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September 24-October 8, 2021

Charlton's 124th Old Home Day a statement of community pride

By Rod Lee

The 124th Charlton Old Home Day held over Labor Day weekend proved once again that the event has staying power; and that it continues to attract new participants.

Among the approximately eighty vendors who set up on Main St. were Kyleigh Sutherland, who operates Pure Jewelry ("precious stones"), and Steve Reese and Amanda McDermott of The Lakeview Candle Co. ("handmade soy candles and custom orders").

All three are residents of the town of Charlton. All three were represented at Old Home Day for the first time.

Their pride in Charlton mirrors that of so many who lent their support to Old Home Day in a variety of capacities: as sponsors; as road race runners; as entertainers; as entrants in the soapbox derby; as patrons of rides on a miniature train; as competitors in Scottish Highland games; as law enforcement controlling traffic; or in any of the other myriad activities that make up the annual summer-ending celebration of community.

That Old Home Day wasn't able to be held last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic made this

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Dennis Tucker works the grill at the Charlton Lions Club's food booth, during Old Home Day.

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Al's Rubbish delivers customer service first

By Janet Stoica

Sutton-based Al's Rubbish & Container company practices proactive customer service year-round, a goal that became even more important during the last 18 months with the coronavirus pandemic.

The folks at Al's Rubbish never want customers calling to ask why their trash was not picked up, their broken barrel not replaced, or waiting to respond to a request.

To prove their commitment to customer service, employees answer the phones from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. If owner Al Gerard doesn't answer your call, then his office manager,

Marnie Newton, is right on the line. Their trucks are GPS-and-camera-equipped so they can see what their drivers see back at the office and are proud of their drivers and how customer-responsive they are. Most especially during the COVID situation, their drivers were aware of all health considerations. Loyalty and service seem to be very strong attributes of Mr. Gerard, his son Colby and his entire staff.

Al Gerard began his career as an employee of Friendly's Ice Cream Corp. working his way up to District Manager. He and his wife Janet also

enjoy antiquing in their spare time. An interest in antiques actually led to an interest in trucking. He began his rubbish pickup business 30 years ago in Oxford and after continued growth moved to larger facilities in Sutton where his business is now located. Soon Al's son Colby will take over the business having learned the industry practices from his dad as well as from his time spent in business classes while in college. Their office manager Marnie Newton has been with the company for over 10 years and has watched the busi-

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Al Gerard with son Colby and office manager Marnie Newton.

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OLD HOME DAY

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year's renewed version that much better.

"It went really good, I think," Jerry Doble, an organizer, said, on the morning of September 7.

Dennis E. Deyo, appearing on the bandstand just ahead of Liam Coleman on the afternoon of Labor Day, summed up how people feel about the town with a rendition of "It's Charlton, and It's My Home."

The "Dodge Village" tune, with lyrics "by Dot Lund and DED," consists of three verses, the first of which goes like this:
From the green of Dresser Farm atop the hills

To the orchard of Fay Mountain at Northside

Lives a childhood I remember still Thinking of my home, where I reside

It's the mem'ries of those days now long ago,

Like the Cady Brook, my river runs with pride.

There's a precious place what lifts my soul,

It's where my heart in there abides.

Followed by the refrain

It's Charlton, and It's My Home, The place where I arise to greet the day;

A town I can believe in, can achieve in

And sleep at night's end of day.

It's Charlton, It's Charlton, and It's My Home.

Talking about Old Home

Day, Mr. Doble expressed particular pleasure in the soapbox derby, which, he said, featured "a lot of close races" on Muggett Hill Road. "The biggest win was by three feet, most were one to two inches," he said. "We had five entrants. Some years we get as many as sixteen, ages four to nine. We had twelve races and you are not out until you lose two races. We had a seven-year-old champion. One boy wasn't sure he wanted to do it then he tried it out and he wants to build his own soapbox for next year."

Mr. Doble and those associated with the soapbox derby obtain "seventy-five bales of hay" from Victor Kallgren of Dudley and put them along the road "in case the kids hit anything. Then we round them up and take them back. Mr. Kallgren gives us the hay if we bring it back to him when we're done. He does it for the kids."

Mr. Doble attributed the low turnout for the soapbox derby to the race's early-AM start. "Next year we might change it to a little later, eight o'clock, maybe later than that," he said.

People in attendance on Labor Day flooded the area in and around Charlton Town Hall in search of all kinds of crafty merchandise, food provided by the Charlton Lions Club and other vendors and music at the bandstand. Some occupied bleachers set up opposite the bandstand, from where they could watch a tap-dance performance on wooden platforms by Carla Savoie's Lee Irish Dance company, which operates out of the Charlton Arts Center—for instance.

Ms. Sutherland with her handmade jewelry and Mr. Reese and Ms. McDermott were enjoying the festivities as they peddled their wares.

"I saw a video on Instagram and decided to try making jewelry," Ms. Sutherland said, of her assortment of necklaces, earrings and bracelets.

It's a hobby for the Bay Path High School grad, who works part-time as a retail assistant at Tree House Brewery in Charlton.

Rest assured that with the 125th Charlton Old Home Day now less than fifty-two weeks away, Jerry Doble, Kathleen Walker, James Pervier, Cathy Kuehl, Mike Lally and their fellow organizers are already planning a production that will wow—and attract a crowd.

Contact Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.



Kyleigh Sutherland of Pure Jewelry took part in Old Home Day for the first time.



Steve Reese and Amanda McDermott found a prime spot to display product from The Lakeview Candle Co., at Old Home Day.

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AL'S RUBBISH

Continued from page 1

ness grow to a 15-truck fleet with more than 300 dumpsters available for customer needs. "Last year was a very busy year for us," said Mar-nie, "during COVID we were deemed an essential service and, as many people worked from home, they also began many home improvement projects requiring dumpster usage. It's been very active for our waste removal container business and we couldn't be prouder of our truck crews for doing their jobs very well and doing a great service for all of our customers."

Although Al's Rubbish does offer weekly rubbish pickup for many surrounding towns from Auburn to Westborough, the largest sector of their organization has been dumpster delivery and pickup. They will deliver their waste containers to just about all of Worcester County. The company also does estate clean outs, general home clean outs, and bulk waste disposal. "Whatever you want cleaned out and cleared out, we'll do it," says Ms. Newton. "From small jobs to large, we're here for you. We can take your old furniture

either from inside your home or from your front curb. Just call us for a quote on what you need disposed from TV sets and computer monitors to mattresses and tires."

That's not to say that Al's drivers haven't experienced a stowaway or two or three in their travels. On one occasion a truck driver removed and hauled a dumpster to its new location only to find a family of three raccoons in residence. In accordance with Mass. Wildlife Law, however, he was obligated to return the dumpster to its previous location to return the critters to their original home environment. Needless to say, the furry wildlife were very happy to be back home.

On another occasion the town of Millville needed a new trash hauler for their residents due to budget cuts. Al's Rubbish to the rescue. Not only did Al's take over the rubbish pickup for most town residents within three weeks but they also were able to establish an orderly accounting for all residents.

Al Gerard's company is also heavily involved with the local Sutton Chain of Lights festivities during the December holiday season. There are

five trolleys transporting happy revelers throughout town on the first Saturday of December, viewing arts, crafts, and other community-oriented activities. Al customarily opens his truck garage up for the trolleys and also participates in many giveaways.

"Customer service is what we do," said owner Mr. Gerard. "We provide customer satisfaction and that's a job well done. We'll answer our customer's phone calls even at night, who else does that? Good or bad, we are here. Our customers are our business."

Al's Rubbish & Container Service, 77 Providence Road, Sutton. (508) 865-4193. www.alsrubbish.com

Contact Janet: jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com



Some of Al's truck fleet



Stowaway raccoons that were returned to their habitat

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Pictured (l to r) Library Director Brittany McDougal and Helen Poirier, regent of the General Ebenezer Learned DAR Chapter of Oxford.

The Oxford Free Public Library and the General Ebenezer Learned DAR Chapter of Oxford, along with the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, have teamed up to commemorate the 232nd anniversary of the signing of the United States' Constitution. During September 17 - 23 a display about the constitution with suggested books to read and bookmarks are available. Come on in and see what it's all about.

Did you know that nowhere

in the Constitution does it say, "It's a free country"? Amendment 1 of the Constitution does not include the words "freedom of expression" but over time it has been ruled to include limits to the freedom of speech/press/assembly for defamation, perjury, contempt of court, hate speech, size of public demonstrations, trade secrets, noise pollution, classified information and treason. Study the Constitution, know your rights, and know what it says and does not say.

Dudley Cultural Council accepting grant requests

Grant requests for programs to be offered in 2022 by the Town of Dudley Cultural Council (DCC) must be submitted online at this Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) website: <http://www.mass-culture.org/Dudley>, starting September 1, through October 15, 11:59 pm. Applications are available on line only.

Along with MCC's requirements they must also comply with the DCC's requirements. The proposal must have a clear, written commitment of location for the event and must take place within the calendar year, January-December 2022. The DCC is stressing to applicants

the importance of reviewing the updated DCC Priorities, which must be adhered to for potential grant acceptance.

Grant requests will be reviewed for approval by the Board Members of the DCC. The approved grants support a variety of artistic and cultural projects and may include exhibits, artistic performances and activities, and lectures in various local venues, including but not limited to: Dudley schools, The Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library, The Black Tavern, The Dudley Grange and The Dudley Senior Center.

Some proposals recently funded by the DCC include Rehab of Veterans Hall in the Dudley Town Complex, hands-on art participation program by Gregory Maichek, visit to the Worcester Art Museum for 4th graders at Dudley Elementary School, Dudley Hill Walking Tour brochure, Hip Hop Chair Exercise at the Dudley Senior Center.

If you have any questions, please contact Chairperson Ginni DiDonato at (508) 943-7511.

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Grand opening of J. Anthony's "new" Italian Grill

By Janet Stoica

It's new, it's different, and it's like nothing else in the area, according to Jason Villatico, owner of J. Anthony's Italian Grill on the Auburn/Oxford line. To celebrate the beginning of the New England Patriots football season on Sept. 12, Jason

Villatico held a grand opening of J. Anthony's newly renovated restaurant, with door prizes, giveaways and some great drink specials and new food items.

"There are TVs everywhere, complete with surround-sound. We've switched

our host station to the opposite section to accommodate live acoustics. We'll target and feature all local artists in the mid-section of our building so that patrons at both newly-renovated bar areas will be able to see and hear the vibrant sound quality," according to Jason.

Distinctive craft cocktails are part of their signature drink and meal menu. Jason stated that their lounge area was always a very successful part of their business and that many customers came to J. Anthony's for the atmosphere of their lounge. "We brought the comfortable and relaxing atmosphere of our lounge to the front of our establishment. Two unique bar areas with local entertainment and lots of video with mint audio. You won't find another place like ours anywhere in this area. We're

proud to show everyone the new changes we've made."

Jason was also quick to point out that J. Anthony's is still the same family-friendly restaurant it's always been. They've listened to their frequent diners and have switched up their menu to reflect their diners' current tastes and requests and he feels that everyone will be happy with the results. "Our new dining area is above the Garden Court in the Deck Room," he said. "We're utilizing all areas to their best advantage. It's definitely a new style. Our customers will really enjoy themselves. Our same great staff will be right here for them."

J. Anthony's will certainly be focusing more on acoustics and sports, more so than in the past. They've renovated from top to bottom. "The days of missing your



Alyssa Pupillo serves up new craft beverages.



