA.

Before Hannah graduated from Shepherd Hill high school in 2022, she made the commitment to move forward with her dreams and enrolled at the New England Institute of Technology (NEIT) next month and is working at Charles River Labs in Worcester as a research technician and is getting ready for her Veterinary Technologist exam in July. Dreams do come true.

al service of our late President George W. Bush on television. She saw his Therapy Dog Sully laying on the floor in front of the casket and it brought tears to her eyes. Hannah approached her father who is a Master Mason and decided to start a fundraiser by starting a family movie night one day a week and it went on for many months. She sold snacks, candy, sandwiches, etc., at the Quinebaug Masonic lodge in Southbridge to help raise money for the animals. All proceeds went to the nonprofit organization MSPCA.

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