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sports game will be rare if you decide to join us here," Jason said. "You can enjoy a great meal, great cocktails, and still catch your team in action while experiencing a pleasant social atmosphere. Our craft cocktails will be made with specific ingredients for each unique request. Private event rooms, of course, will always be available for weddings, showers, graduations, family reunions and gatherings

and the like. We feel that we have the best quality food and pricing in the area!" J. Anthony's Italian Grill, 917 Southbridge Street, Auburn. Phone: (508) 832-9705. Open Mon-Thursday 4 p.m. - closing; Fri-Sunday 11:30 a.m. - closing. www.janthonysgrill.com. Find them on Facebook and Instagram.

Contact Janet: jstoica@TheYankeeXpress.com

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Upcoming events for the Webster-Dudley Boys and Girls Club

By **Taylor Bailey**
Asst. Director

The Boys and Girls Club of Webster-Dudley will be hosting a variety of fund-raising events over the next few months and we need your support for our programs. Throughout the pandemic we were open to serve as an emergency childcare center for essential workers, using considerable amounts of our funds for this worthy cause. We also were a remote learning hub providing support and services to area families during the school year, affording educational opportunities for our area families that could not do so. We sincerely appreciate any assistance and support you give us and look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events.

Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, October 9, at 1 p.m. at the Dudley Hill Golf

course, our annual 18-hole shotgun tournament is a great day of golf, fun prizes followed by a raffle and catered dinner afterwards at the PAV in Webster. Enter a foursome, donate to the raffle or sponsor a hole. Greens fees are \$125, including a cart, prizes and dinner afterward with raffles at the PAV. This is always a great event. Contact John Lefebvre at jlefebvre15@yahoo.com.

Spaghetti dinner fund raiser

Come join us Thursday, October 21, at Point Breeze Restaurant for a spaghetti dinner fund-raiser. The event is from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

A portion of the funds raised will be donated back to the United Way of South-Central Mass. If you are interested in attending go to our website at www.bgwebsterdudley.org to purchase tickets.

Craft and Vendor Fair

The Boys and Girls Club of Webster Dudley will be hosting a craft and vendor fair at the club on Oxford Ave. on Saturday, November 13, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are selling spaces to artists, crafters, holiday fair and decor vendors for \$25 and donation of one raffle item to the host table. For more information contact kmayotte@bgworcester.org.

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Webster Five's new corporate offices in Auburn a dazzler

By Rod Lee

Like Reliant Medical Group, Karl Storz Endoscopy America Inc. and other commercial enterprises, Webster Five recognizes the town of Auburn's value as a place to do business.

This summer, Webster Five finalized relocation of its corporate offices from Thompson Road in Webster to 35 Millbury St. in Auburn—just a stone's throw from Karl Storz's modern warehouse and office center at 28 Millbury St., which opened in 2019.

Not that far, either, from Reliant Medical Group's im-

pressive primary care and specialty care facility at 385 Southbridge St. in the former Macy's Home Store in the Auburn Mall.

The result of what Webster Five management calls "an extensive redesign of an existing 39,000-square-foot building" by Cutler Associates and various partners is nothing short of spectacular. In creating "an inviting and collaborative workspace for employees," Webster Five not only consolidated more than one hundred team members from three distinct locations (Auburn, Web-

ster and Worcester) into a single facility, it introduced to South County the most advanced corporate setting that can be found for miles in any direction.

There was understandable pride in Deirdre Gallagher's voice as she gave a visitor a walking tour of the building the afternoon of August 28. Ms. Gallagher is the executive administrative assistant to Webster Five President and CEO Donald F. Doyle.

"There are thirteen conference rooms!" Ms. Gallagher said, maneuvering her way through the corridors. The main conference room can accommodate thirty or more people around a large table and is being named in honor of former Chairman of the Board Daniel Ivascyn "who was very instrumental in the vision for this building. He retired in 2020."

The building "is all wireless," Ms. Gallagher said. "We have this collaborative café, with outside seating," she said, pointing out a large, spacious, comfortable dining area. "Microwaves, three big refrigerators! We

have soft-touch door closings, everyone has white boards, there is a blue and green pattern, showers, a locker room, we have utilized a space-shuttle theme as a tribute to Robert Goddard with a Goddard Room and a Christa McAuliffe Room, we have a wellness room for new moms (but others looking for moments of relaxation can use it too), we have moved our contact center here, we have this business banking area, a retail lending side."

The use of glass in the remodel is extensive, allowing light to flood the building.

In a news item posted on the Webster Five website, it is explained that the relocation of the bank's corporate offices was sparked by "significant growth over the past twenty-five years." The bank's footprint "now extends well beyond its original markets of Webster, Dudley and Oxford. As the bank approaches \$1 billion in assets, modernization and centralization of its corporate space is essential to provide an outlet for continued growth. Webster Five's corporate offices have been significantly enhanced, as the design of the new space fosters a strong sense of collaboration, creativity, and inclusion for employees throughout the organization.

"There will be no change to the bank's branch footprint," it was noted; "existing branches will continue to be important centers of activity and convenience for customers."

In a statement, Mr. Doyle said "this consolidation gives us the opportunity for increased interactions between departments to enhance collaboration. The design of spaces was thoughtfully considered to



The visitor entrance to Webster Five's new corporate offices on Millbury St. in Auburn offers a welcoming atmosphere.

create a unifying feel. While this move was planned prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are deeply conscious of the changes many of our employees have faced in the pandemic's wake. We are aware that our employees' family lives and schedules are still disrupted, so the transition back to full-time in the office will be gradual and our new space will accommodate a hybrid work model for the foreseeable future."

Diana Fiorentino, marketing and communications specialist for the bank, told the Xpress that "all Webster Five back-office employees moved into the corporate offices at the beginning of June. The move went smoothly and we feel our vision of creating a collaborative, innovative and modern workplace has been fully realized. Our employees were very excited to move in, and (they) feel the environment that's been created will help them to build efficiencies in their roles. They were also quite excited to see their coworkers in person after a large number of them worked remotely through COVID. When COVID rates were lower earlier this summer, we were able to host an on-site all-employee Partnership meeting, which allowed us the opportunity to gather all of our staff together and celebrate our new space."

Bruce Varner, Webster Five's mortgage loan origi-

nator, in explaining why he likes the new corporate offices, said "one of the best things about the new building is the abundant natural light and big, open work areas. When we need a smaller, more private meeting space, the conference rooms are perfect with lots of new technology that makes it easy to include others working off-site."

Ms. Fiorentino said the bank has been flexible with its employees "on their in-office work schedules as we know that many of them have faced concerns with child care, obtaining their vaccinations, and other COVID-related issues over the past few months. We've established a hybrid work schedule for employees to help support them into the future, and we continue to keep an eye on the current situation and remain flexible based on the changing conditions we face."

Ms. Fiorentino said the bank will be hosting an open house/ribbon-cutting ceremony in the future, an as-yet undetermined date. "We don't have anything set in stone due to the COVID delta variant," she said.

The most common refrain heard around 35 Millbury St. in Auburn these days is "we love it!"

Contact Rod Lee at rodlee.1963@gmail.com or 774-232-2999.



A main conference room is a signature feature of Webster Five's new corporate offices setting, as is a "collaborative café" with all of the amenities—and ample seating inside and out.

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Samuel Slater EXPERIENCE



The Samuel Slater Experience is in the final stages of fine-tuning the exhibits. Nicole Huang of Boston Productions Inc. is one of the interactive designer experts preparing the computers for visitors. She was on hand recently to test them out on individuals, young and young at heart to get reactions and suggestions for improvements. The displays were well received and enjoyed by all who had the opportunity to test them out.



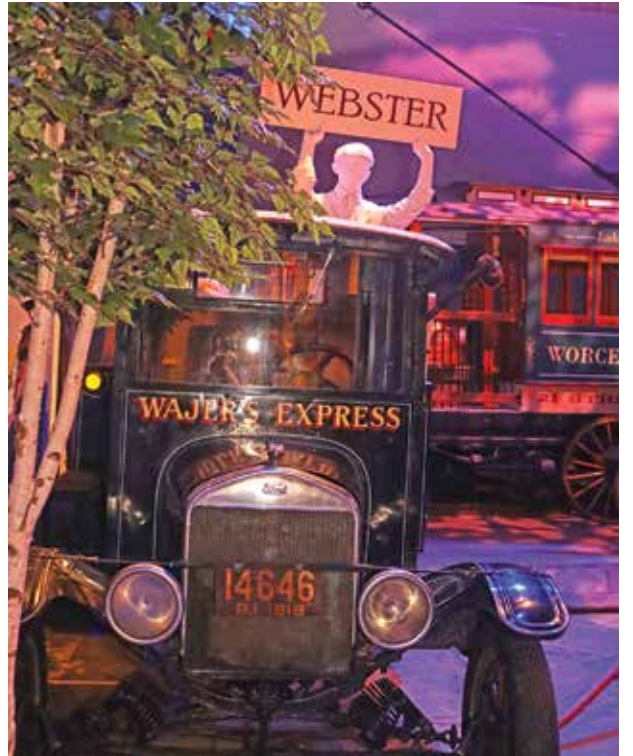
Julian and Viola Shore are busy choosing the design and colors of their fabric. The finished product will be sent to them via email or text displaying their masterpiece.



Connie Gallant designs her custom fabric.



Jocelyn Patterson is in the Webster Times building, pasting up her headlines for the newspaper.



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Annual town meeting scheduled

WEBSTER - The Board of Selectmen has called an Annual Town Meeting for Monday, October 18, at 7:00 p.m. at Bartlett High School, 52 Lake Parkway, Webster. Anyone wishing to place articles on the Town Meeting Warrant should present them to the Selectmen's Office during regular business hours. Citizen's petitions must contain the signatures of at least 10 registered (certified) voters.

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Samuel Slater EXPERIENCE

Help us tell the story as a Slater Experience Guide

Slater Experience Guides are volunteer hosts of the Samuel Slater Experience (SSE) who support and enhance visitors' experiences throughout their tour of the museum.

As knowledgeable emissaries, they greet visitors, assist with self-guided tours, supply transitional and anecdotal information for each exhibit, explain the digital technology and techniques used, and answer specific questions about the Samuel Slater story, the founding of Webster, and the history of the Samuel Slater Experience.

Requirements

Slater Experience Guides are expected to share an interest and enthusiasm for the history of the American Industrial Revolution and the town of Webster.

They should have good people skills and the ability to actively interact with children, school groups, and adults in public speaking settings.

Volunteer Experience Guides are asked to make a one-year commitment and be available for at least two 3-hour shifts per

month during SSE's hours of operation, including at least two weekend days each quarter.

SSE will provide periodic training sessions covering all aspects of the museum, the technology, and the building. Slater Experience Guides must be able to attend Slater Experience Guide Orientation and Training and are expected to review additional material as periodically provided or approved by SSE in order to stay up to date on any changes, additions or deletions, and to broaden their knowledge of our mission.

Benefits

Experience guides will receive a family pass for free entry to the museum during their tenure as volunteers. They will receive a 20% discount in the gift shop, a 20% discount on event rentals, and invitations to special events.

For an application form, contact Reanna Kuzdzal at 508-461-2955 or email rkuzdzal@samuel Slater Experience.org.

Applicants will be asked to come in for an in-person interview.

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Samuel Slater EXPERIENCE

Sheep will be roaming the streets of the community soon in anticipation of the opening of Samuel Slater Experience on Ray Street in Webster. Keep an eye out for these colorful creatures expertly painted by talented artists. Pictured on the left is a sheep painted by artist Xueting Wu at Boston Productions Inc. On the right is a sheep painted by Pam Redick. Below is the Indian Princess cruising Webster Lake painted by Dave Laabs of the Airbrush Shack. Note to businesses: there are only a few sheep still available for sponsorship. If interested please contact vanreed@samuel Slater Experience.org.



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September events at Booklovers' Gourmet

September Photo Exhibit - The Curious Life of Pollinators
By Nature's Perspective Photography on view through September 30 at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, Webster. The show will be available for viewing in our cafe gallery during regular business hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5.

Nature's Perspective Photography started when photographer Nicole Giles began raising Monarch Butterfly Caterpillars

in 2017. The hobby grew and in 2018, Nicole released 271 tagged butterflies, with almost 200 more in 2019. She is now working on a Master's Degree in Entomology where her interest continues to expand to include improving insect habitat and pollinator health. Along the way, Nicole discovered a talent and passion for photography, and has now amassed a collection of nature-themed pictures ranging from beautifully colored butterflies to macro photography of native bees and caterpillars.

The goal of Nature's Perspective Photography is to increase nature appreciation through educational and artful photographs. Through craft fairs, library displays, and social media posts, Nicole is opening eyes to the curious life of pollinators and the need for conservation. Follow Nicole on Instagram at @naturesperspectivephotos to join her on an endless search for the perfect photos of new and different pollinator species.

See attached images.

Book signing

On Saturday, September 25, 11 am-12:30 pm, join us for a book signing and talk with Dorothy Cooper-Browne, author of "Four States of Abuse," at Booklovers' Gourmet, 72 East Main Street, Webster. RSVP to deb@bookloversgourmet.com or 508-949-6232. Masks are required for anyone not vaccinated.

About the Book - "Four States of Abuse" is my personal journey of experiencing abuse from my childhood to adulthood. I did not know that I was being abused at times, but it was abuse, mental and physical. I was born in the south. Sheltered from society. Taught to not question adults.

At a young age, I found out that my mother did not want me and sent me to live with my Aunt and Uncle, who did not have kids. It was here that I was closed off from the world, sheltered from society. I was made to follow commands without question or hesitation. Being an only child, my sense of innocence was not exposed to life and I took everything at face value. There



was no one really there to educate me about the way life should be. Through my story, I hope to inspire people to get out of their situations and seek help.

Dorothy Cooper-Browne wants to help other people by sharing her harrowing story of abuse. While she did not know at the time that she was being abused, she survived mental and physical mistreatment. Growing up, Dorothy thought she would be a nun, so she never smoked, never drank, and never did any drugs. To this day, she is still living a clean lifestyle. Though she never had any idea what the future would hold for her, she has always been on a journey to love herself unconditionally. With her sons' encouragement, she finally decided to pen her story. In her downtime, Dorothy loves to read, spends quiet moments working on puzzles—everything from crosswords to Jigsaws—and enjoys dancing and singing. With an impressive forty-two years in the banking industry, she is proud of her achievements. She hopes to inspire others who are caught in abusive situations to escape and seek help. There is no shame in starting over and she believes everyone has the right to be happy, safe, and loved for their true selves... even if they can't see that.

bankHometown to host three free shred days

OXFORD — bankHometown invites customers and members of the community to three free Shred Days at local offices. Events will be held on the following dates and at the following locations. No appointment is necessary.

September 25: 9:00 a.m. to noon, Auburn office, 569 Southbridge St.

September 25: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Putnam, Conn., office, 182 Main St.

Local residents can reduce their risk of identity theft by bringing old mail, receipts, statements or bills, cancelled checks, pay stubs, medical records, or any other unwanted paper documents containing personal or confidential information and shredding them

safely and securely for free. A professional document destruction company will be on site in the bank's parking lot and can accept up to two boxes of documents per person.

Dean's List

BOSTON - The following local residents were named to the 2021 spring semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

Olivia Panagiotou, Webster
 Victoria Lavelle, Webster

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

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Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (intention), Amen.

If you pray three times a day, three consecutive days, you will receive your intention, no matter how impossible it may seem. Praise and Thanksgiving please the Heart of God. **Believer**



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Public whist party

WEBSTER - A public Whist party will be held on Sunday, October 3, at the Killdeer Island Club House, 191 Killdeer Island Road. A light luncheon will be served at noon. Play begins at 1 p.m. There will be door prizes and raffle baskets. Tickets are \$5.00 at the door, or advanced tickets are available for \$3.00 by calling Elizabeth Luchina at (508) 949-1498.

Auburn Homcoming and Fall Festival

AUBURN - The Auburn Homecoming and Fall Festival will take place on Friday night and Saturday, September 24 and 25.

On Friday night the Auburn football game will be played at 7 p.m.

Saturday-11:00 am - 4:00 pm at Auburn High School there will be games, train rides, pumpkin decorating, live music by East West Duo, food, craft vendors, fun for all ages.

Schedule of events will be listed in the Auburn News and on www.auburnguide.com, sponsored by the Auburn Recreation and Culture Department, Auburn Public Schools, the Home Depot and Lungren Honda of Auburn. For information please call-508-832-7736 or email kpappas@town.auburn.ma.us. The event will be held rain or shine.

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Chief's corner

Time to dispose of unused medicines

By Chief Steven J. Wojnar
Dudley Police Department

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform the residents of Dudley that on Saturday, October 23, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Dudley Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. This has been a popular and much requested program in the past. I wanted to provide some information to people once again on this event.

The Drug Take Back has

been held several times over the years in Dudley. Our latest was held this past spring, after the 2020 events were cancelled due to COVID-19. In April, a large quantity of prescription medications and medical sharps were taken in. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and health need. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and

overdoses. Studies show that most of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, people are advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards. Thanks to the effort of District Attorney Joseph Early's Office, we now have a permanent Drug Disposal Kiosk located in our Police Station Lobby. These items can now be disposed of locally at any time during the year. Other communities have these kiosks at their police stations or other town buildings. If you are not from Dudley, be sure to check with your community for one of these disposal locations.

In addition to the prescription disposal, we will work with officials from Harrington Hospital to dispose of medical sharps (needles, etc.) on this same day. Collection bins will be on hand to dispose of these items properly and safely as well.

A number of these programs will take place on October 23, in communities all

over the area. If you are not a Dudley resident, please check with your local officials for a disposal site near you. In Dudley, bring your medications to The Dudley Police Department located inside the Dudley Municipal Complex at 71 West Main Street Dudley. We thank everyone in advance for their participation in this worthwhile program.

Solid center lines

I receive a variety of driving related inquiries for this column. I was asked a question which applied to solid center lines on roads. What, if any, is the difference between one solid yellow center line and a double solid line?

The short answer to this question is they have the same meaning. Yellow center line dividers are in place to separate and designate travel lanes. Whether there are one or two lines, drivers are obligated to stay in their lane. Single center line markers can be present on some streets due to several factors, including road width, cost, etc. Double solid lines are most often present on state highways or main roads with sufficient width. Single or double lines will prohibit passing in both di-

rections. Double center lane markers can be modified in some locations with "dashed" lines. These allow vehicles traveling in one direction to pass in those designated places. Those approaching from the other direction cannot pass, mainly due to a curve or view obstruction for those drivers.

The law outlines situations when center lines can be crossed. Mass General Laws Chapter 90, Section 1 allows for the crossing of solid center lines for making a left turn "into or from a private way." Section 5 also authorizes people to operate contrary to these markings when directed by a police officer or for road construction / equipment. According to this law, passing is allowed for a construction situation when it, "necessitates a departure from normal operational practices..." This plainly means there is no other way around the project. When passing under these allowed circumstances, it will still be the obligation of the passing driver to yield to oncoming traffic.

Any violations of these laws can result in a civil fine of at least \$100. It is important to pay attention to the road

markings on streets. Solid center lane markers are in place to prohibit passing in dangerous areas. Operating vehicles, contrary to the rules in place, can result in a crash or injuries. Try to exercise due care, pay attention to markings and signs, and drive defensively.

For those still seeking vaccination information, it can be found at www.dudleyma.gov or by calling 508-949-8036. Please continue moving forward with the "re-opening" of our state in a reasonable manner. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. During these challenging times, we, at the Dudley Police Department, greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community.

Thanks again for your questions and comments. Please send them to me at the Dudley Police Department 71 West Main St. Dudley, Ma. 01571 or email at swojnar@dudleypolice.com. Opinions expressed in this weekly column are those of Chief Wojnar only and unless clearly noted, do not reflect the ideas or opinions of any other organization or citizen.

Historic Dudley Hill event

The Black Tavern Historical Society is holding its eighth annual juried Craft Fair on Saturday, October 2, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., on Center Road, Dudley, on the grounds of the historic tavern and barn, as well as on the Dudley Town Common. Food will be available at the adjacent Grange food shack as part of the Annual Apple Festival.

In addition, "Historic Tradesmen" will be demonstrating traditional 19th century skills on the common, sponsored in part by a grant from the Janet Malser Humanities Trust and also the Dudley Cultural Council, a part of the Mass. Cultural Council. Free admission and parking.

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- 2 LBS. HAMBURG **OR**
1 LB. SIRLOIN TIPS
- 2 LBS. BONELESS SPARERIBS **OR**
2 LBS. HAM STEAKS
- 1 PKG. (1 LB.) SAUSAGE OF YOUR CHOICE **OR** 1 PKG. (1½ LBS.) COOKED CHICKEN WINGS OF YOUR CHOICE
- 1 LB. HOT DOGS **OR** 1 LB. BACON

B - \$50.00

- 5 LBS. CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS **OR**
3 LBS. BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST
- 2 LBS. LONDON BROIL STEAKS **OR**
1 LB. SIRLOIN TIPS
- 3 LBS. CUT UP CHICKEN **OR**
1 LB. HOT DOGS
- 2 LBS. BONELESS SPARERIBS **OR** 1 PKG. (1½ lbs.) MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST OF YOUR CHOICE
- 2 LBS. HAMBURG **OR** 3 LBS. GROUND TURKEY

\$75.00

- 5 LBS. CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS **OR**
1 LB. HOT DOGS
- 3 LBS. BONELESS SPARERIBS **OR**
2 LBS. RACK BABY BACK RIBS
- 2 LBS. LONDON BROIL STEAKS **OR**
1½ LBS. NEW YORK SIRLOIN STEAKS
- 3 LBS. HAMBURG **OR** 1½ LBS. SIRLOIN TIPS
- 3 LBS. CUT UP CHICKEN **OR** 1 LB. BACON
- 3 LBS. BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST **OR**
1 PKG. (1½ LBS.) MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST OF YOUR CHOICE
- 1 PKG. (1 LB.) SAUSAGE OF YOUR CHOICE **OR** 1 PKG. (1½ LBS.) COOKED CHICKEN WINGS OF YOUR CHOICE

\$100.00

- 2½ LBS. NEW YORK SIRLOIN STEAKS **OR**
1½ LBS. DELMONICO STEAKS
- 5 LBS. CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS **OR**
3 LBS. CUT UP CHICKEN
- 2½ LBS. HAMBURG **OR** 1 STACK (10)
4 OZ. HAMBURGER PATTIES
- 3 LBS. BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST **OR**
1 PKG. (1½ LBS.) MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST OF YOUR CHOICE
- 3 LBS. BONELESS SPARERIBS **OR**
2 LBS. RACK BABY BACK RIBS
- 2 LBS. HOT DOGS **OR** 1 PKG. (1½ LBS.) COOKED CHICKEN WINGS OF YOUR CHOICE
- 2 LBS. SIRLOIN TIPS **OR**
1 PKG. (1½ LBS.) MARINATED SIRLOIN TIPS OF YOUR CHOICE

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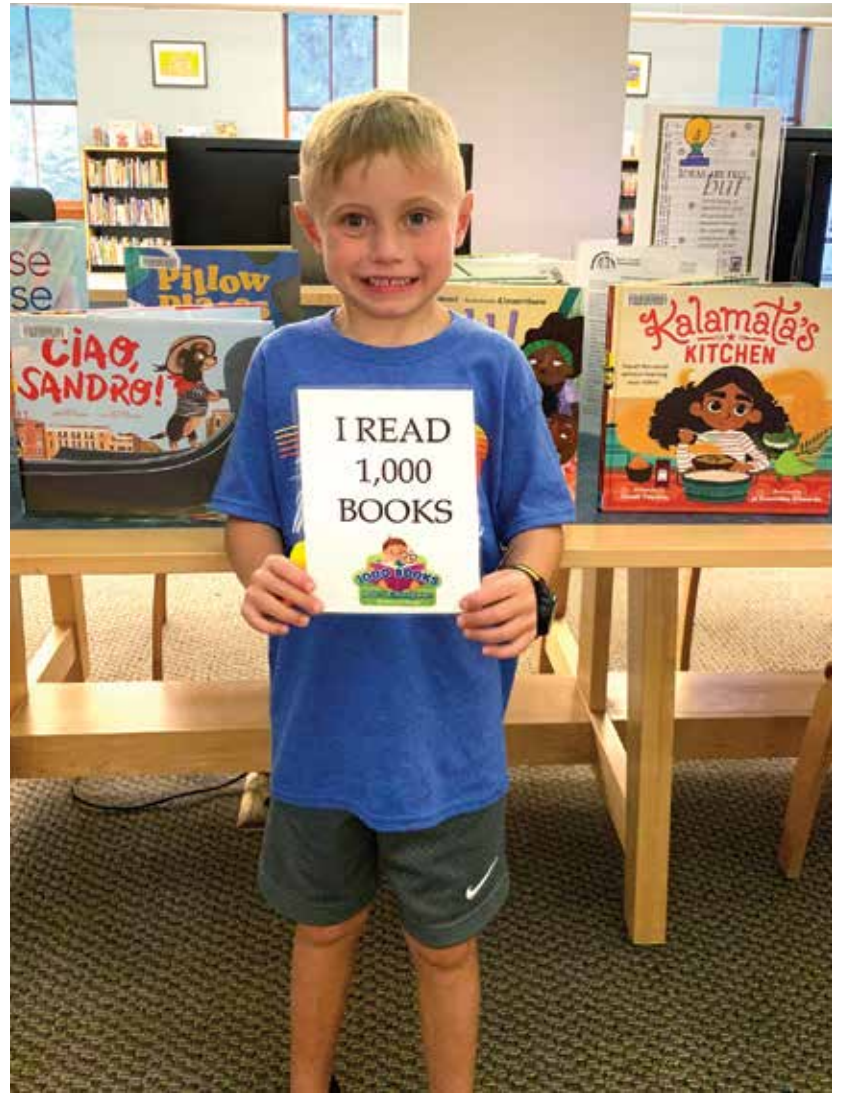
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1000 Books Before Kindergarten



Kennedy Chase of Dudley recently completed the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library.



Jaxon Thorstenson of North Grosvenordale, Conn., has completed the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program at the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library. Way to go, Jaxon!

The Killdeer Island Club

is hosting a
**Computer, Electronics & Metal
Removal & Recycling Day**

Monitors, televisions, misc., electronics, computer parts & all appliances (those containing Freon as well) any metal, lawn mowers (oil and gas removed) gas grills, car batteries, car parts, etc.



Saturday, October 2, 2021



9:00am to 3:00pm

Bring your items to 191 Killdeer Island Rd., Webster, MA
Killdeer Island Road is behind The Lodge Restaurant on Rt. 16

A fee will be charged for each disposal of the following items:

Keyboards	Free
Toaster Oven, Exercise Bikes, Speakers	\$5.00 each
Lawn Furniture - 4 Chairs, Table (no glass).....	\$10.00
Car Batteries	\$5.00 each
Computers, Printers, Scanners, Fax Machines, Stereos and Microwaves	\$10.00 each
Electric Space Heaters	\$10.00 each
Monitors.....	\$20.00 each
Dishwashers, Stoves, Washers, Dryers, and HW Heaters	\$15.00 each
Refrigerators, Freezers and Air Conditioners.....	\$25.00 each
Plastic TVs Under 27"	\$25.00 each
Plastic TVs Over 27".....	\$30.00 each
Wood Console Televisions	\$30.00 each
Projection TVs	\$30.00 each
Propane Tanks	\$10.00 each

There is no limit to the number of items disposed of at one time. Make checks payable to: Killdeer Island Club Inc.

We welcome surrounding towns to take part in this event!

Recycling will prevent CRT containing devices from becoming hazardous waste. CRTs may contain several pounds of lead, which is a toxic substance. When CRTs are broken or destroyed, such as when placed in landfills or incinerators, they release lead into the environment. When recycled, TVs and computer monitors can be used as a source of lead, as well as precious metal found in circuit boards, power supplies and the like.



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Living ON with Lincoln

Two in the Queue

By Amy LeClaire

Lincoln brought our family so much joy. Nothing will compare to his smile, his expression, and the easy way in which we understood each other. It has been said that dogs are a lot of work. Partial truth. Dogs, indeed, are a lot of work, but with just the right dose of adventure. Sometimes it's hard to know the difference between work and play. Here, Lincoln blurred the lines. He made work feel like

play. He even found a way to have fun on rainy days, his least favorite. Well, with my help that is.

"Want to play Hide and Seek, Lincoln?"

Nothing is more depressing than seeing a happy (energetic) dog defeated by a grey day. Just as he'd pull me out of funks, so did I, him. I'd hold up one of his Kong balls and rotate it in my hand like a planet. "Mummy will hide the ball and Lincoln will go GET it." His spirit lifted to the mere review of game rules. He propped his head up and stared at the turning ball. Could this really be happening? An indoor game of ball? He snapped from the nook beneath the counter. "I'm in."

"Sit." He sat on command. "Lincoln - Staaaayy. Wait until I tell you." I stretched out the word stay to emphasize its importance to the game, and also, because learning to stay was more difficult for him. He loved that ball so much, and needed to rescue it. "You have to wait until I tell you." He couldn't resist the occasional head start. "Wait until I tell you." I'd lead him right back to the same spot.

Then, like a burglar with a ball, I tiptoed to the front of the house to choose a hiding spot: in the big mouth of Daddy's shoe, beneath the corner of his dog bed upstairs, or beneath one of numerous accent tables. Occasionally I'd provide a game challenge, hiding the ball downstairs yet emulating the sound of footsteps by drumming the bottom step with my palms. "Sounds like she went upstairs." Seated on the edge of his seat, Lincoln waited for the go-ahead. I needed to move quickly. He needed to rescue his beloved ball. I could sense his impatience.

"Go get it!" Like a bloodhound wearing a Golden Retriever costume, Lincoln weaved his way through all of the hot spots, nose to ground. Meanwhile, I encouraged him. "You have to go get it!" He would look down at me from the foyer at the top of the stairs. "I know. I'm trying to find my ball!" Then came the moment of truth, the profound "AHA" when he'd grab that ball, slosh it around his mouth, and retreat beneath the dining room table to be alone. "You're not getting away from me again."

He'd chew on the ball for a while before coming back to me. "Lincoln - do you want go get it?" Dogs, like humans, learn from repetition. A second game felt as refreshing

as the first. As if both of our moods hadn't been lifted enough (I do believe dogs are natural anti-depressants) the game offered an added caveat. I showed him my iPhone recording of him playing so that he could watch himself on video! "Go get it!" He'd listen to my voice repeat the whole game, tilting his head curiously, reliving the moment. "Is that me looking for my ball?" Sometimes the taping would make him uncomfortable and jittery, as though spooked. He'd dash to my husband's office. "Mom's phone is possessed again, Daddy."

Dogs innocently remind us of life's subtle, humorous, and joyous moments. Their lives are far too short, yet the happiness accrued within their life is so very potent. How does one quantify or place a value on a dog's positive influence on our lives? I've considered the math and come to a conclusion. Dogs provide so much joy. When considering getting another, why not make it a double?

The pain of losing Lincoln is not directly proportional to the joy spent with him. Joy spilled over our days, saturating them as would a napkin, red punch. The joy of owning a dog is exponential. Two puppies, like two cocktails, are happier than one.

Such was my rationale when, after struggling to (first) find an experienced and caring Golden Retriever breeder and (next) be accepted onto their list; two doors opened up, one following my husband's research, the other, mine. Both breeders accepted my family as a happy home for their upcoming puppies. How could we say no? Now we've got two in the queue and we couldn't be happier!

In honor of Lincoln, during the winter of next year (Jan/



Up for adventure, only weeks before his passing.



The search begins.



Lincoln enjoys happy times with friends.



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Feb 2022), we will take home Puppy #1. Fast-forward four to five months later, and puppy #2 shall follow. So - we have two in the queue! Are we spending too much money? Most definitely. Are we adding on too much work? Possibly. Will there be too much joy in the house?

Not a chance. Stay tuned for more on Living On with Lincoln.

To my faithful readers - just

as the joy of having a dog is immeasurable, so is the gratitude I have for all of you who have written me in the past five months, following Lincoln's passing. I have saved every word, every card, every e-mail, every thought, and every gift. You are all in my heart. Together, as Dog People, we will always be connected.

Write to me amyleclaire@hotmail.com

Healthcare and retirement webinar

AUBURN - Dennis Antonopoulos, Financial Advisor for Edward Jones will present a zoom webinar on healthcare and your retirement on Wednesday, September 29, 6-7 p.m.

Medicare open enrollment begins October 15. The increasing cost of health care is a growing concern for current and future retirees. In fact, 30 years ago, retirees spent almost twice as much on food as on healthcare. Now the amounts are nearly equal.

The presentation will discuss Medicare coverage and traditional medical expenses; long-term medical care expenses; and strategies for addressing uncovered expenses.

Lynne Mussulli from HealthMarkets Insurance Agency who will be available to answer questions.

The webinar is being held via Zoom. To register call Karen Rieser at 508-832-5385 or email karen.rieser@edwardjones.com by September 28 to receive a zoom link.

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Local veterans observe 9/11 with remembrance

On Saturday, September 11, local veterans gathered to remember the 20th Anniversary of the tragic events that took nearly 3,000 lives due to terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City, the Pentagon and in Shanksville, PA. This was also a day tinged with renewed anger and grief in response to the heinous bombing at the Kabul Airport, Afghanistan, on August 26, which claimed a further thirteen lives of our brave military members who on a mission to safeguard civilian lives.

Most remember exactly where they were and what they were doing when the events of 9/11 first started. Everyone agrees that this was one of the worst days in our country's history, however, it was also a day of national pride and hope that brought together Americans of all backgrounds.

Nobody needs to remind the men and women of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the meaning of 9/11 and the aftermath. The military was increased with the influx of patriotic men and women who were willing to fight for the freedom we have always enjoyed in the United States. This is, as we all know, the way that Americans respond to a threat to our Republic since even before the American Revolution, where our country was born.

Much has changed since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, but few American institutions have changed as much as the military.

The type of wars that this professional, all-volunteer military—especially the Army—has been fighting are counterinsurgency campaigns, waged in towns and villages, in which junior officers had to assume as much initiative as commanders, and in which all soldiers, even junior enlisted personnel, needed to be as attentive to community relations as to combat.

In respect to Afghanistan, our soldiers were there to find the persons responsible for the heinous attack on our homeland. Our soldiers took up the task of providing safety for the people of Afghanistan until their mission was finished. There were successful campaigns in Afghanistan, but, of course, it came at a price. These brave men and women returned home, some with physical effects and some with psychological trauma but they are heroes all. There are a large number of Veterans deeply upset with what has and is happening in Afghanistan and we all need to reach out and support each other to be sure we share a strong feeling of hurt and yes anger at what has occurred. All Veterans are affected and dissatisfied with the political indifference but we need to be there for each other.

The families of those soldiers who were killed in a bomb attack in Afghanistan on August 26, while defending the Kabul Airport are in our prayers today. May we all bow our heads and silently say a prayer for these brave military soldiers.

The Pentagon has identified these military personnel as:

- Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee McCollum, 20, Jackson, Wyo.
- Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared Schmitz, 20, of Wentzville, Mo.
- Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David Espinoza, 20, of Rio Bravo, Tex.



US Navy Veteran Paul Leclaire of Dudley and Stephen Rogerson

- Navy Hospital Corpsman Max Soviak, 22, of Berlin Heights, Ohio
- Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez, 22, of Indio, Calif.
- Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem Nikoui, 20, of Norco, Calif.
- Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin Taylor Hoover, 31, of Utah
- Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan William-Tyeler Page, 23, of Omaha
- Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss, 23, of Corryton, Tenn.
- Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny Rosario, 25, Lawrence, Mass.
- Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto Sanchez, 22, Logansport, Ind.
- Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole Gee, 23, of Roseville, Calif.
- Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola, 20, of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

Representative Joseph McKenna offered heartfelt comments on the commemoration of the anniversary of the events of 9/11. He offered a brief talk of pride for the military, gratitude for the bravery of the military mission and he touched also on the display of oneness of our community such as was evident countrywide following 9/11. The attending officials included the Webster Fire Department, Webster Police Department, Veterans Council, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Town and State Government Representatives as well as concerned citizens of Webster and Dudley.

After the speech delivered by our Veterans Services Officer, Stephen Rogerson, Representative McKenna took the podium a second time to express that he was moved by the words spoken by VFW Commander Rogerson. He shared the thought that it is now 20 years after the attack and the brave soldiers who were taken on August 26, 2021 at the airport in Kabul were only babies during the carnage. It was at this time also, that Representative McKenna announced to the crowd the appointment of VFW Post 654 Commander Rogerson to the position of VFW National Aide-de-Camp to Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mehelcic. This is an rare honor as only one person per State receives this distinction.

The appointment came as a complete surprise to Commander Rogerson who was not aware that the VFW District 8 Commander, Joseph McMahan had even nominated him for the appointment. The Massachusetts State Commander also recommended him for this appointment due to his outstanding service to Post 654 as well as for his commitment to veterans within the State of Massachusetts. Commander Rogerson is a well-known VA accredited Veterans Ser-



Representative Joe McKenna



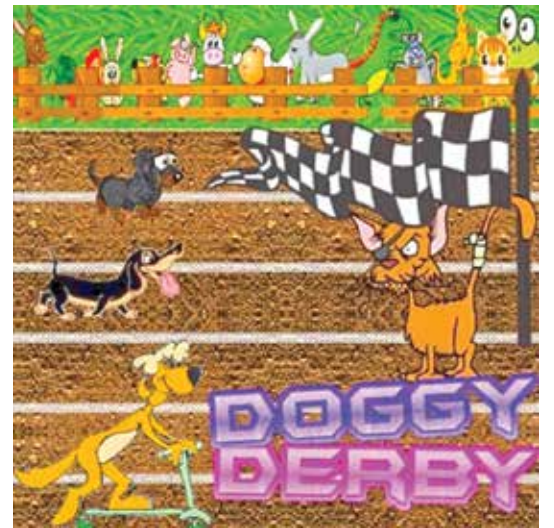
Stephen Rogerson at Podium

vices Officer in the surrounding area. This is quite a feather in our cap for all of our efforts for the veterans of Webster and Dudley. It is very heartwarming to reach this level on a national scale.

If you know of a veteran who is in need of assistance, please be sure to refer him/her to a Veteran's Services Officer such as Stephen Rogerson, Dudley Veteran's Services Officer 508-949-8010.

—Stephen Rogerson

Join the fun at the Doggy Derby



A Doggie Derby sponsored by Douglas Animal Hospital to Benefit Dog Orphans Humane Society will be held Saturday, October 2, during the Douglas Octoberfest in Douglas. All proceeds will benefit Dog Orphans.

First race begins at 12:00 p.m. with the final race at 2:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$15.00.

There are four classes: Mixed Breed or Purebred; Canines weighing 2-10 lbs.; Canines weighing 11-20 lbs.; Canines weighing 21-40 lbs.; Seniors age 8 and up weighing 2-20 lbs.

Winners of each class will receive a gift from Dog Orphans.

Grand prize winner will receive a \$100 cash prize donated by Douglas Animal Hospital.

No walk-ins will be accepted.

Register today at dogorphans.com.

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Programs and events at the Pearle

DUDLEY - Programs and events at the Pearle L. Crawford Library, 40 Schofield Avenue, Dudley. Join us for one of our programs at the Pearle. To register go to www.crawfordlibrary.org or call 508-949-8021.

Knit and crochet group - Thursday 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. and Friday 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. All stitchers are welcome for this informal group, meeting weekly in the Fels Room.

Pre-K power storytime - Tuesdays 11:00 a.m. Join Miss Lida for Pre-School Story Time. We will be exploring a new letter each week starting with A and ending in the spring with Z.

Toddler time - Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. Come join us for Toddler Time. We will have a different theme each week with stories and songs. This is geared for ages 18 months to 3.

Baby time - Fridays 11:30 a.m. Join us for a Baby Time story time. We will be doing songs, fingerplays, and reading to our babies. This is geared for babies 0-15 months.

Dungeons and Dragons group - Mondays 5:00 p.m. Have you ever wanted to learn to play D&D or are you a player looking to join a group? We have an experienced DM starting a group on Monday nights. If you have a Player's Handbook or dice bring them with you. We will have extras for anyone who needs them. Free; registration required.

Pokemon club - Tuesdays 3:30 p.m. Calling all Pokemon fans. Children ages 7 to 14 are invited to join our club. This meeting will be a great opportunity to meet other players and share ideas. Please make sure you bring your trading cards and any-

thing else you would like to share and discuss.

Lego challenge club - Wednesdays 3:30 p.m. Come join us each week for a different Lego challenge, from writing your name in Legos to making a Lego zipline. Ages 5+

Story book bingo - Monday, September 27, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Come play Story Book Bingo, and for every Bingo pick out your very own children's book to take home, ranging from board books to chapter books and everything in between.

Youth Advisory Council - Monday, October 4, 5:00-6:00 p.m. All tweens and teens in grades 6-12 are invited to join. Why join? You will gain valuable leadership skills. You can meet new people. You can earn volunteer hours (please bring your form). Pizza and drinks will be served!

Playful engineers - Saturday, October 9, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. In these hands-on, STEM focused workshops, participants design, build, test, and play with Rube Goldberg Machines, paper constructions, plus domino towers, exploding popsicle-stick snakes, and other awesome engineering explorations. Sponsored by the Hugh W. and Harriet K. Crawford Endowment.

Saving money and the earth while living a life of abundance - Thursday, October 14, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Join Ann Kearney for this Zoom program where you will learn concrete strategies for saving money and having a smaller environmental footprint. Learn to create a Digital Dream Board to visualize and clarify your goals, priorities, and hopes in order to empower you to make meaningful changes. Ann spent two years living in an RV while

traveling the country with her husband and three children. In preparation for their journey they sold or gave away 90% of what they owned. She has years of experience with frugal living, homeschooling, plant-based cooking, traveling, and environmentalism. Registration is required for this virtual program. Registered participants will be sent a link to the Zoom event 24 hours before the program. Sponsored by the Hugh W & Harriet K Crawford Endowment

Deb's sing and swing - Thursday, October 21, 10:30-11:15 a.m. This is a 45 minute interactive program featuring singing, guitar music, dancing, rhythm instruments, stories and variety of fun props, including a parachute, beanbags, scarves, and pom poms. These programs are theme-based, and cover everything from holidays and seasons to dinosaurs and bugs. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Songbirds of the northeast - Thursday, October 21, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Join naturalist John Root for a Power Point presentation featuring both photographs and recordings of our region's songbirds. The role of song in these birds' lives as well as their diet, social behavior, and other adaptations for survival are discussed. Participants also learn how to provide attractive habitat for songbirds. Questions and comments are welcome throughout the presentation, which is open to all ages. Sponsored by the Dudley Cultural Council

Cricut class - Saturday, October 23, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Do you have a cricut cutting machine at home? Are you not sure where to start with using it? Come and learn about your machine, Cricut design space and complete two Christmas ornaments with two different materials. Our own Youth Services librarian, Lida Carroll will teach you the basics. Bring your laptop, cricut machine, tools, and glue with you. The other materials you need will be provided. Free; registration required.

Gladys E. Kelly Library calendar

WEBSTER - The Gladys E. Kelly Library, 2 Lake St., Webster, has posted the following coming events.

Adult Programming

Fall Concert Series: The Promise is Hope - October 9, 2:00 p.m. "Folk that makes you feel stuff" is exactly what Ash and Eric L'Esperance (spouses and band mates) set out to create through their collaborative project, The Promise is Hope. Their music marries two distinctly talented songwriters whose sound draws from the deep and vast well of the roots music tradition. Ashley's airy and intoxicating tone (think Alison Krauss) blends beautifully with Eric's sweet, deep voice (think Cat Stevens). The two artists complement each other in every respect, as with one voice they take their listeners on an exploration of the deep mysteries within nature and human relationships. With tightly woven harmonies, two acoustic guitars, and intimate songwriting, the pair presents a beautifully moving, inspired & connected live set. PopMatters says, "It is folk music, but folk that doesn't find any quick or easy comparisons. Instead, it might be said that the L'Esperances have found their unique path within the storied tradition." Concert is scheduled to be held outside, but will happen in the Library Community Room in case of rain. Please bring a chair or blanket if the concert is being held outside.

Spirits of New England with Dustin Pari - October 18, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Dustin Pari, a paranormal investigator and speaker with 25 years experience researching the unknown, will be presenting a talk about the legends, lore, and paranormal happenings he has seen and investigated across New England. Dustin is known for his wacky and slightly offbeat sense of humor, which helps to balance the light and dark material that can make up the paranormal world. This lecture brings a great bit of local history colored with some chilling tales of the supernatural! No registration required.

Children's and young adult programming

Songs and Stories Storytime - Wednesdays at 10 a.m. Join Miss Emily Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. to read books, sing songs, and do rhyme games. Meet other children and caregivers at this community event. After stories, catch up with other community members over a simple craft. This Storytime is best for children 0-5, but all ages are welcome. Masks are required for everyone in the children's room over the age of 2 years. Disposable masks will be available.

LEGO Club - Tuesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. LEGO Club is back, and we're so excited to have you build with us again. Stop by the storytime room every Tuesday at 3:30 to freeplay with our bucketloads of LEGOs or try out our weekly challenge. Masks are required for everyone in the Children's Room over the age of 2 years. Disposable masks will be available.

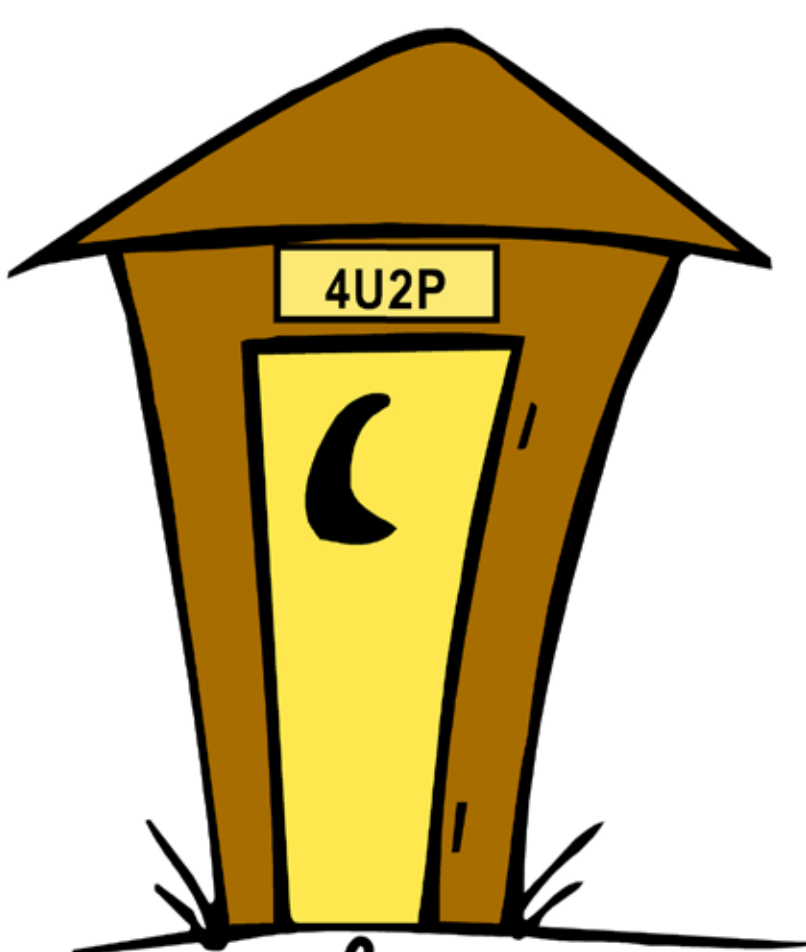
Drop in Paint Hour - Mondays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. It's time to break out the paintbrushes! With a variety of paints and paper available, bring your artist of any age to join in the fun. Masks are required for everyone in the Children's Room over the age of 2 years. Disposable masks will be available.

STEAM Kids - Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Join Miss Emily in a weekly STEAM event. That is... Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics! Each week there will be a new project to tackle from slime making and catapult challenges, to board game development and bath bombs. Every week contains some take home element. These events are best for children 7-12, but siblings are always welcome. Some events may have a limited number of places, in this case children between 7-12 will have preference. Caregivers must remain for the duration of the event. Masks are required for everyone in the children's room over the age of 2 years. Disposable masks will be available.

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Family and friends support Bay Path Practical Nursing Team in Walk to End Alzheimer's

CHARLTON - Lindsay Guertin, BSN, RN of Spencer was working as Full-time faculty prior to COVID-19 when a clinical discussion inspired her to form a team in the Walk to End Alzheimer's to support her practical nursing students in their nursing journey.

Gretheline Bolandrina DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director remembers when Guertin spoke with her about the upcoming Walk to End Alzheimer's on Sunday, October 3, at the Hanover Insurance Office Park, 100 North Parkway in Worcester. The walk route opens at 8:30 a.m. and there is a Promise Garden Ceremony at 10 am. She said she knew of the event, and she is enthusiastic about participating with the Guertins, practical nursing students, and alumni. Guertin recently received her team captain gear. Both Guertin and Bolandrina thought participating would be fun, and a memorable service-learning activity for everyone.

"I notified alumni about it," Bolandrina said. "Some graduates from 2014, 2015 and current students, so we all just made a team. Weather permitting, more friends and family members may join the team. We look forward to the chance to join with all the teams to make an impact in the mission to end Alzheimer's."

"I am passionate about de-



The Guertins

mentia and Alzheimer's care. The walk is a wonderful opportunity. It brings awareness to Alzheimer's, brings funds to research for Alzheimer's for a cure, and help support Alzheimer's families," Guertin said. "It's important to learn as much as we can, especially our practical nursing students. The more awareness we can bring leads to someday have a cure." Guertin set the minimum fundraising goal for the team. The goal is set at \$2,000 for Bay Path Practical Nursing Team. So far, they've raised \$240, with hopes of additional donations arriving in the mail.

More information about how to donate or join Team Bay Path PN Students is available by visit-

ing https://act.alz.org/site/TR?fr_id=14521&pg=team&team_id=702807

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First annual Dudley Police Department Car Show

The first annual Dudley Police Department Car Show was held on Sunday, September 12, at Shepherd Hill Regional High School.

Dudley Police Officers Keith Remillard and Luis Pacheco, along with their family members, coordinated this event. Assistance was also provided by Dudley Police School Resource Officer Philip Megas.

Over \$6,000 was raised during this event and the proceeds will be donated to the family of fallen Worcester Police Officer Emmanuel Familia who died in the line of duty while attempting to save a teenager from drowning this past June 4.

The Dudley Police Department wishes to thank the Dudley Charlton Regional School District Superintendent

Steven Lamarche, Principal William Chapman, and the staff at Shepherd Hill Regional High School for the use of the facility.

The Department would also like to recognize the generous sponsors of this event, Rampco Construc-

tion and Dunkin Donuts of Dudley.

Special thanks also go out to Best Auto Body, UniBank, and EGC Incorporated of Dudley for their generous donations.

A great deal of gratitude also is extended to DJ Paul

Gaulin for donating his time and equipment for the day and adding a tremendous lift to this event.

Of course, a program like this would not be possible without the participation of drivers and their vehicles. Between 80 and 90 cars,

trucks, and other vehicles were on display. Prizes were awarded to several winners. The weather was excellent, and this day was a tremendous success.

Expect the second annual event to take place in 2022."



Fuller Automotive Group announces "The Pit Stop" for express auto services

AUBURN – Fuller Automotive Group of Auburn announces the opening of 'The Pit Stop' at their current location, 505 Washington St. in Auburn.

The Pit Stop offers fast and efficient quick lube services without a franchise affiliation. This allows The Pit Stop to provide the same outstanding service

that customers have come to expect from the "Fuller Family Brand" enhanced with a new level of superior convenience.

Fuller Automotive Group President Chris Fuller said, "We decided to make this change so we could be more efficient both for our customers and as a company."

According to Fuller, the

pandemic forced businesses to review all their processes to determine how to best provide for customer and employee safety and convenience. In doing so, Fuller Automotive determined there were areas where customers could be better served while employees were more efficiently utilized. By being proactive and flexible, Fuller Au-

tomotive remained strong throughout the pandemic and is well positioned for the future.

"We look forward to growing the Fuller Automotive brand and continuing to develop and maintain the relationships that have allowed us to thrive for more than 100 years" Fuller added.

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The Car Doctor

John Paul is AAA Northeast's Car Doctor. He has over 40 years' experience in the automotive business and is an ASE certified master technician. He will answer reader's questions each week. You can find the Car Doctor podcast at www.johnfpaul.podbean.com or other popular podcast sites. Email your car questions to jpaul@aaanortheast.com. Follow John on Twitter @johnfpaul and friend him on facebook mrjohnfpaul



Q. I have a 2002 Toyota Camry with 307,000 miles on it. I have never changed the transmission fluid. I checked the fluid yesterday and it was still full, but the color has changed from a strong red color to a more red/brown color. Should I do anything at this time with the fluid? The car is running okay.

A. Changing transmission fluid on a high mileage car can be risky. Sometimes what happens is, when you change or flush transmission fluid the varnish and other debris will wash away and cause additional problems as this varnish gets into the transmission valve body. New transmission fluid is not a cure for transmission problems such as slipping and flaring between shifts. I would only change the fluid in your 20-year-old Camry if the transmission is performing properly.

Q. Over the past few days when I turn the air conditioner on in my car, I see a mist or fog coming out of the vents. Is this the Freon leaking out and what should I do?

A. In some cases, this can be from an air conditioner system that is slightly undercharged with refrigerant. Although, more than likely what you are seeing is a result of high humidity, coming in contact with the cold dry air. This can be more likely if the air conditioner is set in recirculate rather than fresh air. Also, if the air conditioner evaporator drain is clogged, this extra water will cause fog.

According to weather science, if the air temperature is near the dew point air will condense and cause fog.

Q. We purchased a new 2020 Kia Sportage in December of 2019. It did not have the usual new car smell, but instead a very strong offensive rubber, industrial smell. We were assured by the dealer that this would go away, usually in few months. It has subsided some, but after 10 months, the car just is a sick, unhealthy smelling vehicle and nothing has fixed this. I have tried everything and just the had cabin filter replaced with no effect. The dealer recognizes the smell and tells us we need to contact KIA ourselves. Doing research, we found that in 2012, Kia Sportage was one of 10 worst for VOCs, but can find no further information. Can you shed light on this as it makes us feel ill every time get into car.

A. Years ago, Kia as well as Hyundai vehicles had some odd smells that were certainly different than typical new car smell. I haven't noticed that odd smell in many years. In my own car, a Hyundai Santa-Fe, it had a very strong smell and it was the dealer/port installed cargo tray. Once I removed the tray, cleaned it and let it sit in the sun for a few days the smell disappeared. To minimize the smell, always keep the air setting on the fresh air side rather than recirculating the cabin air. At this point 11 months later, any smell should have dissipated. Certainly, calling Kia customer service is a good start. Readers have you had a similar

experience with odd new car smells, I would like to know. Email me at jpaul@aaanortheast.com

Q. I have a 2010 Escalade Hybrid with a 6.0-liter engine. The motor has a loud tapping sound from the top end of the motor. Do you know of a shop that can repair this problem?

A. The engine in this vehicle uses cylinder deactivation to save fuel. The engine itself has a history of faulty valve lifter which produces a distinctive ticking noise. At 11 going on 12-years-old that is at least one of the possibilities that could cause a noise like what you are experiencing. Regarding getting the car looked at and repaired, any competent repair shop should be able to at least give you an idea of what could be wrong. For a list of AAA approved repair shops near you go to www.aaa.com/repair.

Reader Tip: Regarding finding body parts for an old Subaru Mike W. suggested Subie Savers <https://www.subiesavers.com/impreza>

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Dudley Womans Club fall meet and greet



Elaine Gould.

Recently, the DWC met at Woodstock's Roseland Park to kickoff its 14th year. Elaine Gould, founder and former president presented a donation from friends and family in celebration of her birthday and 60th wedding anniversary. Pat Bullen won the September basket raffle. The upcoming club year's monthly meeting agendas, giving projects and 2021-2022 fundraisers were highlighted. New members were welcomed and all members celebrated the beginning of another wonderful year.



Members Diane Perry, Madeline Pina, Maryellen Watson



Pat Bullen



New member Marie Raucci, members Cindy Renaud and Nancy Vajcovec.

Dudley Womans Club October meeting

Bring a friend and celebrate the continuation of our fourteenth year. The Dudley Woman's Club (DWC), formed in 2008 by a handful of women remains committed to the betterment of our communities.

Through its volunteer services, the DWC supports many local charities, provides services to local veterans and local needy children.

Monthly club meetings provide members with social time as well as enrichment programs.

Please join us for our October 2021 meeting, as we celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Del Bachand of Pinkhippie.org will share information about Knitted Knockers and other BCA programs. Meeting starts with social time at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, October 14, in the Senior Center of the Dudley Town Hall. Meeting begins at 7 p.m.

For the DWC October giving project members are asked to donate gently used bras for the "Bra Recycler." In addition, bring your already bejeweled and bedazzled bras to model your creations for our members and guests to vote for "Best in Show!"

For more information please email DudleyWomansClub@gmail.com or visit our website: <http://DudleyWomansClub.org>. Come join us, bring a friend, get involved and celebrate our 14th club year.

Nancy Vajcovec

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Poetry reading

Booklovers' Gourmet is pleased to present a reading with Barbara Thomas from her newest poetry collection, *The Last Green Valley* on Saturday, October 2, at 2:30 p.m. Barbara will be joined by fellow poet Joan Bernard, who will also read a selection of her work. Please RSVP your attendance to deb@bookloversgourmet.com or 508-949-6232. Masks are required for anyone not fully vaccinated. Signed copies will be available for purchase. We are located at 72 East Main Street in Webster.

Barbara Thomas grew up in the Last Green Valley. She earned a Masters Degree from Boston University in Education and was an English and Reading teacher for 35 years. She is an active member of the New England Poetry Club, the Greek Institute, Glenbrook, a nature writing group in New Hampshire. She was a Joiner/Umass participant for ten years and received the Jeff Mayle Award for her recent book, *The Last Green Valley*, Cherry Grove Press, 2019. Other publications are a chapbook, *Seduced by Sighs of Trees*, Cloudkeeper Press, 2007 and poems published in *The Paterson Literary Review*, 2015, *Fiele-Festa*, an online publication, *Lalitamaba*, 2005, and in several Bagel Bard Anthologies. Barbara's poem, *Hickory Nuts* will be published in *Treelines*, An anthology of 21st century American Poems, by Grayson Books in 2022.

A native of Thompson, CT, Joan Bernard divides her life between Thompson and Boston, MA. Always a poet, her morphed into a level of earnestness in the 1980s when she mentored with the late Ottone Riccio, teacher of creative writing and author of books, notably *The Intimate Art of Writing Poetry*, both privately and in the classroom. Since that time, she received tutorship from Fran Quinn, former Poet-in-Residence at Butler University and founding member of The Worcester County Poetry Association. Joan has studied at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education and at the William Joiner Institute/Umass Boston. Her poetry has been published in *The Main Street Rag*, *the Aurean*, *Connecticut River Review*, *The North American Review*, *The Belling Ark* and in two anthologies. She is in the process of culling her poems for a chapbook submission to a literary press.



Gigantic yard sale

N. OXFORD - St. Ann's Church, 652 Main St., North Oxford will hold a gigantic yard sale indoor and outdoor on Saturday, October 2, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday, October 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Featured will be a mega flea market, large jewelry tables, many raffle baskets and items, including several quilt raffles.

Yard Sale, Craft & Bake Sale

UXBRIDGE - The Prayer Shawl group of the Uxbridge Congregational Church will conduct a Craft and Bake Sale on October 2, from 9 - 2 p.m. in the church parking lot. It will be a good time to begin your holiday shopping with many beautiful items as well as homemade jellies, jams, gluten free baked good and pies.

A yard sale will also take place on the same day in the parking lot for those who enjoy browsing household items. More information on the yard sale will be available soon.

Stratford Village Yard Sales

MILLBURY - Many yard sales at the new Stratford Village Condos, off Burbank Street in Millbury. Sat., October 2 - Rain date Sun., October 3. 9 am to 1 pm. "We packed it, we moved it, and now we don't need it!"

VFW Post flea market

UPTON - The Upton VFW Post 5594 will hold its flea market on October 9 at Post headquarters, 15 Milford St., (Rt. 140) in Upton, weather permitting. Hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vendors and crafty people are more than welcome. Good sized spaces are \$10 each or \$15 if a banquet sized table is needed. No reservations are needed, although Post member David Kennedy can provide more information by calling him at 508-529-3314 or via the Upton VFW Facebook page.

As always, Dunkin' coffee and donuts will be available in the morning, then hot dogs, chips and cold drinks for lunch.

St. Roch's Church Yard Sale

OXFORD - St. Roch's Church, 334 Main St., Oxford, will hold a yard sale on Saturday, October 2 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

List your yard sale here.

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The 2021 football season has started on all levels - NFL, college, and high school. Thank you Bill Belichick, New England Patriots football coach, for naming Mac Jones as the starting quarterback this season. Tom Brady should have never left the Patriots and it was because of Belichick that he did, but let's move forward with rookie Mac Jones.

Good Luck to the Nichols College Bison and coach Dale Olmsted who begins his 7th season at Dudley Hill. Olmsted has a career record of 21-39 at Nichols and has improved the program in many intangible areas since his arrival in 2016. He is the only right guy for this job and is a favorite of legendary coach Mike Vendetti's former players. Olmsted has kept Vendetti's golden era coaches Ed Kunkel and Rene Langevin and former players part of the current Bison program with annual golf tournaments and

Fall football outlook is positive

naming awards after former great players.

This relationship between Vendetti's era and Olmsted's rebuild has been a positive experience as the years unfold. Prior to Olmsted's arrival at Nichols, the once well respected football program was on life support and an ultimate death walk due to the administrative powers closing both their eyes on the program. It was that bad, but Olmsted has revived the program and has generated life and enthusiasm into the great tradition up on Dudley Hill. Nichols will be back to championship form soon. They are the dark horse in the CCC in 2021. The Bison have been picked to finish 3rd in the Commonwealth Coast Conference this year.

Welcome to Bartlett

The Mike Harpin era has begun at Bartlett High School as the new football coach and the word on the new Indians coach is that the kids have already taken to the new play-book with much enthusiasm.

Harpin has been around the football block and has brought over 25 years of Division One Central Mass high school football and semi-pro offense and defense to the Bartlett locker room in the way of Xs and Os.

Bartlett has scrapped the

single wing antique offense for a brand new Corvette. Sounds great, but the Corvette is only good as good as the driver, meaning the Indians personnel has to fit Harpin's Xs and Os. Bartlett needs a shot in the arm and Harpin is the right guy for the Indians. As always on this level, the Indians have to stay injury-free.

MIAA changes

The MIAA has a new realignment for your high school 2021 football season. This space has been opposed to the alignments of the MIAA since the mid 2000s and was actually on the original Central Mass. committee for an eventual statewide divisional champion. It was a bad idea and I respectively excused myself from the committee because of the Eastern Mass. bully mentality.

Well, after a decade of a playoff format that assassinated Thanksgiving football, the MIAA is keeping the seven game regular season schedule and November playoffs the same. The only change is they realigned the bigger schools in Central Mass. to Division One instead of being in Division 3. St. John's, Shrewsbury, and Wachusett move up to Division One and get to compete for a Division One statewide Super Bowl. That's the only worthy crumb Central Mass. got in this whole playoff nightmare.

Remember this is high school football in Massachusetts not Texas, Ohio, or Flori-

da. Massachusetts is all about Thanksgiving football, not getting full scholarships to football factories. Can we say Chris Lindstrom and Sean McKeon and Alec Lindstrom? The first two made the NFL, the younger Lindstrom is on track for the same. Enjoy those three now because it is highly improbable that we will ever see that scenario ever again. It is special. Becoming an NFL player from these parts is like winning the lottery. Nothing against our athletes, it just never happens. Ask any local parent who pays to send their son to any high end football team, think AAU, and if they are honest those parents will tell you their son can compete with the big boys, but realistically there are no Division One offers or a shot at the NFL in the future. Competing with the best players in the country doesn't mean you can play consistently everyday at their level. Plain and simple. Our kids are tough and hard nosed, but the John Fitzgeralds of Southbridge, the Lindstroms and Sean McKeon are few and far between. Even the great Mark LeBlanc of Southbridge, the best high school football player in these parts in the 70s until Chris Lindstrom came along, didn't play in the NFL. LeBlanc went to Notre Dame on a full scholarship. He uses that education today in fine fashion. That's what it is all about.

It was great to hear from so

many readers regarding the piece on the history of Shepherd Hill coaches and former players. There was no doubt that Eddie Jarosz was the unanimous choice for being the most important football player in Shepherd Hill's close to 50 year history. Remember the key thing to this: Shepherd Hill never was a first year football program because of Jarosz. Jarosz was the first quarterback for the Rams. Not only was he the QB but he was a charismatic leader. The Pied Piper. Eddie also had the same effect as a basketball and baseball player in the Rams' early years. Don't get the wrong message here

about Jarosz please. His supporting cast alongside of him in those early years deserve a lot of credit.

The coaches and players who were part of those upstart years at SH were also instrumental in the successful start. The best way to recognize everyone who was part of the beginning is to start a Hall of Fame. The recent "French River" story by close friend Rusty Oleszewski certainly made Shepherd Hill worthy of having a Hall of Fame. Come on all you Rams alumni, you deserve a Hall of Fame. Your tradition deserves better and a Hall of Fame would seal that deal.

Local students named to the Dean's List at MCPHS University

BOSTON - MCPHS University is pleased to announce the students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2021 semester:

Kate Bellantoni of Dudley is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Kate will graduate from the Worcester, Massachusetts campus in 2021.

Andy Nguyen of Webster is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Medical and Molecular Biology degree. Andy will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2024.

David da Silva of Webster is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Premedical Health Studies degree. David will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2023.

Hannah Vartanian of Webster is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Premedical Health Studies degree. Hannah will graduate from the Boston, Massachusetts campus in 2023.

The Dean's List recognizes those students with a full-time course load who have achieved outstanding scholarship with a 3.5 GPA or higher for the academic term.

Alzheimer's Support group

The Alzheimer's Support Group sponsored by the Alzheimer's Support Network of South Central MA meet at the second Monday of the month at St. Denis Church in Douglas, at 23 Manchaug Road, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The meetings were formerly held at Webster Manor.

Caregivers and family members not only obtain in-

formation about Alzheimer's Disease, but also learn many helpful techniques in caring for a person with dementia at all stages.

New caregivers can learn from experienced caregivers and support group leaders so they leave each meeting feeling more supported.

We welcome you to join.

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Tips on financial planning



Dennis Antonopoulos
Once you're retired and your children are grown, they are likely "off the books," as far as your financial responsibility for them is concerned. Yet,

Are your loved ones prepared to be caregivers?

you're probably still prepared to do anything to help them – but are they ready to take care of you if the need arises?

Consider this: Almost half of retirees say that the ideal role in retirement is providing support to family and other loved ones, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave study titled Four Pillars of the New Retirement: What a Difference a Year Makes – and a slightly earlier version of the same study found that 72% of retir-

ees say one of their biggest fears is becoming a burden on their family members.

So, if you are recently retired or plan to retire in the next few years, you may need to reconcile your desire to help your adult children or other close relatives with your concern that you could become dependent on them. You'll need to consider whether your loved ones can handle caregiving responsibilities, which frequently include fi-

ancial assistance. If they did have to provide some caregiving services for you, could they afford it? About 80% of caregivers now pay for some caregiving costs out of their own pockets – and one in five caregivers experience significant financial strain because of caregiving, according to a recent AARP report.

One way to help your family members is to protect yourself from the enormous expense of long-term care. The average cost for a private room in a nursing home is now over \$100,000 a year, according to the insurance company Genworth. Medicare won't pay much, if any, of these costs, so you may want to consult with a financial advisor, who can suggest possible ways of addressing long-term care expenses.

Even if you don't require a long stay in a nursing home, you still might need some as-

sistance in the future, especially if your health or mental capacities decline. So, start talking to your loved ones about their possible roles if you should ever need caregiving. You may want to create a caregiving arrangement that specifies payment for caregiving services and outlines the expenses to be reimbursed if paid out of pocket by a caregiver. Also, you may want to create the appropriate legal documents, such as a durable power of attorney for health care, which enables someone to make medical decisions on your behalf should you become incapacitated, and a durable power of attorney for finances, which allows you to name someone to make your financial decisions if you become unable to do so yourself. A legal professional can help you make these arrangements and incorporate them into your overall estate plan.

A financial advisor can suggest ways of preparing for the costs involved with caregiving and can direct you to relevant resources, such as social services provided by your city or county.

Clearly, there's much you can do to help shield your family from the financial strain of caregiving. But you are not alone: By drawing on other resources and outside help, you can ease the burden on your loved ones. And everyone will feel more secure when you have your arrangements in place.

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 Street, Auburn, MA 01501 Tel: 508-832-5385 or dennis.antonopoulos@edwardjones.com. Edward Jones Member SIPC

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Unibank supports Class of 2021 DAR Good Citizens Awards

The Captain Job Knapp Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Douglas presented their 2021 Good Citizen Awards to four area students.

This award is given by the Chapter to honor high school seniors who possess good citizenship qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools and communities. The students wrote essays on Patriotism and the best essay went on to scholarship contests at the state, regional and national level.

This year's Good Citizens were Abigail Riley Weagle, Blackstone Valley Technical High School, Jenna Cath-

erine Elliott, Douglas High School, Katherine Tubbs, Northbridge High School, and Mary Elizabeth VanTol, Whitinsville Christian School.

Each of these four outstanding young citizens received a DAR Good Citizen pin, a certificate, and a \$300 award from the Chapter and Unibank. The Chapter thanks Unibank who has supported this Scholarship for over 50 years.

The DAR Good Citizen Award and scholarship contest was created in 1934 and is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. It also recognizes and rewards individuals who possess the qualities

of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in their homes, schools, and communities. These students are selected by their teachers because they demonstrate these qualities to an outstanding degree.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, founded in 1890 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children. It is a nonprofit, non-political, volunteer women's service organization. Any woman who has an ancestor who fought in or rendered aid in the American Revolution may be eligible for membership in DAR. For information, contact Regent Anne Marie Safaee at 508-949-0926.

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Tales from beyond

Mrs. Johnson's Harp

By Thomas D'Agostino

Along Route 32A in Peter-sham, one will pass Gate 40 near the Quabbin Reservoir. This gate is the entrance that leads to Dana Common, part of one of the several towns that became extinct when the reservoir was created to supply water to the eastern part of the state.

If one follows the old road for about one mile, traces of the ghost town begin to emerge. After a little over one-half mile more, Dana Common comes into view with a plaque commemorating the former residents and families who once lived and worked there.

Around the common, foundations of a church, hotel, store and homes still fight the vestiges of time and nature. Behind the church foundation is a field that once contained the town's deceased but when the reservoir project began, the dead were exhumed and relocated with their stones to the Quabbin Park Cemetery in Ware.

The field may now lay silent but the remains of the buildings still have stories to tell of the life and death of this once bucolic little hamlet.

There is one foundation in particular where ethereal music seems to still echo in the breeze that gently wisps across the common. This particular cellar hole was once the home of Mrs. Marion Johnson. Mrs. Johnson was known for baking cookies for the children of the common. On beautiful summer days, she would sit on her porch with her harp, playing the most majestic music. The sound brought neighbors to the common to listen to her porchside concerts.

By 1930, the town was slated to be part of the Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission project to bring more water to Boston for its growing needs. Although the town was doomed for extinction, Mrs. Johnson, along with others, remained until the last days of 1938, playing her beloved harp for her neighbors. The guests at the hotel would set themselves on the front porch with a cool glass of lemonade while relishing in the angelic sounds that filled the area. Patrons of the local store would halt their shopping to take in a moment and absorb the music that drifted through the

afternoon breeze.

Every so often, Mrs. Johnson would take a break from her concerts to serve lemonade and cookies to the youth who gathered in the grass across the street to hear her music. So were the days of Dana Common.

Now, the only sounds left are the local wildlife that live among the overgrowth brush where homes and yards once graced. Occasional hikers take in the scenery where the trees and bramble cover much of what was once a typical little New England village.

Then there is the strange sound of music. The ghostly sound of harp strings being plucked begin to permeate the air around the little vil-

lage green. Where it originates is a mystery to those who hear it, as no inhabited home is anywhere within miles of the common. It may remain curious to many, but there are those who know who is responsible for the phantom performance. Those who were there when Mrs. Johnson gave her daily serenades to the neighbors on the harp that filled the air then as it does to this day before trickling off into the void.

Thomas D'Agostino and his wife Arlene Nicholson are seasoned paranormal investigators, authors, and co-organizers of Paranormal United Research Society. You can find out more about them by visiting www.tomdagostino.com.



Dining With The Dead 1031
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Dining With The Dead 1031 is holding another dinner/investigation event of the **Publick House** in Sturbridge, on September 29, from 6-9:30 pm. Go to www.diningwiththedead1031.com for more info.

Thomas D'Agostino and Arlene Nicholson have researched and investigated the paranormal for over 39 years with well over 1400 cases to their credit. They are the authors of sixteen acclaimed books on ghosts, haunts, and legends of New England.



The husband and wife team has been hosting paranormal investigation dinners for fifteen years at restaurants, hotels, and inns throughout New England. Each event allows you to be the investigator, using equipment alongside us in search of the spirits that roam within the walls of the establishment.

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RE: Real Estate



Mark Marzeotti

These numbers could make or break your mortgage loan approval.

When you apply for a mortgage loan, lenders want to make sure that you are a good credit risk. That means they like to know that you will pay back your loan on time without any problems during the repayment period.

There are a number of things lenders look at when they try to decide whether you're going to be a responsible borrower or not. But three key numbers are especially

Thinking of Buying a Home? The three most important numbers mortgage lenders look at

important, and they can make or break your loan application:

- Credit score
- Front-end debt-to-income (DTI) ratio
- Back-end DTI ratio

Here's why they matter.

1. Credit score

Your credit score is a three-digit number that sheds light on your entire borrowing history.

There are actually several different scores, including a FICO Score and VantageScore. But all credit scoring formulas use the same basic approach. They take into account:

- How much of your available credit you've used
- Your payment history
- Whether creditors have ever had to take legal action against you
- The types of borrowing you've done
- How much new credit you've applied for recently

After considering all of these criteria, you're assigned a score by one of the three major credit bureaus. This score typically ranges between 300 and 850. Scores below 660 (approximately) are considered to be poor or fair, while scores above 740 are considered to be very good or exceptional.

By looking at your credit score, lenders get quick insight into how you've dealt with debt in the past and how you're dealing with it now. While it's possible to qualify for some types of mortgage loans with low credit, it can be more difficult, and you'll have fewer choices of lenders.

2. Front-end DTI ratio

Lenders also look at another important number when deciding whether you can afford the mortgage you want: your debt-to-income ratio (DTI).

Your debt-to-income ratio measures your debt relative to

your income, but there are actually two different DTI ratios that matter.

Your front-end ratio is the first. It refers to the amount of your gross monthly income that will go towards housing costs if you qualify for the new mortgage. Housing costs include your mortgage payment, as well as taxes and homeowners insurance.

For example, if your gross income is \$5,000 and you want to buy a home that would come with total monthly costs of \$1,800, then your front-end DTI would equal \$1,800 divided by \$5,000 or .36. That's a 36% front-end DTI ratio.

In this case, you might have a hard time finding a mortgage lender, because most prefer your front-end ratio to be below 28%.

3. Back-end DTI ratio

Your back-end ratio is also a method of assessing the

amount of financial obligations you'd have relative to your income if you were approved for a mortgage. But this doesn't just take housing costs into account – all of your other debts are also factored in.

To add to the above example, if you had monthly payments of \$1,800 for a house, \$200 for a car loan, and \$25 for a credit card, then your back-end DTI would equal the total of all those monthly payments divided by your gross income of \$5,000.

Since \$2,025 divided by \$5,000 is .405, your back-end ratio would be 40.5%. Most lenders want your back-end ratio to be below 36%. So again you might face challenges borrowing.

Of course, "most" isn't all, and there are some lenders that allow you to borrow with a higher debt-to-income ratio as well as with a low credit score. But you need to consider both the loan terms and whether your decision really makes sense before you move forward.

Committing too much of your income to housing costs could put you in a financial

bind, especially if you're in a lot of debt already. So, if your DTIs are above these recommended thresholds, you may want to wait to buy a home until you've paid down some of what you owe. Likewise, if your credit score isn't where you'd like it to be, then waiting a while to try to increase it could potentially pay off in the form of a lower rate and cheaper borrowing costs.

If you're considering buying a home, it's important to understand what these numbers are and why they matter so much. That way, you can better judge the likelihood of getting approved for a loan before you decide whether you're ready to buy a house.

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Chances are, interest rates won't stay put at multi-decade lows for much longer. That's why taking action today is crucial if you're ready to pull the trigger on a new home purchase. Marzeotti Group Realty can help you with finding the right lender and find that dream home. Call today.

Bay Path practical nursing students start donation drive despite pandemic

CHARLTON - Providing prudent nursing care is what Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy students master in ten months however, service learning is also a focus.

Helping members of the community who are in need has been a tradition for the practical nursing students and faculty at Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy since 2013. Random acts of kindness and organized activities allows practical nursing students to help the needy. For the current cohort, through the efforts of Marylee Panient, the PN Class of 2022 had the opportunity to assist a patient's family and a community in Cuba. According to Panient, "with the recent weather we are having, much of the community has been left in a vulnerable state as well as economic struggles and desperate need." The PN class of 2022 and Bay Path Practi-

cal Nursing Academy alumni, faculty, and staff were able to donate personal Hygiene supplies (Toothpaste/Toothbrush, soap, adult & baby/newborn diapers, etc.), Adult briefs, clothes (male/female of any size), blankets, canned goods, OTC medicine (such as APAP, Ibuprofen), entertainment/ toys, and supplements (such as Pediaisure).

"We were able to include everyone in the effort, but much credit goes to the Practical Nursing students for their caring heart and compassionate spirit," Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN Academy Director explained. The previous years, the PN students helped many children through the UNICEF club. "This year, PN Class of 2022 wanted to do more even with COVID-19, rather, especially with COVID-19. The pandemic makes it clearer how much we need to be helping those in



Marylee Panient, PN Class of 2022, had the opportunity to assist a patient's family and a community in Cuba.

need," Bolandrina said.

The practical nursing students remain masked in class and continue to keep their distance. Not very different from

last year, and the passion to help, the love and compassion remain the same. Service learning during the pandemic is more meaningful than ever.

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